



# Found Out and Forgiven

**GRACE IN ACTION**

*We accept forgiveness.*

## Power Text

“Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord’—and you forgave the guilt of my sin” (Psalm 32:5, NIV).

## Key Text and References

2 Samuel 12; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 720-726; student story on page 118 of this guide.

## Objectives

### The students will:

**Know** that because God has forgiven them, they can forgive themselves and others.

**Feel** humbled by their mistakes, but willing to admit them and go on.

**Respond** by giving the same forgiveness they have received.

## Power Point



**Because God has forgiven us, we forgive ourselves and others.**

## Getting Ready to Teach

### The Bible Lesson at a Glance

David and Bathsheba are expecting a baby. The people of Israel begin to suspect that David has had Uriah murdered. God sends Nathan to confront David and tell him that the child will die. David repents and pleads with God for forgiveness and for the life of the child. After the child dies, David comforts Bathsheba. They have another son, named Solomon, who later becomes the wisest king ever.

***This story is about the impact of God’s grace.***

David is forgiven by God’s grace. God’s grace sends another child, a special child, who becomes the next king. David accepts God’s forgiveness and renews his love and serves Him again.

### Teacher Enrichment

“David was not only the civil ruler of his people but also ‘the Lord’s anointed,’ the head of the theocracy, the leader of God’s chosen people, and the one who was to uphold and enforce the law of the Lord. David by his sin had brought reproach and dishonor upon the name

# THIRTEEN

Program Notes			
Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at door Hear pleased/troubled	
1 Readiness	10-15	A. <i>Forgive and Forget</i>  B. <i>Cover Up</i>	Masking tape; vacuum cleaner or broom, piece of carpet, cloth Coins and small cards
* Prayer and Praise*	15-20	See page 115. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	Clear bowl, water, food coloring, liquid bleach, spoon
		Experiencing the Story	Paper and pencils, Bibles
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles, paper, pencils/pens
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	<i>Sinner's Point</i>	Scripts (9 copies) Props (see page 133)
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	<i>Notes of Encouragement</i>	Bibles, paper, pencils/pens

of the Lord. God therefore sent Nathan to David to deliver the message of divine rebuke, in an attempt to bring the erring king to a realization of the magnitude of his crime and to repentance" (*The SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, p. 651).

"The boldness and suddenness of Nathan's words brought a shock to David that woke him from the evil spell that his crimes had cast upon him. David had been essentially a good man, one who endeavored to obey the Lord. But he had yielded to temptation, and in the attempt to cover up his guilt had become ever more deeply entangled in a net of evil. For a time his senses had seemed to be stupefied by a delirium of power, prosperity, and perfidy. Now he was suddenly brought back to his senses" (*The SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, p. 652).

In Psalm 51 David asks God to cleanse him with hyssop from his sins.

"The hyssop shrub . . . produces flower-filled branches . . . that were used as natural brushes. . . . In Exodus 12 the Israelites use the plant to mark the doorways of their houses with blood from the Passover lamb. The Gospel of John specifies that a hyssop branch . . . is used to place wine on Jesus' lips. Here John calls to mind the scene from Exodus; he may be indicating that Jesus, the 'Lamb of God' (John 1:29), is the new Passover sacrifice. Hyssop was also used to sprinkle liquids in purification rituals, such as those for lepers (Lev. 14:2-7)" (*Illustrated Dictionary of Bible Times* [Pleasantville, N.Y.: Reader's Digest Association, Inc., 1997], p. 184).

## Teaching the Lesson

### Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they're pleased/troubled about. Ask if anyone discussed "telling" on someone with an adult. What were their conclusions?

Direct the students immediately to the Readiness Activity you have prepared.

# 1

## Readiness Activities

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

### A. Forgive and Forget

#### You Need:

- masking tape
- cloth
- piece of carpet
- vacuum cleaner with hose attachment OR broom and dust pan

Give each student a piece of masking tape rolled into a circle with the adhesive side out. Have students roll the masking tape across various surfaces such as linoleum, carpet, and cloth. Bring the students together and look at their lint collections.

Ask: **What is on your tape? Were you surprised to find so much dirt and other stuff around here?**

Say: **Sometimes we have hidden dirt in our lives, too. When we sin or do wrong things and don't ask God to forgive us, it's as though we build up dirt in our souls. King David tried to explain how this felt in Psalm 32:3, 4.** Read the verses aloud.

Read verse 5 aloud. Say: **Then David decided to turn to God for forgiveness.**

Have students tear the masking tape into small pieces, roll each piece into a small wad, and pile the wads on the floor to demonstrate various sins.

Say: **Even if our sins are many, our loving God can forgive us.**

Have students take turns sweeping their tape wads into a vacuum cleaner with a hose attachment. Make sure before class that your vacuum cleaner will actually pick up these tape wads. If it won't, substitute a broom and dustpan.

Say: **Let's read together what King David says about a person whose sins are forgiven.** Have students find and read aloud Psalm 32:1, 2. Our power point is:



**Because God has forgiven us, we forgive ourselves and others.**

(Adapted from *Helping Children Know God* [Loveland, Colo.: Group Publishing, 1995], pp. 94, 95. Used by permission.)

## B. Cover Up

Have students stand shoulder-to-shoulder in a row. Place a coin on the floor in front of each student. Give each student at least three small cards (3 x 5).

Say: **Let's see who can cover his or her coin with the cards. Hold your cards at shoulder level and drop them one at a time on top of the coin on the floor.**

Give students several chances to try to cover their coins. If someone completely covers the coin, that person can step out of line and cheer on the others.

After several card-dropping attempts, play again. This time, tell students to close their eyes. Say: **Who can drop the cards and cover the coin with eyes closed? No peeking!**

### You Need:

- coins
- three small cards for each student

### Debriefing

After several more attempts, say: **You couldn't always cover your coins, but the Bible says that God can cover your sins with forgiveness.**

Read aloud Psalm 32:1. Ask: **What does this verse say about people who are forgiven?**

Say: **Just as some of you completely covered your coins with cards, Jesus completely covers our sins. We need to ask for and accept His forgiveness.**

(Adapted from *Helping Children Know God* [Loveland, Colo.: Group Publishing, 1995], pp. 93, 94. Used by permission.)

## Prayer and Praise



### Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

### Suggested Songs

"The Coloring Song" (*He Is Our Song*, No. 61)

"You Are My Hiding Place" (*He Is Our Song*, No. 96)

### Mission

Use *Teen Mission* or other mission report available to you.

### Offering

Remind the students that we give our offerings as an outpouring of love and gratitude for God's forgiving grace.

### Prayer

Choose parts of Psalm 32 or Psalm 51 to use in prayer.

\*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

## 2

## Bible Lesson

## Introducing the Bible Story

**You Need:**

- clear bowl
- water
- spoon
- liquid bleach
- food coloring (four colors)

You'll need a clear bowl half filled with water; a spoon; several cups of liquid bleach; and red, yellow, green, and blue food coloring. Keep the bleach away from your students.

Say: **This bowl of water will represent a life without sin in it. No one but Jesus has lived a life like that, but our life can look like this when we have asked for Jesus to cover our**

**sins and forgive us. Let's say that this represents King David's life just before our story last week. Now let's see what his life looked like after adultery, murder, and deception.** Let students take turns squirting drops of food color into the water.

Say: **In our story today David is confronted by a prophet, he acknowledges his wrongdoing, and asks for God's forgiveness. Then he accepts the forgiveness.**

Pour several cups of liquid bleach into the water. Say: **When David asked, God poured His love and forgiveness into David's life.**

Stir the water and say: **The sin was gone! David was forgiven.** (If students point out that the water is not completely clear, use this opportunity to point out that even though David was forgiven, the consequences of his sin still remained.)

(Adapted from *Helping Children Know God* [Loveland, Colo.: Group Publishing, 1995], pp. 97, 98. Used by permission.)

This week we will learn the rest of the story, how David accepted God's forgiveness.

## Experiencing the Story

**You Need:**

- Bibles
- paper
- pencils/pens

As you did last week, divide the students into groups. Have each group prepare another news story to follow up the ones they developed last week. (See last week's "Experiencing the Story.") This week they will base their story on 2 Samuel 12. (Have an adult facilitator with each group to keep things on task.) Remind the students again that news stories answer the questions who, what, where, why, and when.

Have each group present their report to the rest of the class.

## Exploring the Bible

**You Need:**

- Bibles
- paper
- pencils

Have students in groups, with a facilitator, choose either Psalm 32 or 51 (both penitential psalms that deal with these incidents in David's life) and list all the word pictures that David uses to illustrate his regret and desire for forgiveness. (Examples: bones wasting away, don't be like a mule, cleanse me with hyssop.) Ask each group to share some of their favorites and tell what they mean.

Say: **Let's find and read our power text, Psalm 32:5.**

Our power point is:



**Because God has forgiven us, we forgive ourselves and others.**

## 3

## Applying the Lesson

**Sinner's Point****You Need:**

- nine copies of skit
- props (see page 133)

Say: **We know about God's love and forgiveness and that it is ours for the asking. But sometimes we have trouble applying this to our own lives.**

**Sometimes we choose to be angry with ourselves, or hang on to guilty feelings even after we have asked God for forgiveness.**

**We have a skit today about an unusual amusement park. Let's see what new things we learn about forgiveness.** (If you are not able to put on this skit, talk about the concept with your students and discuss how it applies to their lives.)

If possible, have the skit *Sinner's Point* (found on pages 133-138) prepared ahead by older youth or adults. If not, select nine students to read the parts during Sabbath School.

**Debriefing**

Ask: **Does the Bible place any conditions on God's forgiveness? If so, what are they? What are some things that might hinder an individual from being able to forgive himself/herself? How would you go about accepting God's forgiveness for something you had done?**

Our power point is:



**Because God has forgiven us, we forgive ourselves and others.**

## 4

## Sharing the Lesson

**Notes of Encouragement****You Need:**

- Bibles
- paper
- pens/pencils

Ask: **Who do you know who needs the good news of God's forgiveness in their lives? What might be some signs that a person was weighed**

**down by guilt?** (Remind them of Psalm 32:3, 4.) **What could you**

**share from this lesson that might bring some comfort to one of those people?**

Ask students to find a verse or two of praise and thankfulness for God's forgiveness from either Psalm 32 or Psalm 51 and include it in a short note to someone who is discouraged. Ask them to deliver the note this week.

**Closing**

Thank God for His glorious forgiveness. Pray that each student will accept the grace of forgiveness in his or her own life and praise God for it.

## STUDENT LESSON

# Found Out and Forgiven

## Key Text

2 Samuel 12

## Power Text

"Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord'—and you forgave the guilt of my sin" (Psalm 32:5, NIV).

## Power Point

Because God has forgiven us, we forgive ourselves and others.

*Have you ever asked God to forgive you—and still felt bad? Consider David's experience—an adulterer and a murderer. Imagine how he felt.*

King David and Israel had won the battle with the Ammonites. David had married the widowed Bathsheba, and they were going to have a baby. For a while David thought that he was still the same wise and powerful ruler he had always been. He had covered up his adultery with a murder. Nobody but Joab, Bathsheba, and he seemed to know.

As time passed, however, gossip started to spread around the marketplace. "Did you know that the new queen Bathsheba is pregnant already?" "You know, it was the strangest thing how her husband Uriah got sent to the thick of the battle." "Oh yes, and right after he had been sent for by the king." "Well, all I know is that I am not so worried about the back taxes I owe after I see what is going on with 'good' King David." "If what I hear is true, David makes King Saul look like an angel."

David's attempt at covering up his sin was dishonoring God. And God loved David too much to let him continue on the evil path he was on. He sent a message to get David's attention. God chose Nathan, a prophet, to take the message to the king. Nathan was brave to take a message of reprimand to a king, especially one who could have him killed. But he was also wise. He started with a story that he was sure would get David's sympathy.

He told of a poor man with a pet lamb that was almost like a daughter to him. The poor man fed the lamb from the table, let it drink from his own cup, and even let it sleep on his bed at night. Then a rich man, who didn't want to waste one of his own flock to feed a guest, took the pet lamb, slaughtered it,

cooked it, and served it for dinner.

As Nathan had hoped, David was angry about the actions of the man in the story. "That rich man should pay with his own life," David proclaimed. "He should repay the poor man four times. He had no pity!"

Nathan looked David straight in the eye. "You're the man!" Then he delivered the message God had sent to David.

David responded the way God had hoped he would. He immediately saw how much his actions had hurt his heavenly Father, the One who had chosen him and blessed him all of these years. He had hurt Uriah, Bathsheba, Joab, and all the people of Israel, but most important, he had hurt God. David was truly sorry.

David himself had passed sentence on the rich man in the story. A death for a death. But Nathan assured the king that God had forgiven him and he would not die. However, he would lose the baby that was about to be born as a result of his sin.

David was heartbroken. He grieved. He fasted. He took off his royal garments and lay down on the ground and cried before God to spare the child. Again and again his advisers came and begged him to get up and eat with them, but he would not. Then the baby died.

The servants were afraid to tell David. If David had been so depressed while the baby was ill, he might do something desperate when he found out the child was dead. The servants tiptoed around and talked in whispers.

David noticed, and finally asked, "Is the child dead?"

"Yes, sir, he is dead," the servants answered hesitantly.

David could have gone on mourning. He could have gone on feeling guilty for what he had done to so many people and to God. But David knew God. He knew that God had forgiven him, had spared his life, and would give him the strength to face everyone and go on. David got up, took a bath, put on his royal clothes, and asked for some dinner.

There would always be sad results of David's sin that would never go away. But God had forgiven him. Not only had God forgiven him, He blessed him and Bathsheba with another baby, Solomon, loved by God and one day to be the wisest king who ever lived.

### Sabbath

- Do this week's activity on page 94.

### Sunday

- Read "Found Out and Forgiven."
- Create a mask for yourself out of a piece of paper. Write the power text on it from right to left with each letter backwards. Attach string so you can put it on and look at yourself in the mirror. (The text should be readable when you look in the mirror.)
- Put the mask on every day and read the text to yourself. Begin to learn it.

### Monday

- Read Psalm 51, the psalm that David wrote after Nathan the prophet talked with him about what he had done.
- Find a soft colored pencil and underline the parts that are meaningful to you.
- Do you think David felt forgiven in this part of his prayer? Which verses support your answer?
- Use the verses you underlined in your prayer today.

### Tuesday

- Read Psalm 32:1-4.
- Some writers say that David wrote these verses to describe how he was feeling before he repented. Can you remember ever feeling guilty about something?
- In your Bible study journal, describe how you felt when the Holy Spirit prompted your con-

science that something you had done needed to be forgiven. Describe how you felt after you had asked God for forgiveness.

### Wednesday

- Read Psalm 32:6, 7.
- Verse 7 is very similar to the song "You Are My Hiding Place" (*He Is Our Song*, No. 96). Sing the song to yourself or for worship. If you don't know the song, sing verse 7 to a tune you do know (or make up your own).
- Tell God how you feel about that verse.

### Thursday

- Read Psalm 32:8, 9.
- In your Bible study journal, draw a horse or mule with a bit and bridle to remind you of the way God does *not* want to have to lead you.
- Ask God to take any stubbornness out of your heart.

### Friday

- Read Psalm 32:10, 11.
- Do you think the words "righteous" and "the man who trusts" and "upright in heart" (NIV) refer to people who have never done anything wrong or to people who have accepted forgiveness? Explain your answer in your Bible study journal.
- The word *rejoice* can mean to feel joy or great delight. Think of your favorite way to express joy. Do something that is an expression of joy for you. Tell God you are doing it for Him because of His unfailing love and forgiveness.