

Sunday School 21st June

2 Samuel 11:1-12:15

This is the last session in our short series on David, and focusses on him as a King who also makes mistakes. This is a very familiar feeling to all of us, but hopefully this session will help the children to see that God's love for them doesn't change when they make mistakes and how he always forgives us when we say 'sorry'.

First Activity

Role Play: think up some scenarios together in which someone needs to be forgiven.

For example:

- You find some nice cakes in the kitchen and you eat one, or maybe two, without permission.
- A girl scribbles in a school book and then hides it in a cupboard
- An adult can't find any paper to write their shopping list so writes it on the back of one of your pictures and then throws it away.
- Someone treads on one your favourite toys and breaks it.

Get the children to act out each scenario, thinking carefully about how it will end. Was the person responsible found out? Were they forgiven?

Bible Story

Story with faces mime: Print out and show the faces from 'Resource 1' one at a time and get the children to practice making the faces. Maybe get them to each pull one of the faces and everyone else has to guess which emotion they are showing.

Tell the following story, showing the relevant feeling face for the children to copy.

One day God spoke to a prophet called Nathan and told him to go and see King David with a very difficult message. King David had done something wrong which had made God sad, and because the message was a very difficult one, Nathan decided to tell David a story. This is Nathan's story.

'There was once a rich man who had lots of sheep and a poor man who had nothing except one little lamb. He looked after the lamb carefully, it shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a child to him and they were **happy** together.

'Now a traveller came to visit the rich man, and the rich man wanted to give him a meal. Roast lamb would be just right! But the rich man did not take one of his own sheep to cook for the meal. Instead he stole the lamb that belonged to the poor man and got it ready for the traveller's meal.'

When King David heard this he was very **angry** with the rich man and told Nathan that the rich man should be punished for what he had done.

But then Nathan said to David: 'You are that rich man because you took something that didn't belong to you. You saw a beautiful woman and wanted her as your wife and so you

had her husband killed so you could marry her!’ When David heard this he realised that God knew what he had done and that he had behaved just like the rich man. He was really **sorry** and begged to God to forgive him. Nathan said that God would forgive him but, even so, the new baby that he and the woman had would die. This made King David very **sad** but he knew that he had done wrong. David was **happy** that God still loved him.

Discuss with the children how this story makes them feel, it is a difficult story as God still punished David despite forgiving him. Make your top focus on God’s continued love and forgiveness, rather than the death of David’s baby. If you have a bible timeline, you could point out that David and the woman would go on to have another child, and that one would become King after David (Solomon)

Chat with the children about how, when we love someone, we should keep loving them, even when they do something wrong, hurt us or let us down as this is the example that God has set us.

Second Activity

Psalm Pictures Discuss with the children how David often wrote prayers and songs to God to tell God how he felt. See if they know which book of the Bible these songs are in.

With older children, or good readers, read together Psalm 51 from an easy to understand translation such as The Message or The Good News Bible (all are available on biblegateway.com). Choose some verses that stand out to the children and write them on pieces of paper with space around them. Get the children to draw a picture to illustrate the verses.

Splash Game Using the Splash Page attached, you will also need a dice and some counters. Play the game on the sheet, the first one to reach the end wins! Discuss how what starts as a seemingly small sin ends up bringing a lot of trouble, but once they said Sorry they were forgiven by God because he loves them.