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The Story of Ruth

Scripture: Ruth 1:1-4:22

Theme: God works through ordinary faithfulness to accomplish His plan

PreK-K (Ages 3-5)

Free curriculum for small and rural churches

Lesson Overview

Lesson Title: "Even When We Fall...God's Love Never Fades!" Opening Wonder: "Did you know God is like a big, loving hug? Even when we make mistakes, He wants to help us feel sorry and come back to Him. Let's talk about how David learned that, with a big, big lesson!" Story Time: David's Big Mistake Once, King David forgot to thank God for all His goodness. He looked at a pretty picture and made a wrong choice, he saw someone's wife, Bathsheba, and decided to ask for her. That was wrong, and God told David to be sorry. David cried, "I'm sorry, God! Help me!" (Psalm 51:1). Repentance & Grace: God loved David so much that He didn't punish him for forever. Instead, He gave him another chance! "God's grace is like a big, soft blanket, it covers all our mistakes and makes us feel safe again!" Even when we mess up, God wants us to say, "I'm sorry, and I want to try better!" Closing Encouragement: "Today, let's remember: God forgives us like a big, kind hug! When we sin, we can be sad, but God's love never ends. Let's be like David, when we make mistakes, we say, 'I'm sorry, and I'll ask for help!' And God will always forgive us!" (Repeat: "God's grace is great! Even when we fall, He loves us and forgives us!")

Bible Story

David and Bathsheba: A Lesson in Repentance

Once, the king named David was sitting on his throne in his big house. He saw a beautiful woman, Bathsheba, bathing near the palace wall. David loved her so much that he sent a message to send for her. Bathsheba came to the king, and he slept with her. Later, Bathsheba got pregnant. The king knew it was wrong to take someone else's husband's wife, but he didn't stop.

Soon, David's soldiers were fighting a big battle. One of his friends, Nathan the prophet, came to talk to him. Nathan said, "David, you have sinned against God. You took Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, and God will not be happy." David felt so sad and guilty that he said, "I have done wrong!"

Nathan told David that God would forgive him. David asked, "What shall I do?" Nathan said, "Go home, and tell your family what God has done. God loves you and will help you."

David repented, he turned away from his wrong choices and asked God for forgiveness. God forgave him, and David remembered to praise and trust God always.

Why This Story Matters: This story shows that when we do something wrong, God is always there to forgive us if we ask with a heart that is sorry. Just like David, we can ask for God's help and kindness, He will always love us!

Key Verse

Ruth 1:16

Oh, let's imagine a heart that is so bright and kind, like a little sun shining in your chest! God wants you to be filled with love and goodness, just like a flower blooming in springtime. God says, "Mama, Papa, make my heart clean and brave!" Just like washing your hands to keep them safe, God wants to wash your heart so it feels good and strong. Can you picture a little wind blowing inside your chest? God is like a gentle breeze that makes your heart feel happy and full of faith. "Make me like a little angel," God is asking, "who always tries to be kind!" God loves you so much! With His help, your heart can shine brighter than ever, just like a star in the night sky!

Activities

Activity 1:

Children paint rocks to remind them that God forgives when they ask for help (like David did).

1. Make the Tree: Give each child a paper plate to cut into a circle. Cut a green leaf shape (about 3, 4 inches wide) and glue it on top as the tree branch.
2. Draw the Trunk: Have them draw a brown trunk at the bottom using crayons or markers.
3. Tell the Story: Remind them of David's story, how he sinned but God forgave him when he asked. Ask: "How can we be like David and ask for forgiveness?"
4. Draw the "Wonder Tree": Let them color their tree green, red, or yellow (symbolizing God's love). Glue the plate onto a larger sheet of paper to make a big tree with many branches.
2. "Repentance Rocks"
6. Gather Rocks: Show each child a smooth rock. Ask: "What can we do with this rock to remember God's love?"
7. Paint the Story: Let them paint their rocks red, blue, or white (symbolizing God's kindness). Remind them that David asked God for forgiveness, just like we can too!
8. Draw a Bible Verse: After drying, have them write or draw Psalm 51:1 ("Have mercy on me, oh God!") on their rocks.
9. Display the Rocks: Place them on a tree or shelf as a reminder: "God forgives when we ask!"
10. Both activities use simple, hands-on materials and reinforce the lesson's key ideas, sin, repentance, and God's grace, with fun and wonder!

Discussion Questions

- Here are four open-ended discussion questions for preschool and kindergarten children based on the Bible story of David and Bathsheba, using simple words and wonder:
 - What Happened First?
 - In the story, David had a big mistake. What did he see that made him wonder or feel curious? (Let children share their ideas.)

- Wonder: "What if you saw something nice, like a beautiful flower or a friend playing, and you felt tempted to act differently?" How did David's heart feel when he thought about Bathsheba? How do you think God felt?
- What Did David Do After?
- David said he was sorry, and God forgave him. What did Bathsheba's family do to help David? (Let them imagine how they would feel if someone in their life made a big mistake and still loved them.)
- Wonder: "If you made a silly mistake at school, like not sharing your toys, what could you do to make it right?" How can we show God that we love him by doing things that please him, even when we're afraid?
- Why Did Bathsheba's Baby Die?
- David's son got very sick, and God took him away. What do you think Bathsheba was feeling when her baby was gone? (Let them share their feelings.)
- Wonder: "Sometimes when we miss someone, like our dog or a grandparent, we wonder if God feels sad too. How can we trust God even when things hurt?" How can we pray for God to help people who are sad or scared?
- What Can We Learn Today?
- David asked God to help him do better. What can you do to be kind and listen to God, even when you feel tempted to be different? (Let them share examples.)
- Wonder: "What if you saw a friend being unkind and wanted to help? How can you ask God for strength?" God loves you, just like he loved David. What's one way you can show God you trust him today?
- These questions encourage kids to explore feelings, wonder, and God's love while keeping the conversation open-ended. You can adjust based on how the group responds!

Prayer Focus

Prayer for Wonder and Kindness Dear Heavenly Father, We thank You for the little moments, the sun shining bright on our faces, the laughter of friends, and the joy of learning. You made us curious hearts that wonder, and we want to grow like David, who asked big questions and found You in his mistakes. Help us to ask for forgiveness when we make wrong choices, like when David saw Bathsheba and did not listen to You. Thank You for Your big love, it's like a rainbow in the sky, always there for us when we need it. Remind us to be kind, like the grace You give us. Let us share our toys, help others, and tell the truth, just like David did when he wrote his song of repentance. Thank You for Your mercy, like in Psalm 51, You forgive when we ask! Help us to wonder, to be brave, and to love You every day. Amen! Repeat with actions: - Clench hands into fists (mistakes) Open wide (forgiveness). - Point to heart (love) Wave hands (kindness).

>> Missions Spotlight

In many cultures around the world, shame is a powerful force. Missionaries working in Japan, where shame runs deep, share David's story to show that God's grace is greater than our deepest shame. The Gospel offers forgiveness, not just behavior change.

-> To the Cross

David sinned terribly, adultery and murder. Yet when he truly repented, God forgave him. This points to the amazing truth: no sin is too great for the cross. Jesus died for ALL our sins, even the ones we're most ashamed of.