

3

Community
We build positive relationships.

POWER TEXT

"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you" (Matthew 6:14).

KEY REFERENCES

- 2 Samuel 12
- *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 71, pp. 720-726
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 4, pp. 99-102
- Student lesson on page 42 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 10, The Experience of Salvation
- No. 18, The Gift of Prophecy
- No. 23, Marriage and the Family

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.

Found Out and Forgiven

POWERPOINT

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

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 is a lesson about community.

David finds acceptance with God though he has to suffer the consequences of his sin. Because David experiences God's forgiveness, he renews his love and serves Him again. As a result, David learns to extend compassion and forgiveness as he seeks to serve God's people. Like David, we can encourage others by forgiving them.

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 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 Seventh-day Adventist 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 Seventh-day Adventist 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).

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice. »

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at the door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Forgive and Forget*	Bible, masking tape, broom and dustpan, piece of carpet, cloth
		B. Cover Up	Bible, coins and 3 small cards for each student
* Prayer & Praise	15-20	See page 37. Prayer & Praise may be used at any time during the program.	Bibles, songbooks, world map, pushpins, offering plate/basket
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	clear bowl, water, food coloring, liquid bleach, spoon
		Experiencing the Story	Bibles
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles, paper, pencils/pens
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Scenarios*	cards/handouts with the scenarios listed on them
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Notes of Encouragement*	Bibles, paper, pencils/pens
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments B. Reminder to Parents C. Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

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

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ masking tape
- ☐ cloth
- ☐ piece of carpet
- ☐ broom and dustpan

Forgive and Forget

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 carpet, and cloth. Bring the students together and look at their lint collections.

Ask: **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, and 5.** Read the verses aloud. Say: **Then David decided to turn to God for forgiveness.** Have students pile the pieces of masking tape on the floor.

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

Have students take turns sweeping their tape wads off the floor. Use a broom and dustpan.

Say: **Let's see what King David says about a person whose sins are forgiven. We will read Psalm 32:1, 2.**

Let's say our power text together, Matthew 6:14:

"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you" (Matthew 6:14).

Our power point reminds us that

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

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ coins
- ☐ three small cards for each student

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!**

Debriefing

After several more attempts, say: **You couldn't always cover your coins. However, the Bible says that God can cover your sins with His forgiveness. Many times we cannot cover up the mistakes and sins that we commit and we have to suffer the consequences of our wrong actions.** 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. God calls us to be His messengers of hope to those who struggle with guilt and discouragement over their past sins.**

Let's say our power text together, Matthew 6:14:

"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you" (Matthew 6:14).

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Prayer & Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. 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

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use *Adventist Mission for Youth and Adults* (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. For the mission story, have a map of the world where the students can identify the location of the mission story in comparison to where they live. The students could use pushpins to mark where the mission story is taking place.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering plate/basket

Remind the students that we give our offerings as an outpouring of love and gratitude for all that God has done for us.

Prayer

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles

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

Close with a prayer for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

Notes

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.)

Say: **Today our Bible story is about King David's selfish choice that had devastating consequences to himself and to others. It is also a story about a faithful prophet who helped the king see his actions in their true light. Like the prophet Nathan, we too can carry God's message to someone who is in need of God's forgiveness.**

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

Experiencing the Story

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles

Ask students to take turns reading aloud 2 Samuel 12:1-13. Say: **It was a difficult job for a prophet to confront someone who had sinned, let alone to rebuke the king himself. Suppose you were a messenger called by God to take to someone a message of rebuke along with a message of hope.** Ask: **What would you have said to the king to encourage him to repent in order to receive God's forgiveness?** Say: **Choose a partner and simulate a conversation in which one of you plays the role of a prophet and the other person is being rebuked and encouraged. After the first conversation, switch roles. You may choose to role-play the dialogue between David and Nathan by changing the prophet's message to what you would have said, or you may choose to role-play another situation. Do not condemn the other person harshly, but formulate your message in a hopeful way to encourage the person to come to God for forgiveness.** Allow some time for students to dialogue, then ask each pair to present their role-play.

Debriefing

Ask: **How could David have handled this situation differently, and what would the consequences have been if he had? What lessons could we draw about how our actions affect others? What are some of the advantages of always saying and doing what is right? We can encourage others to trust God, who accepts us and restores us when we seek His forgiveness.**

Remember our power point:

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

Accommodation for students with special needs

Guide students with special needs who experience difficulty with this activity to groups that offer them assistance in participation. Build on their strengths and encourage them to contribute in ways that allow them to feel comfortable, accepted, and valued.

Exploring the Bible

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils/pens

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 say our power text together, Matthew 6:14:**

"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you" (Matthew 6:14).

We need to do according to our power point:

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

Accommodation for students with special needs
Allow students who experience difficulty with writing and spelling to respond verbally while another group member records their answers in writing.

Scenarios

YOU NEED:
- ☐ cards/handouts with the scenarios listed on them

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. Today you will form groups of three and four and discuss how you would encourage the person in each scenario to ask for God's forgiveness and to make things right with the other party.** Distribute the handouts with the scenarios listed on them.

Martha cheated on a quiz, and she knows she doesn't deserve the good grade she received.

Sam stole some candy from the store while his mom was shopping. He is afraid to tell his mom.

Alicia took her classmate's notebook and copied the answers to their math homework.

When Josh discovered that Matthew was doing much better in school than he was, Josh started bullying him.

Debriefing
Ask: **What should each one of these individuals do? They fear that if they admit their wrongdoings, they will lose out on certain privileges or they will be penalized harshly. On the other hand, if they keep their sins and mistakes to themselves, they know they will have to deal with a great deal of personal guilt. In either case there will be serious consequences to their actions. How would you go about accepting God's forgiveness for something you had done? How could you help someone seek God for forgiveness, make things right with those whom they had treated wrongly, and allow God to clear their conscience from guilt? Let's remember:**

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

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils/pens

Notes of Encouragement

Allow time for students to share with the class if they had the opportunity last week to talk to someone who was weighed down with guilt because of past failures or mistakes. What did the students say to those people? What did they do to encourage them? Did their words bring hope to those who needed to hear them most? Ask: **Whom 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?** (Read to them 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 as soon as they can.

Our power point reminds us that

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

Closing

Prayer and comments:

Thank God for His glorious forgiveness. Pray that each student will accept God's forgiveness in his or her own life and extend it to others as well.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Absalom plots and leads a revolt against his father, King David. God wants us to work together in harmony.**

Notes

Student lesson

Found Out and Forgiven

How did David respond when his sin was exposed? Have you ever asked God to forgive you? What lessons can you find in this story about God's forgiveness?

King David and Israel had won the battle with the Ammonites. David had married Bathsheba [bath-SHE-buh], 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.

David's attempt at covering up his sin was dishonoring God. Yet God loved David too much to let him continue on the evil path he was on. God chose Nathan, a prophet, to take the message to David. Nathan was brave to take a message of reprimand to a king who could have him killed. God impressed Nathan to start with a story that would awaken David's sympathy.

He told a story about a poor man and a rich man. "The poor man had a pet lamb that was almost like a daughter to him. He fed the lamb from the table, let it drink from his own cup, and even let it sleep on his bed at night. A certain rich man lived nearby.

"Now a traveler came to the rich man," said Nathan, "but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him" (2 Samuel 12:4).

As Nathan had hoped, David was angry about the actions of the man in the story. "As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this must die!" David proclaimed. "He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity" (verses 5, 6).

Nathan looked David straight in the eye. "You are the man!" (verse 7). Then he delivered the message God had sent to David. "This is what the LORD says: 'Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you'" (verse 11).

David responded the way God had hoped he would. "Then David said to Nathan, 'I have sinned against the LORD'" (verse 13). He immediately saw how much his actions had hurt Uriah, Bathsheba, Joab, and all the people of Israel. Most important, he had hurt God, the one who had chosen him and blessed him all of these years. 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 of God's forgiveness. He said, "The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for the LORD, the son born to you will die" (verses 13, 14).

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. They tiptoed around and whispered. 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. David got up, took a bath, put on his royal clothes, and asked for some dinner.

The sad results of David's sin would never go away even though God had forgiven him. Along with the many setbacks, however, David learned the most important lesson. He learned to trust God, who would help him overcome his selfish tendencies.

Unlike King Saul, who had hardened his heart, David humbled himself and confessed his sins. He returned to God with sincere regret in his heart.

King David learned that God was his only source of wisdom and power. True to His promise, God forgave David and restored to him the joy of salvation. One day God would bless David and Bathsheba with another baby, who would be loved by God. One day Solomon would be the wisest king who ever lived.

King Solomon learned at a young age the importance of trusting in God. He wrote: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3:5, 6).

David's story serves as an example to us. There is no sin that is insignificant or unknown to God. We are on dangerous ground when we rely on our own wisdom and neglect spending time with God in prayer and Bible study. It is when we trust in the Lord with all our heart, as Solomon wrote, that we will experience the joy of salvation that God has promised to all who believe in Him.

KEY REFERENCES

- 2 Samuel 12
- *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 71, pp. 720-726
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 4, pp. 99-102
- Our Beliefs, nos. 10, 18, 23

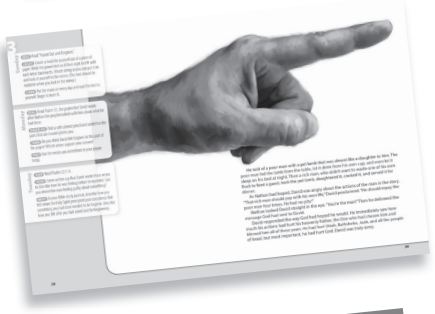
POWER TEXT

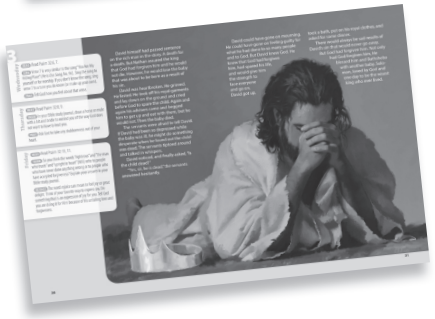
"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you" (Matthew 6:14).

POWER POINT

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







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 32.

Sunday

READ Read Psalm 51:1-10 and this week's lesson, "Found Out and Forgiven."

CREATE Create a mask and write the power text on it from right to left with each letter backward. Attach string so you can put it on and look at yourself in the mirror. (The text should be readable in the mirror.)

LEARN Begin to memorize the power text.

PRAY Confess your sins to God and ask His forgiveness.

Monday

READ Read Psalm 51:11-19.

MARK Underline the parts that are meaningful to you.

THINK Do you think David felt forgiven in this part of his prayer? Which verses support your answer?

SHARE Encourage someone who is weighed down with guilt, telling that person about God's forgiveness.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray the verses from Psalm 51.

Tuesday

READ Read Psalm 32:1-4.

THINK Have you ever felt guilty about something?

WRITE In your Bible study journal, describe how you felt when the Holy Spirit prompted your conscience that something you had done needed to be forgiven.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to forgive your sins and shortcomings.

Wednesday

READ Read Psalm 32:6, 7.

SING Verse 7 is very similar to the song "You Are My Hiding Place" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 96). Sing this song.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Praise God for His enduring love and protection.

Thursday

READ Read Psalm 32:8, 9.

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write why a horse needs a bridle. Contrast this with following God willingly.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you be obedient.

Friday

READ Read Psalm 32:10, 11.

THINK Do you think the words "the one who trusts," "righteous," and "upright in heart" refer to people who have never done anything wrong or to people who have accepted forgiveness? Explain your answer in your Bible study journal.

REJOICE The word "rejoice" can mean to feel joy or great delight. Think of your favorite way to express joy. Do something joyful to bring some cheer into someone's life.

REPEAT Share aloud the power text from memory.

PRAY Ask God to help you be forgiving to others.