

Repentance

Table of Contents

REPENTANCE - WHAT IS IT?: WEEK 1	2
Week 1 - BIBLE CLUB (Hook)	2
Week 1 - BIBLE STORY	5
Week 1 - MEMORY VERSE	11
Week 1 - PRACTICAL LIVING	13
Week 1 - READ-ALOUD	16
Week 1 - CRAFTS	17
Week 1 - RECREATION	20
REPENTANCE - WHAT IT'S NOT: WEEK 2	22
Week 2 – BIBLE CLUB (Hook)	22
Week 2 – BIBLE STORY	26
Week 2 - MEMORY VERSE	32
Week 2 - PRACTICAL LIVING	34
Week 2 - READ-ALOUD	39
Week 2 - CRAFTS	40
Week 2 - RECREATION	42
REPENTANCE – GOD’S RESPONSE: WEEK 3	45
Week 3 – BIBLE CLUB (Hook)	45
Week 3 – BIBLE STORY	48
Week 3 - MEMORY VERSE	66
Week 3 - PRACTICAL LIVING	67
Week 3 - READ-ALOUD	70
Week 3 - CRAFTS	71
Week 3 - RECREATION	74
REPENTANCE – MAKING CHANGES: WEEK 4	76
Week 4 – BIBLE CLUB (Hook)	76
Week 4 – BIBLE STORY	78
Week 4 - MEMORY VERSE	82
Week 4 - PRACTICAL LIVING	83
Week 4 - READ-ALOUD	84
Week 4 - CRAFTS	85
Week 4 - RECREATION	87

REPENTANCE - WHAT IS IT?: WEEK 1

WEEK 1 - BIBLE CLUB (HOOK)

LESSON AIM: To help the child understand what repentance is & how he or she can practice it in his/her own life.

SCRIPTURE: II Samuel 12:1-9, 13; Psalm 51

MEMORY VERSE: But if we confess our sins to God, he will keep his promise and do what is right: he will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrongdoing. I John 1:9 Good News Bible



Hook: The Staff Models Repentance

Have three staff members act out the following skit during snack time. Start in on the dialogue while the students are eating, as if this were a real conversation & not a skit. Feel free to change the dialogue to make it more natural for your staff.

(Ms. Selena & Mr. Dwayne begin talking together while Ms. Clarice is out of the room.)

Ms. Selena: *(to Mr. Dwayne)* I can't believe Ms. Clarice didn't help me prepare the snack! She knew I needed help with it today, but she was nowhere around. She is so lazy!

(Ms. Clarice walks in while Ms. Selena is speaking & stands behind her looking shocked. Mr. Dwayne points to Ms. Clarice, and Ms. Selena stops talking suddenly & puts her hand over her mouth.)

Ms. Clarice: *(quietly)* Ouch.

Ms. Selena: *(tries to act like nothing happened)* Oh, hi, Ms. Clarice! How are you today?

Ms. Clarice: Not too good. I heard what you said about me.

Ms. Selena: *(faking a laugh)* Oh, ha ha! I didn't mean that! I was just joking around with Mr. Dwayne!

Ms. Clarice: Selena, we're friends. It hurts my feelings that you would talk about me behind my back instead of coming to ask me for help with the snack. While you were in the kitchen I got an emergency call from the school about my daughter; that's why I didn't come help you.

Ms. Selena: Oh, Clarice, I'm sorry! You're right: I was gossiping. I should have come to find out the truth from you. I didn't know about your phone call. Will you forgive me?

Ms. Clarice: *(pausing but then smiling)* Yes, of course I forgive you.

Ms. Selena: *(hugging her)* Thank you! I'm glad we're friends!

DEBRIEF:

This was actually a skit, which we performed to introduce this month’s topic of repentance.

1. **What did Ms. Selena do wrong in the skit?** (She gossiped about Ms. Clarice)
2. **How did Ms. Clarice feel when she heard what Ms. Selena said?** (Her feelings were hurt; she felt sad)
3. **What did Ms. Selena do when Ms. Clarice told her that she had heard what she said?** (At first she said she didn’t mean it, but then she said she was sorry.)
4. **Does anyone know what repentance means?** We’re going to learn some motions to help us remember what repentance is.

Repentance is...



Seeing your sin: realizing what you did was wrong
(Make binoculars with your hands & look through them)



Being sorry for your sin
(Trace lines on your cheeks to symbolize tears)



Confessing your sin
(Point to your mouth)



Asking for forgiveness
(Clasp your hands together as if you’re praying)



And turning from your sin
(Turn around)

Week 1 – Repentance: What Is It?

5. **Did Ms. Selena see her sin?** (Yes, she realized she had been gossiping about Ms. Clarice.)
6. **Was she sorry for what she had done?** (Yes, she told Ms. Clarice she was sorry.)
7. **Did she admit her sin to Ms. Clarice?** (Yes, she admitted that she had gossiped and that she should have talked to Ms. Clarice to find out the truth.)
8. **Did she ask for forgiveness?** (Yes, she asked Ms. Clarice to forgive her.)
9. **Do you think Ms. Selena will gossip about Ms. Clarice again? Why or why not?** (No, she was really sorry for gossiping & knew that it hurt Ms. Clarice, who is her friend. She might make a mistake in the future, but she wouldn't want to do that to her friend again.)

What Ms. Selena did is an example of repentance! Later, we're going to talk about someone in the Bible who repented.

WEEK 1 - BIBLE STORY

Bible Story

Basic Background: King David stole another man’s wife and then had the man “accidentally” killed, so that he could keep the man’s wife for himself and so no one would find out what he had done. But God saw what he had done and sent a prophet named Nathan to talk to him about it.

MATERIALS: Two robes, a chair that can be an imaginary throne, another ordinary chair, a stick or broom handle to be a prophet’s staff, a paper crown, a notebook and pen or pencil, Psalm 51 written out on poster board or chart paper, a blue marker, a red marker, several Bibles.

SETUP:

- Write Psalm 51 on a poster and hang it at the front of the room.
- Place the “throne” and the other empty chair at the front of the room.
- Explain the basic background for the students, and then have two staff, volunteers, or older students perform the skit on the following page.
- Nathan and King David’s conversation is recorded in the Bible, and it went something like this:

A Story for King David

(King David comes in and sits on a throne-like chair wearing a robe and a crown. He sits writing in a notebook for a few seconds. Then the prophet Nathan comes in also wearing a robe and carrying a staff.)

David: *(surprised, putting down his notebook and pen)* Nathan! I didn’t know you were coming to visit me today! Welcome! Have a seat! *(He motions toward an empty chair near him.)*

Nathan: No, thank you. I’ll stand.

David: Oh. Ok. Do you have a message for me?

Nathan: I have a story for you.

David: Great! A story! Are you sure you don’t want to sit down?

Week 1 – Repentance: What Is It?

Nathan: *(Nathan just looks at David sternly & begins his story.)* There were two men in a certain city. One was rich and the other was poor. The rich man had many flocks and herds, but the poor man had nothing but one little lamb. He brought the lamb up, and it grew up with him and with his children. It used to eat from his plate and drink from his cup, and he would hold it in his arms. It was like one of his children! Now a traveler came to the rich man's house, and he didn't want to take one of his own sheep or cows to give to the guest who had come to him, so he took the poor man's lamb. He killed it and cooked it for the traveler's dinner!

David: *(Jumping up from his chair, very angry)* What?! That's terrible! As the Lord lives, the rich man deserves to die! And he should have to pay back the poor man four times as much as he took from him, because he didn't care about him at all!

Nathan: *(pointing at David)* You are the man! This is what God says, "I made you the king of Israel, and I rescued you from Saul, the old king. I gave you Saul's house and Saul's wives, plus the whole country of Israel and Judah. And if this wasn't enough for you, all you had to do was ask, and I would have given you more. Why didn't you listen to what I told you? Why did you do something you knew was evil? You killed Uriah and took his wife Bathsheba for yourself!"

(David freezes onstage, and Nathan turns to the students.)

Nathan: *(to the students)* What do you think David said to me after this? *(pauses for the students to answer each question)* Do you think he admitted what he had done or kept pretending that it wasn't him? What would you have done if you had been in David's place? Watch and see what David does.

David: *(unfreezing and sadly hanging his head)* Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord.

Nathan: The Lord has forgiven your sin, and you won't die for it, but there will be consequences for what you have done.

(Nathan begins to walk away, and David sadly sits back in his chair. Nathan stops and addresses the students.)

Nathan: *(to the students)* David did repent of his sin. He even wrote a poem about it, which you have in your Bible.

(As Nathan is speaking, David picks up his notebook and pen and begins to write again. Nathan leaves while David is writing.)

DEBRIEF:



Seeing:

1. **Why did David get angry when he heard Nathan’s story about the rich man and the sheep?** (He got angry, because what the rich man did wasn’t fair. The rich man deserved to be punished, because he was so cruel to the poor man.)
2. **What did David realize when Nathan said, “You are the man!”?** (David realized he was like the rich man in the story. He had stolen a man’s wife just like the rich man stole the poor man’s sheep. In fact, he had treated Uriah much worse than the rich man had treated the poor man, because a wife is much more important than a sheep and because he had even had Uriah killed!)
3. **Did David see his sin? Did he realize that what he had done was wrong?** (Yes, he realized he was like the man in Nathan’s story about the rich man & the sheep. He hadn’t cared at all about Uriah, just like the rich man hadn’t cared about the poor man. He also realized that what he had done was a sin against God.)



Being Sorry:

Let’s read **David’s poem** to find out if he was sorry for his sin.

Options for studying **Psalm 51**:

- Have the Good News version of Psalm 51 printed on a poster at the front of the room. Write the words “sin,” “sins,” “sinful,” “sinned,” “evil,” and “faults” on index cards. Ask for volunteers to come up. Give each volunteer a card and a red marker and have them circle their word wherever they can find it in the passage on the poster.

-- OR --

- Split the students into small groups. Give them a photocopy of the psalm and a list of the above words. Give them five minutes to circle the words in red where they find them in the psalm. Discuss what the groups found. You may or may not want to write the phrases they found on the board or on a poster (see the following).

- V1 Wipe away my **sins**
- V2 Wash away all my **evil**
- V2 Make me clean from my **sin**
- V3 I recognize my **faults**
- V3 I am always conscious of my **sins**
- V4 I have **sinned** against you
- V4 [I have] done what you consider **evil**
- V5 I have been **evil** from the day I was born
- V5 From the time I was conceived, I have been **sinful**
- V7 Remove my **sin**
- V9 Close you eyes to my **sins**
- V9 Wipe out all my **evil**

4. **Was David sorry for his sin? How do you know?** (David talks a lot about his sin, how he knows it's wrong and he needs to have it washed away. He calls his sin "evil" and says he was evil from the day he was born (v4, 5). He talks about having a humble spirit, a humble and repentant heart (v17). He asks God to give him joy again (v12), so we know he isn't feeling very joyful. You can tell that he is ashamed & sorry, and that he hates his sin.)



Confessing:

5. **Did David admit his sin to anyone? How do you know?** (Yes, he admitted it to Nathan (II Sam 12:13) and to God (Psalm 51:4).)



Asking for Forgiveness:

(Choose one of the options described above to circle the words "wipe," "wash," "clean," "remove," "close," "pure," and "new" in the passage. This time use blue markers.)

Week 1 – Repentance: What Is It?

V1 **Wipe** away my sins

V2 **Wash** away all my evil

V2 Make me **clean** me from my sin

V7 **Remove** my sin, and I will be **clean**;

V7 **Wash** me, and I will be whiter than snow

(**Note:** It may be good to explain that David isn't talking about having white *skin* but having a pure heart on the inside!)

V9 **Close** your eyes to my sins

V9 **Wipe** out all my iniquity

V10 Create a **pure** heart in me

V10 Put a **new** and loyal spirit in me

6. **Did David ask for forgiveness? Who did he ask to forgive him?**
(Yes, David asked many times in this psalm for God to wash away his sin.)



Turning from Sin:

(Choose one of the options described above to underline the phrase “I will” in verses 13-15. This time use black markers.)

V13 I will teach sinners your commands

V14 I will gladly proclaim your righteousness

V15 I will praise you

7. **What three things does David say he will do in this psalm?** (He will teach other sinners God's commands. He will gladly proclaim God's righteousness, and he will praise God.)
8. **Did David ask anyone for help to do these things?** (Yes, he asked God to make him willing to obey Him. He asked God to spare his life, and he asked God to help him speak.)
9. **Do you think David acted differently toward God and other people after this repentance? Why?** (This was a real repentance where David really saw his sin & was sorry for it; he confessed his sin and asked for forgiveness for it. When you really repent, God changes your heart & makes you *want* to do the right thing.)

Application:

Close your eyes and think quietly about the last time you did something that you know was wrong.

- Did you admit what you had done?
- Were you sorry for your sin?
- Did you ask God for forgiveness?
- Were there other people who got hurt because of what you did?
- Did you ask them to forgive you?

Open your eyes. Does anyone know any other stories about David besides the one we learned today? (David & Goliath, David & Jonathan, etc.)

David was not only a very important king but someone that God loved very much. In fact, the Bible calls David, “a man after God’s own heart” (I Sam 13:14), and we usually think of him as one of the Bible’s heroes. Still, even David sinned against God and had to repent. He didn’t pretend that he hadn’t done anything wrong; he admitted what he had done and asked for forgiveness.

I John 1:8-10 says: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and there is no truth in us. But if we confess our sins to God, he will keep his promise and do what is right: he will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrongdoing. If we say that we have not sinned, we make a liar out of God, and his word is not in us.

You can pretend you’re perfect, but God knows the truth. If you say you never sin, you’re calling God a liar! But if you confess your sins, God promises to forgive you!

WEEK 1 - MEMORY VERSE

MEMORY VERSE: But if we confess our sins to God, he will keep his promise and do what is right: he will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrongdoing. I John 1:9 Good News Bible

“What Does It Mean?” and “Crazy Stand Ups”

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Poster of the verse: Write the verse on a piece of poster board. Write only one phrase on each line. Leave a little space between each line. Write the words in alternating colors, red & blue. You will be able to use this poster for the memory verse activities for the rest of the month.
- Four dictionaries (Option: photocopy the pages of the dictionary where you can find the entries for “confess,” “forgive,” “purify,” and “wrongdoing.”)
- A blank sheet of paper with the word “confess” written at the top, a sheet for “forgive,” a sheet for “purify,” and a sheet for “wrongdoing.”

But if we confess our sins to God,
He will keep his promise
and do what is right:
He will forgive us our sins
and purify us
from all our wrongdoing.
1st John 1:9

What Does It Mean?

- Divide the students into four groups.
- Give each group a dictionary and one of the four difficult words from the verse.
- Have each group look up their word and read its definition.
- Have each group come up with a way to explain their word to the rest of the group. They could act it out, draw a picture, use their own words to make up a definition, give examples, etc.
- Give each group a chance to present to everyone else.

Crazy Stand Ups

If you have time after you've gone over what the verse means, use this activity to practice memorizing it.

- Have different groups stand up and read the verse. (See examples below.)
- Choose children who are participating well to be the “caller” for a few rounds.

- Examples:

“All those wearing blue, stand up and read this verse!”

“All those with braids...”

“All those wearing jeans...”

“All those who have a brother...”

“All those who have a nose...”

Add your own!

WEEK 1 - PRACTICAL LIVING

How to Sort and Wash Laundry

Knowing how to sort and wash clothes will be useful as children grow older and eventually leave home. Younger children can learn sorting skills and apply them, while older children can learn to apply both sorting and washing skills.

MATERIALS: Older clothes of various types and different colors, such as jeans, T-shirts, shorts, long sleeved shirts, socks, ladies dress shirts, etc. These clothes will be used as examples of how to sort.

Samples of different kinds of soap, for example, dish soap, dishwasher detergent, PineSol™, Woolite™, and regular laundry soap.

Fabric softener in sheets and liquid form.

Cut out signs or use sticky notes: one that says “Hot,” two that say “Warm,” and two that say “Cold.”

Four cardboard boxes or laundry baskets to sort the clothes into. Label the boxes “lights,” “darks,” “gentle wash,” and “dry cleaning.”

One extra cardboard box to be the washing machine.

A picture of washing machine controls. You could make one using a box with a paper dial and buttons, or you could find a picture in a newspaper advertisement.

ACTIVITY:

- **Explain** to the kids the importance of taking care of their clothes as well as helping with the laundry chores in their family. Ask if any of the kids have helped with laundry before.
- **Dump** all the clothes onto a table. Show the kids some of the items. Place the four boxes nearby and explain the type of clothes that should go in each box.
- **Ask** each child to pick an item of clothing and place it in the box they think it belongs in. If there are enough clothes, have kids pick another item until all the clothes are sorted.
- **Bring** the “lights” box to the table. Dump the clothes out and tell the students how well they sorted them. Then ask the following questions:
 1. **What temperature water should the light colored clothes be washed in?** (It’s best if they are washed in hot or warm water. They can be washed in cold water to save money on the cost of heating water.)
 2. **What might happen if you washed a red shirt in hot water *with* the light colored clothes?** (The dye in the red item might get into the water and color the light colored clothes around it. If you wash dark colored items with light colored ones, you might end up with grayish/bluish socks or pink underwear! It’s best to separate lights from darks.)

Week 1 – Repentance: What Is It?

- **Ask** for a volunteer to stick the “Hot” sign and one of the “Warm” signs on the “lights” box. This will help the kids visualize and remember the lesson.
- **Next**, bring the “darks” box to the table. Dump the clothes out and tell the students how well they sorted them. Then ask the following question:
 3. **What temperature do you think these should be washed in, remembering how dark clothes could affect light colored clothes?** (Most dark colored clothes should be washed in warm or cold water. Hot water could cause the dye to bleed into the water and deposit on the clothes around it.)
- **Ask** a couple of volunteers to check the tags of the items in the “darks” box. If any of the clothes say “Wash Cold, Gentle Cycle,” have the children take those items out of the box and set them aside.
- **Have** a volunteer stick one “Warm” sign and one “Cold” sign on the “darks” box.
- **Then**, bring the “gentle wash” box to the table. Look to see if any of the kids placed clothes in it. Perhaps ask who did and why. Maybe they looked at the tags or learned from their parents that this type of item always gets washed in the gentle cycle.
 4. **What temperature water should these clothes be washed in?** (It is best if these clothes are washed in cold water. There is gentle soap called (example: *Woolite*) for these items. These can be washed in a machine with a gentle cycle or washed by hand.)
- **Place** the items that were set aside for “Wash Cold, Gentle Cycle” into the “gentle” box.
 5. **Why should these clothes be washed in the gentle cycle?** (Regular wash may damage these clothes. Mild soap will also help the clothes keep their original color.)
- **Lastly**, bring the “dry clean” box to the table. Look to see if any of the kids placed clothes in it.
 6. **What does it mean to dry clean your clothes? Could you wash them at home?** (Dry cleaning is a process that safely washes clothes that need to keep their shape. If the tag says “dry clean only,” then it is best to take that item to a dry cleaner. If the tag says “dry clean or hand wash,” then it is possible to hand wash the item in cold water; but the look of the fabric might change. Dry cleaning is expensive, so it might be best to steer away from owning a lot of clothes that are dry clean only.)

Week 1 – Repentance: What Is It?

- **Laundry Detergent:** After you've gone through the clothes, place the different kinds of soap on the table. Hold up each type of soap and ask the students if they know what each is used for. For each type of soap ask if it can be used in a washing machine. Identify each type and steer the children to see that laundry detergent is the best choice for clothes. Other soaps may suds too much or not clean clothes very well.
- **Show** the kids how much soap to use. It's best to read the directions on the back of the bottle. You might need a separate cup or be able to use the cup on the liquid detergent bottle. It is generally best to put soap in the machine first while it is filling with water, and then add the clothes.
- **Fabric Softener:** Explain briefly what it is. It is not necessary but can help clothes feel soft and can reduce static. Explain what static is. If a washing machine doesn't have a dispenser, you can use fabric softener sheets in the dryer.
- **Ask** for a volunteer (preferably an older child) to come up and measure out the soap.
- **Ask** a second volunteer to choose one of the boxes of clothes ("lights," "darks," or "gentle wash") and dump the clothes in the "washing machine" box.
- **Have** another child tell you what temperature water would work best for this type of clothes (some clothes will have more than one possible temperature). Also have him/her choose regular or gentle wash. If you have a picture of the washing machine controls, the child can pretend to turn the dial or press the buttons to choose the correct temperature and wash cycle.
- **Remove** the clothes in the "washing machine" box and repeat the previous two steps with the other boxes of clothes.

WEEK 1 - READ-ALOUD



King Midas and the Golden Touch

King Midas and the Golden Touch As told by: Charlotte Craft Illustrated by: K.Y. Craft

***Library book** (This book can be checked out at most libraries. There are two other library books needed for the Repentance Unit; you may want to get them all at the same time. See the other Read Aloud lessons for the book titles.)

PRE READING QUESTIONS

1. If you could only have one wish, what would it be?
2. If getting what you wished for meant that someone you loved got hurt, would you still want your wish?
3. What does “greed” mean or what does it mean if someone is “greedy?” (excessive desire to get or to have more than you need or deserve)
4. How do you think God feels about greed? (He doesn’t like it! He says it is sin and that we should get rid of it! In fact, He says it is like having another god besides Him, because the thing that you want more of becomes the most important thing in your life! Col 3:5)

We’re going to read a story about someone named King Midas who was very greedy. Listen to see if King Midas repents of his greed in the end.

POST READING QUESTIONS

1. In the beginning of the story, what did King Midas think would make him a happier man? (more gold; if everything he touched turned to gold.)
2. The Bible says, “A greedy man brings trouble to his family” (Proverbs 15:27). What trouble did King Midas cause because of his greed? (He couldn’t eat anything, because all his food turned to gold. Then he turned his daughter into a golden statue!)
3. What did King Midas have to do to turn his daughter back into a live girl?
(Follow the river upstream to its source and wash in the water. Bring back some water in a vase and sprinkle it on his daughter.)
4. Would you say King Midas repented of his greed? How do you know? (Yes, he saw that his greed hurt his daughter and he was very sorry. He told the young man that he would rather have his daughter than all the gold in the world, and he gave up his golden touch to get her back.)

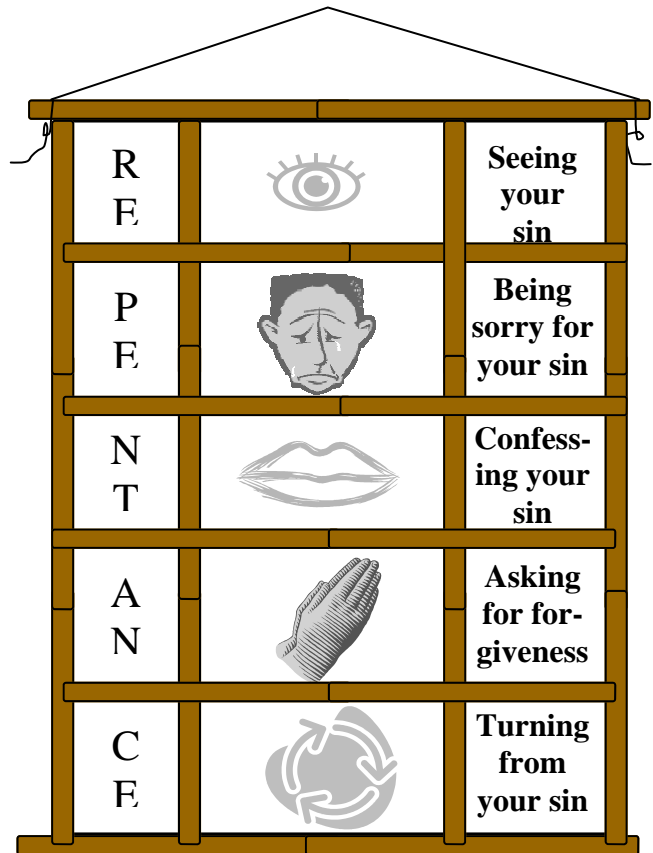
WEEK 1 - CRAFTS

✂ Steps of Repentance Wall-Hanging

MATERIALS: copies of the following page, markers, scissors, glue, popsicle sticks (each child will need 15-20 sticks); string, yarn, or ribbon

SETUP (for staff):

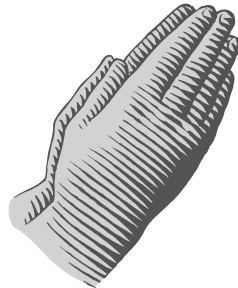
- Cut the string/yarn/ribbon into one-foot lengths, one for each child.
- Draw a diagram of the wall-hanging on the board or on a large piece of paper. Write out the word “REPENTANCE” going down the left hand column, so that the students know where to put each letter. Write out the steps of repentance in the right hand column, so that the students can copy your phrases.
- Give each child a copy of the following page.



Instructions for each child:

- Use scissors to cut out your wall-hanging on the dotted lines.
- Use markers to write the word REPENTANCE in the left column on your paper. (Write two letters in each box, going down.)
- Use markers or a pencil to fill in the right column on your paper with the steps of repentance. Look at the example that the S.A.Y. Yes!® staff person made.
- Use markers to color the pictures in the middle of your paper.
- Glue popsicle sticks onto your paper to cover up all of the black solid lines. On the top edge and on the bottom edge of your wall-hanging, let the popsicle sticks poke out past the edge of the paper.
- If you have time, decorate your popsicle sticks using marker designs. (You could also draw marker designs on your popsicle sticks *before* you glue them onto the paper.)
- Tie your piece of string to the popsicle sticks poking out at the top of your paper.

Week 1 – Repentance: What Is It?



GUIDED CONVERSATION:

As the children work on their wall-hangings, you may ask any of the following questions or some of your own.

- 1. Who can tell me the steps of repentance without looking?** (seeing your sin, being sorry for your sin, confessing your sin, asking for forgiveness, and turning from your sin)
- 2. What is sin? Can you think of an example?**
- 3. What does confess mean? Can you think of an example of someone who has confessed?**
- 4. What's forgiveness? Can you think of an example of someone you've forgiven?**
- 5. What's an example of someone turning from their sin?**

WEEK 1 - RECREATION

Choose from any of the following recreational activities:

Balloon Basket Ball

MATERIALS: balloons, two goals (can be garbage cans, Nerf™ hoops, or people sitting in chairs)

OBJECT: To be the team to score as many balloon baskets as possible.

SET UP:

- This game is best played indoors in a large room.
- Place the two goals at either end of the room.
- Have the two teams go to either end of the room to devise their strategy, as explained below.
- Have one or two balloons ready to play with, and a few extras blown up in case one breaks.

TO PLAY:

- The team has some of its members play defense to prevent the other team from scoring a basket, and some of its members at the other end to try to score points. There needs to be enough members in the middle, as well, to pass the balloon to the offense when the defense gets the rebound.
- The players have to stay on their knees at all times, and are not allowed to move around the court. They must stay in the position they have chosen. You may give them an opportunity to switch positions half way through the game.
- The game begins as a balloon is dropped in the center.
- The players attempt to catch, hit, or pass the balloon to their teammates.
- The offensive players try to pass it to someone directly at the goal so he can shoot it in, while the defensive players attempt to steal the balloon or rebound miss shots, and pass it to their offensive players.
- After a point is scored, the balloon gets dropped again in the middle.
- More than one balloon at a time may be used for more excitement, and especially when you have larger groups.
- The team with the most baskets wins.

Clapping Clues

MATERIALS: None

TO PLAY:

- One person is selected to go out of the room. The rest of the group picks an object for the person to find.
- The person returns to try to find the object while the group claps. As the person gets closer to the object, the claps become loud and enthusiastic. If the person gets farther away from the object, the claps become quiet and weak.
- When the object is finally found, the person gets a standing ovation!

The Great Sock Pull

MATERIALS: One sock or rag for each person (one team needs dark socks, and the other team needs light colored socks. If you don't have enough socks or rags, you can purchase two large sheets of fabric and cut them into strips.)

OBJECT: To steal the socks from the opposing team members, and not get your socks stolen.

SETUP:

- Have the two teams go to opposite ends of the playing field or room. Give each player a sock. One team will have dark colored socks, and the other will have light colored socks.
- Have the players place their sock in a rear pocket or tuck it into their pants. Make sure that the majority of the sock is sticking out so that others can easily grab it.

TO PLAY:

- When the leader says go, the children try to take a sock from an opposing player.
- If a player has his or her sock pulled they must go and sit down on the side line.
- Players may not hold their sock to keep it from being pulled, nor may they hide it or cover it up with their shirt, nor tied to a belt loop. It should be visible and easily come out when pulled. Children may, however, dodge others, dive on the floor, or roll out of the way.
- Play ends when all of the players of one team have their socks pulled and end up out of the game, or when time runs out.

Free Play

MATERIALS: All the fun equipment that you can find.

- Have fun and let your students enjoy themselves as they play on their own.

...

REPENTANCE - WHAT IT'S NOT: WEEK 2

WEEK 2 – BIBLE CLUB (HOOK)

LESSON AIM: To help the child understand that repentance is NOT defending yourself, blame-shifting, being sorry just because you got caught or because you have to pay consequences, groveling, trying to make up for what you've done, or making resolutions to do better next time.

SCRIPTURE: I Samuel 15

MEMORY VERSE: But if we confess our sins to God, he will keep his promise and do what is right: he will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrongdoing.

I John 1:9 Good News Bible

Hook: A Silent Skit

CHARACTERS: Jesus, a Sinner (called Robbie), Friend

PROPS: Large trash bag stuffed with paper or some other filler, a washcloth or rag, a can of air freshener, a large piece of cloth or a towel

Note: Scatter the above props at different points around the stage area.

You'll also need: a trash can and a sign that says, "My Sin"

Optional: have music playing in the background

Remember, the following skit is acted out without speaking.

Jesus... carries a trashcan to the front of the room and stands beside it.

Robbie... runs into the room & stops suddenly when he sees Jesus & the children. He has a full trash bag tied to his back. The bag has a sign on it that says, "My Sin." Robbie cranes his neck to look behind him at the bag. He tries to angle his body so that neither the children nor Jesus can see the bag, but it's impossible.

Jesus... motions for Robbie to come toward him.

Robbie... ignores Jesus and starts wandering around the room as if he is looking for something. He finds a washcloth or rag & excitedly starts trying to clean the trash bag on his back.

Week 2 – Repentance: What It’s Not

Friend... walks through and points to the bag. She pinches her nose shut & waves her hand in front of it as if the bag smells bad. Then she walks away again.

Robbie... gives up and throws the washcloth down.

Jesus... again motions for Robbie to come toward him & points to the trashcan.

Robbie... looks at Jesus but then starts looking around the room again. He finds a can of air freshener & excitedly starts trying to spray it on the bag. The air freshener makes him cough and hold his nose. He gives up and puts the can down. Then he holds his back & leans over like the bag is beginning to get very heavy.

Jesus... again motions for Robbie to come toward him. He points to the trash bag & then to the trashcan.

Robbie... shakes his head and looks around the room again, remaining bent over a little bit from the weight of the bag. This time he finds a piece of cloth or a towel. He picks up the cloth & admires it & then points to the ceiling like he suddenly has an idea. He throws the cloth over the trash bag to try to cover it up. He cranes his neck to see the bag & then with some difficulty stands up straight & proud as if he is satisfied that the bag is covered.

Friend... comes in again & stops in front of Robbie with a puzzled look.

Robbie... waves to the friend and smiles.

Friend... points to the bag on Robbie’s back as if to say, “It’s still there.”

Robbie... shrugs & holds up his hands as if to say, “What are you talking about? What bag?” But then he bends over holding his back again.

Friend... rushes over to help him.

Robbie... waves the friend away.

Friend... picks up the cloth and exposes the bag. She sadly shakes her head, leaves the cloth at Robbie’s feet & walks away again.

Week 2 – Repentance: What It’s Not

Robbie... sighs and picks up the cloth. Then he gets another idea. He ties the cloth around his eyes like a blindfold. He turns around and around trying to see the bag but his eyes are covered, so he can’t see it. He stops turning & pumps his fist, mouthing the word, “Yes!”

Friend... comes in again & taps Robbie on the shoulder.

Robbie... jumps and acts surprised.

Friend... pats the bag so that it makes noise. Then she takes Robbie’s blindfold off & points again to the bag. She walks away carrying the blindfold.

Jesus... again motions for Robbie to come to him.

Robbie... staggers & strains under the weight of the bag until he finally falls down on his knees with his face to the ground.

Jesus... stretches his arms out to each side as if he is on the cross.

Robbie... stays facing the ground for a moment but then sneaks a few looks at Jesus. Finally he crawls over toward Jesus and puts his hands together like he is praying.

Jesus... immediately kneels down beside Robbie, unties the bag, and throws it in the trashcan. Then he takes Robbie’s hand & helps him stand up. He looks at Robbie with a big smile on his face and gives him a big hug.

The two walk off the stage with Jesus’ arm around Robbie’s shoulders.

DEBRIEF

- 1. What did Robbie have on his back?** (A trash bag that said “sin”)
- 2. What is sin?** (The things we do, think, & say that make God sad)
- 3. What things did Robbie do to try to cover up his sin?** (Wash it off with a rag, spray it with air freshener, cover it with a cloth)
- 4. Did any of those things work?** (No) **How do you know?** (The sin was still there; the bag still smelled bad; Robbie’s friend could still see it)
- 5. What about when Robbie blindfolded himself? Could he see the sin then? (No) But was the sin still there?** (Yes!)
- 6. Who do you think the man standing by the trash can was?** (Jesus) **How did you know?** (He acted like he was hanging on the cross. He took Robbie’s sins away.)
- 7. What did Jesus want Robbie to do?** (Come to Him & let Him take the bag off.)
- 8. What happened to Robbie at the end of the skit?** (He finally came to Jesus. Jesus took off the bag & threw it away.)
- 9. Do you think Jesus was glad when Robbie finally came to him? (Yes!) How do you know?** (He smiled at Robbie & gave him a hug.)

Just like Robbie, there are a lot of things that we do to try to cover up our sin, but there is only one thing that works: repentance! Do you remember what repentance is? (Review the motions with the definition of repentance.)

- 10. According to our memory verse, what does God promise to do if we repent?** (Forgive us and make us clean again!)

WEEK 2 – BIBLE STORY

Bible Story

Basic Background: This week’s story is a lot like last week’s story. Just like last week, this story is about a prophet who confronts a king who has sinned against God. But this king’s name is Saul, and he has a very different reaction to what the prophet tells him.

MATERIALS: Two robes, a chair that can be an imaginary throne, a paper crown, a piece of paper rolled up like a scroll, a sign that says, “A few days later.”

SETUP:

- Place the “throne” at the front of the room.
- Explain the basic background for the students, and then have three staff, volunteers, or older students perform the skit on the following page.
- Tell the children to watch carefully and see if they can notice the difference between King David (from last week’s Bible Story) and this king. Is King Saul’s repentance is real?

King Saul Loses His Crown

(Saul & a servant enter the room. Saul sits on his throne wearing a robe and crown. The servant stands next to him. After they are in place, Samuel comes in wearing a robe and carrying a scroll.)

Saul: Well, well, well! The prophet Samuel! Come in! What news do you have for me?

Samuel: *(handing Saul the scroll)* I have some instructions from God.

Saul: *(taking the scroll)* Great! What does He want us to do? *(reading the scroll)* Go to war against the Amalekites? I’d say it’s about time after what they did to us! *(reading more)* But wait...destroy everything? We don’t even get to keep some of their stuff?

Samuel: That’s what God said.

Saul: But what about their cows and their sheep? They have a lot of cows and sheep. We could sure use—

Samuel: *(interrupting)* Didn’t you read the instructions? God said not to bring back anything! What do you think cows and sheep are? Nothing?

Week 2 – Repentance: What It’s Not

Saul: Okay, okay. I get it. Well... *(turning to his servant)* Go call the soldiers!

Servant: *(leaving)* Quick! Soldiers! We have some instructions from God to follow!

(Saul and Samuel leave the stage, following the servant. Someone holds up a sign saying, “A few days later.” Saul enters with his servant.)

Saul: *(to the servant)* Well, I’d say that was a great success, wouldn’t you?

Servant: Yeah! Did you see how those Amalekites ran? We should have a big party and tell all the people the story!

Saul: Great idea! Go tell the servants to start gathering everyone together. I want a big crowd!

Servant: *(leaving)* Party time!

Saul: *(continuing to himself)* Even Samuel ought to be proud of us, since we followed God’s instructions! Speaking of Samuel, here he comes now! *(calling out to Samuel)* The Lord bless you, Samuel!

Samuel: *(enters, breathing hard like he has been running)* There you are, Saul! I have been looking for you all over the place!

Saul: Samuel, I want you to be the first to know that I have followed God’s instructions!

Samuel: You have? *(scratching his head)* What about the cows and sheep?

Saul: What cows and sheep?

(Other staff or volunteers moo and baa from backstage or from the audience.)

Samuel: *(pointing toward the noise)* The ones I hear mooing and baaing??

Saul: Oh those cows and sheep! The soldiers brought those back from the Amalekites. They saved the best ones.

Samuel: *(staring at Saul like he can’t believe what he is hearing.)* Let me tell you what the Lord said to me last night.

Week 2 – Repentance: What It’s Not

Saul: Ok. Tell me.

Samuel: Didn't God make you the king of Israel? And didn't He send you on a mission to destroy the Amalakites? And didn't He tell you not to bring anything back? Not even cows and sheep? Why didn't you obey the Lord?

Saul: But...but...I did obey the Lord! I went on the mission He gave me, and I destroyed the Amalakites. It was the soldiers who brought the best sheep and cattle back. I'm going to sacrifice them to the Lord.

Samuel: *(slapping one hand to his forehead)* God didn't want sacrifices! He wanted you to follow His instructions! Disobeying God is a very arrogant and rebellious thing to do! *(shaking his head)* I hate to tell you this, Saul, but since you rejected God's word, God has rejected you as king.

Saul: What?! Rejected me as king? What will everyone think?

Samuel: I'd be more worried about what God thinks if I were you.

Saul: Okay, okay. You're right. I sinned. I didn't follow God's instructions. I was afraid of the people, so I gave in to them. Please forgive me and let me still be the king! *(falling to his knees)* Please? Pretty please? With a cherry on top?

Samuel: No! You rejected God's word, and now God has rejected you as king.

(As Samuel turns to leave, Saul grabs the hem of Samuel's robe.)

Samuel: *(reaching down and ripping his robe out of Samuel's hands)* The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel out of your hands today, and He's going to give it to someone better!

Saul: No! Wait! I said I sinned. Please at least stay for the party and tell all the people how I beat the Amalakites. We'll sacrifice the animals and worship God together.

Samuel: *(helping Saul to his feet)* Okay, I'll stay and help you sacrifice the animals, but Saul, *(pausing to take off Saul's crown)* I don't think you're going to need this crown anymore.

DEBRIEF

- 1. How was this story like last week’s story about King David?** (In both stories a king sinned against God and a prophet came to confront him.)
- 2. What was David’s sin in the story last week?** (David stole Uriah’s wife and had Uriah killed.)
- 3. What was Saul’s sin in the story today?** (Saul didn’t follow God’s instructions in the war with the Amalekites. He brought back cows and sheep.)
- 4. What did God do when David repented in the story last week?** (He forgave David. Nathan told David that he wouldn’t have to die for his sin, but there would be consequences.)
- 5. What did God do to Saul at the end of today’s story?** (God rejected Saul as king of Israel.)
- 6. It seems like David’s sin was much worse than Saul’s. Why do you think God forgave David but He didn’t forgive Saul?** (One reason might be that David truly repented and Saul didn’t.)

There are many things people try to do to cover up their own sin instead of really repenting. One way is to blame-shift. This means that instead of admitting that what you did was wrong, you say that it was really someone else’s fault. That’s not real repentance.

- 7. In today’s story, does Saul blame anyone else for bringing back the cows and the sheep? Who does he blame?** (Yes, he blames the soldiers and the people. “The soldiers brought them...” I Sam 15:15. “The soldiers took sheep and cattle...” v21. “I was afraid of the people and so I gave in to them” v24.)

Another way to try to cover up your own sin is to defend yourself. This means that you try to prove that you really didn’t do anything wrong. That’s not real repentance.

- 8. Does Saul defend himself in this story?** (Yes, he tries to convince Samuel that he really did follow God’s instructions. “But I did obey the Lord. I went on the mission the Lord assigned me...” v20)

Sometimes people can even seem sorry for what they did, but they are really only sorry that they got caught or that they are going to be punished. For example, let’s say your parent decided that because you were fighting with your sister, you’re not allowed to watch TV for a week. You might not be sorry that you fought with your sister, but you would be sorry that you couldn’t watch TV. That’s not real repentance.

- 9. In today’s story, it does seem like Saul is sorry, but *why* do you think he is sorry?** (It seems like Saul is sorry mainly because he doesn’t get to be king anymore. He’s also sorry because he’s worried about what the people will think. He’s not really sorry that he sinned against God.)

Other times people can be really dramatic about being sorry, not because they’re truly sorry but just because they’re trying to avoid the consequences for what they did wrong. You might tell your parent that you’re really, really, really sorry, just so she’ll let you watch TV again. That’s not real repentance.

- 10. Was Saul really dramatic about being sorry in our story? What did he do?** (He fell on the ground & and grabbed Samuel’s robe and begged, “Pretty please with a cherry on top?”)

- 11. In the real Bible story Saul doesn’t say, “Pretty please with a cherry on top,” but he does grab the bottom of Samuel’s robe & beg. What do you think Saul was trying to get by acting so sorry?** (He wanted Samuel to let him stay king, and he wanted Samuel to come to the party with him. He was worried about what the people would think. “I have sinned...Now I beg you, forgive my sin and *come back with me...v25.*” “I have sinned. But please *honor me before the elders...*” v30.)

Sometimes people even promise to do good things to cover up for what they did wrong, not because they’re really sorry, but, again, because they’re trying to avoid the consequences of what they did wrong. You might try to get your parent to change his/her mind about letting you watch TV by promising you’ll never ever fight your sister ever again. First of all, it’s probably not true that you’ll never fight your sister again. Second, it’s not real repentance if you’re just saying that to get something or to try to cover up how bad your sin was.

- 12. In our story Saul promises to sacrifice all the sheep and cows he brought back from the Amalekites. We don’t know for sure why he did this, but why do you think he made this promise?** (Maybe he was trying to get God to change His mind and let him still be king. Maybe he was trying to look good in front of all the people. “As Samuel turned to leave, Saul caught hold of the hem of his robe, and it tore. Samuel said to him, ‘The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and...the Glory of Israel will not lie or change his mind; for he is not a man, that he should change his mind’” v27-29)

- 13. Was God happy with the sacrifices Saul promised to give him?** (No, Nathan told Saul that God didn’t want sacrifices; He just wanted Saul to obey Him. “Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice...” v22)

Saul did a lot of things to avoid really repenting, but God wasn’t happy with any of them.

Application:

Close your eyes and think quietly about the last time you did something that you know was wrong.

- Did you blame someone else for what happened?
- Did you try to prove that you didn’t do anything wrong even though you knew you did?
- Did you feel sorry for what you had done or were you more sorry about the consequences you had to pay?
- Did you pretend to be more sorry than you really were just so you wouldn’t get in as much trouble?
- Did you promise to do better next time without really meaning it?

If you get caught doing something wrong, it’s very tempting to do those things, but none of them work! The only thing that really gets rid of sin is to repent!

Open your eyes. Who remembers what real repentance is?

Review definition of repentance again: seeing your sin, being sorry for your sin, confessing your sin, asking for forgiveness, turning from your sin.

Do you know why repentance works when those other things don’t?

When you blame-shift or defend yourself or pretend to be sorry or make empty promises, you’re trying to cover up your sin by yourself. When you repent, Jesus covers up your sin for you! It’s because Jesus died on the cross for your sin that God can make the promise in our memory verse:

1 John 1:9 But if we confess our sins to God, he will keep his promise and do what is right: he will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrongdoing.

It’s just like the skit with Robbie and the trash bag. When Robbie tried to get rid of his sin by himself, it didn’t work. When he finally came to Jesus, Jesus took all his sin away! You can do the same thing! All you have to do is ask, and Jesus will take your sin away, just like He promised in our memory verse!

WEEK 2 - MEMORY VERSE

MEMORY VERSE: But if we confess our sins to God, he will keep his promise and do what is right: he will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrongdoing.

I John 1:9 Good News Bible

“Popcorn” and “Pattern Practice”

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Your poster of the verse
- Copies of the Pattern sheets on the next page

Popcorn

If you haven’t already, write the verse on a poster or board, alternating with a red and a blue marker. For example:

But if we confess our sins...

- Divide the group into two teams, the red team and the blue team.
- Recite the verse together by having the red team say all the red words and the blue team say all the blue words. Have each team pop up when it’s their turn to say a word!

Pattern Practice

But	If	We	Confess
Our	Sins	To	God
He	Will	Keep	His
Promise	And	Do	What
Is	Right	He	will
Forgive	Us	Our	Sins
And	Purify	Us	From
All	Our	Wrong	doing
First	John	One	Nine

- Have the students get in groups of two’s, three’s, or four’s.
- Give each *group* a copy of the verse on the next page.
- Give each *person* a crayon. Group members should have different colors.
- Have each group make a pattern by coloring in the boxes around the words.
- Then have each group practice reading the verse according to the pattern. For example, the person with the red crayon should only say the words colored red, etc.
- Give each group a chance to present their pattern and read their verse in front of the other groups.

Pattern Practice

- Color the boxes around the words to make a pattern.
- Then read the verse according to your pattern.
- Only read the words that *you* colored with *your* crayon.

But	if	we	confess
our	sins	to	God
He	will	keep	His
promise	and	do	what
is	right	He	will
forgive	us	our	sins
and	purify	us	from
all	our	wrong	doing
First	John	one	nine

WEEK 2 - PRACTICAL LIVING



Personal Hygiene

Personal hygiene is a somewhat awkward skill to teach, but it is much needed among at-risk youth. Your S.A.Y. Yes!® students may have a wide range of experience with hygiene; some have been taught the basics and others haven’t. Some students may not even have access to standard toiletry items such as shampoo or toothpaste. Most students are embarrassed to admit what they do not know, so it’s best to teach the basics to everyone. Be sensitive as you go through this lesson, and pray for the Holy Spirit’s leading. Do not allow the students to make fun of each other as you talk about these sensitive subjects.

MATERIALS:

▪ Station 1: Teeth

- a toothbrush for every child and adult leader (As of this writing, disposable toothbrushes are available for 25 cents at www.toothbrushexpress.com . Another source is a local discount store where you may find packs of 3 or more toothbrushes for a dollar)
- a tube of toothpaste
- paper or plastic cups for each person
- access to a sink
- paper towels
- brushing instructions (see the following pages)
- (optional) Zip-loc bags
- (optional) a sample container of floss
- (optional) a sample bottle of mouthwash

▪ Station 2: Body & Face

- access to a sink
- several small towels
- a sample bar of soap
- a sample bottle of shampoo
- a sample bottle of conditioner
- a sample of deodorant

▪ **Station 3: Hands & Feet**

- two plastic basins or bowls or access to another sink
- liquid soap
- paper towels

ACTIVITY:

- Divide the students into small groups of 3 to 6 children and assign an adult or older teen leader to each group.
- Set up three stations using the materials listed above. If you have a lot of students, you can set up two of each station.
- Have the small groups rotate to the three stations, where each group leader will lead the activities. Each station should take about 10 minutes.

Station 1: Teeth

Questions: Start by asking the students the following questions.

1. **Does anybody know how many times a day you should brush your teeth?** (*Two is good, but three times a day is even better. You can squeeze the 3rd time in after lunch or afternoon snack.*)
2. **How much toothpaste do you need?** (*About the size of your (the child’s) pinky fingernail.*)
3. **How long should you brush your teeth?** (*For at least 2 minutes.*)
4. **Where should you start and end?** (*Start at the back of the mouth in short and circular motions. Finish in the front of your mouth.*)
5. **What do you do next?** (*Rinse your mouth by swishing water and then spitting it out. Don’t swallow the water.*)
6. **What else can you do for your teeth?** (*you can floss. Your parents may need to help you with this. There are children’s flossing tools to help out. Try to floss daily. This helps strengthen gums to prevent disease. You can also use mouthwash. You can also go to the dentist.*)
7. **How often should you try to go to the dentist?** (*Every 6 months to 1 year for cleaning and check up.*)

Demonstrate:

- Next, choose a good reader from your group to read the four steps under “What’s the best way to brush your teeth?” printed from the OralB website (see the end of the following page) As the student reads, demonstrate correct brushing for the group.

Practice:

- Finally, give each student a toothbrush and a paper cup. Help each student apply an appropriate amount of toothpaste and practice the correct brushing technique.
- Let each student fill his cup with water, rinse his mouth at the sink, and dry his face with a paper towel.
- Allow the students to take home their toothbrushes. (If possible, put the toothbrushes in Zip-loc bags for travel home.)

----- ✂ ----- **Photocopy and cut along this line for the reader** -----

What's the best way to brush your teeth?

Proper brushing is the first step to maintaining healthy teeth and gums. It takes at least two minutes using a recommended technique to do a good job of brushing your teeth.

Step One:

- For the outer tooth surfaces, place the toothbrush at a 45-degree angle toward the gum line.
- Use gentle, short strokes, moving the brush back and forth against the teeth and gums.

Step Two:

- Use this same motion to clean the chewing and inner tooth surfaces.

Step Three:

- To clean the inner front tooth surfaces, hold the brush upright and use gentle up-and-down strokes with the tip of the brush.

Step Four:

- Don't forget to brush along the gum line, and make sure you reach the teeth right at the back
- Also give your tongue a brushing - it'll help keep your breath fresh!

Excerpt from: <http://www.oralb.com/us/learningcenter/dailycares/brushing.asp>

Station 2: Body & Face

Questions: Start by asking the students the following questions.

1. **How often should you take a bath or shower?** *(Every day if possible. If you have dry skin, maybe every two days. If you are playing outside or if you are reaching puberty, then daily.)*
2. **How often should you wash your hair?** *(At least once a week)*
3. **What items do you need when you take a bath or shower?** *(Soap, shampoo, a towel, maybe conditioner)*
4. **After you take a bath or shower, should you put on clean clothes or dirty clothes?** *(Clean clothes, especially clean underwear. Dirty clothes will just get you dirty again.)*
5. **When should you start using deodorant?** *(When you are getting older and more active. You might notice that your sweat and odor build up. Deodorant can help. It’s best not to use an antiperspirant unless sweating is a big problem.)*
6. **Why should we take a bath or shower?** *(You will look and feel better, and you won’t offend others. Also, it will keep you healthy and prevent common sicknesses from spreading.)*
7. **Even if you can’t take a shower every day, you should wash your face every day. Why do we need to wash our faces?** *(We touch our face with our hands. We get food on our faces. We might sneeze or have a runny nose. All these things will put dirt and germs on our faces.)*
8. **Should you use soap on your face?** *(Only if you are getting older and noticing oil on your face. Use water 1-2 times a day. Then when you get older, use a gentle face soap and wash 2 times a day.)*

Demonstrate:

- Show the students the samples of toiletry items that you have.
- Next, demonstrate for the students how to wash your face in the sink using just water.
- Dry your face on one of the towels.

Practice:

- Let each student have a turn to wash her face.
- Monitor use of the towels; switch to a new towel if the old one gets too damp or dirty, but try to leave some clean towels for the next group.

Station 3: Hands & Feet

Questions: Start by asking the students the following questions.

1. **How often should you wash your feet?** *(At least once a day, even if you don’t take a bath every day.)*
2. **What can happen if you get your feet wet and you don’t dry them very well?** *(You can get an infection between your toes.)*
3. **How does wearing socks help your feet?** *(Wearing cotton socks will absorb moisture and help your feet breathe.)*
4. **How often should you change to a new pair of socks?** *(Every day)*
5. **Why should you wash your hands?** *(It helps to keep you and other people healthy.)*
6. **How often do you have to wash your hands?** *(Before every meal, after playing outside, and after playing with any pets.)*
7. **Should you use soap or water first?** *(It’s best to wet your hands with water, then put the soap on.)*
8. **How long should you scrub your hands?** *(Long enough to sing “Happy Birthday” or the ABCs.)*
9. **Is there anything else you can do for your hands?** *(Keep your fingernails clean and trimmed. Germs can hide there.)*

Demonstrate: Next, demonstrate for the students how to wash your hands.

- Designate one of the basins of water as “clean” and the other as “soapy.” Dip your hands in the “clean” basin. Then put soap on your hands, and have the students sing “Happy Birthday” while you scrub your hands.
- Rinse your hands in the “soapy” basin
- Dry your hands with a paper towel. (Note: Refill the two basins after each group is finished with this station, so that the next group will have clean water.
- You can also do this activity at a sink, if you have enough available sinks for each station.)

Practice:

- Finally have the students practice washing their hands the same way you demonstrated it for them.

WEEK 2 - READ-ALOUD

She Come Bringing Me That Little Baby Girl

She Come Bringing Me That Little Baby Girl

By: Eloise Greenfield

Illustrated by: John Steptoe

*Library book

PRE READING QUESTIONS

1. How many of you have little brothers or sisters? How did you feel when your little brother or sister was born?
2. This is the story of a boy named Kevin who gets a new baby sister. Looking at the picture on the front cover, how do you think Kevin feels about having a little sister?
3. Do you ever have to take care of your little brother or sister? How do you feel when you have to take care of him or her?
4. Do you ever get angry with your little brother or sister or get in a fight with him or her?
5. Do you think God loves your little brother or sister?
6. How do you think God feels when you fight with your little brother or sister? Do you think that’s something you should repent of?

Listen to see if Kevin’s attitude toward his little sister changes.

POST READING QUESTIONS

1. Why was Kevin disappointed when his mom brought home a baby girl from the hospital? (He wanted a little brother.)
2. Why did Kevin start to feel jealous of his little sister? (His mom and dad looked at her like she was the only baby in the world. Everyone brought presents for the baby but not for him.)
3. What did Kevin do when he felt disappointed & jealous? (He put his chair by the window and just sat there.)
4. What made Kevin change the way he felt about his sister? (His mom told him that she needed him to help take care of the baby. She also said she used to be a baby girl and that her older brother, Kevin’s Uncle Roy, helped take care of her.)
5. What did Kevin do after he changed his mind about his sister? (He brought his friends over to see his new sister.)

WEEK 2 - CRAFTS

✂ Apology Cards

MATERIALS: pencils, construction paper, markers or crayons, optional: sequins, stickers, ribbon, glue, or any other supplies you have on hand that would be good for decorating a card

INSTRUCTIONS FOR EACH CHILD:

- Choose a piece of construction paper and fold it in half to make a card.
- Think of someone that you need to apologize to. Use a marker or crayon to write that person’s name with big letters on the front of the card. Here are some questions to help you think of someone:
 - Who is in charge of you at home? Have you ever disobeyed them?
 - Who is in charge of you at school? Have you ever disobeyed them?
 - Who is someone that you don’t like very much? (don’t say names aloud; think silently!) Have you always treated him or her nicely?
 - Have you ever hurt anyone’s feelings?
 - Have you ever hurt or stolen anyone’s property?
 - Have you ever hit, kicked, or pushed someone?
 - Have you ever said something mean or sarcastic to someone else?
 - Have you ever told a lie to someone?
 - Have you ever said something mean about someone else behind his or her back?
 - Have you ever done something you know God didn’t like, even if no one else saw it?
- If you can’t think of anyone that you need to apologize to, pretend that you are King Saul and make your card for God or for Samuel, or pretend you are Kevin (from *She Come Bringing Me that Little Baby Girl*) and make your card for Kevin’s mom or dad or baby sister.
- On the inside of the card, use a pencil to write, “I’m sorry I _____. Will you forgive me?” Fill in the blank by writing what you did to hurt that person.
- Decorate the card using the markers, crayons, or the other supplies provided. Be careful not to cover up your words when you decorate.

GUIDED CONVERSATION:

Many of the children may need one-on-one help to think through the questions listed above. In addition, you may ask any of the following questions or some of your own.

- **Would you like to give your card to the person you made it for?** Note: If a child makes a card for God, suggest that she read it to Him sometime when she is alone, such as on her bed before going to sleep.
- **If you do, how do you think he or she will respond? Do you think he/she will forgive you?**
- **All sin hurts God. Would you like to ask God to forgive you for what you did?**
- **If you do, how do you think He will respond?** (He promises to forgive! I John 1:9)

WEEK 2 - RECREATION

Choose from any of the following recreational activities:

Cotton Ball Hockey

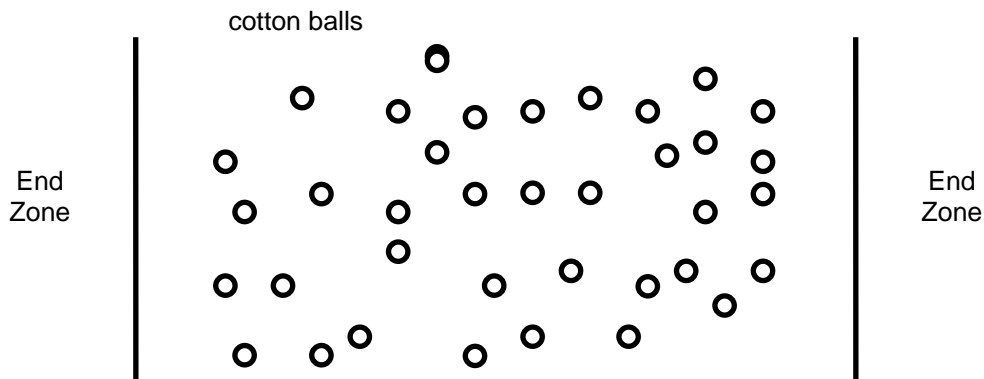
MATERIALS: Paper towel tubes for one team, and rolled-up newspaper for the other team, one bag of cotton balls (the largest ones that you can find.)

SET UP

- Divide the group into their two teams. (We will just call them Team A and Team B)
- Give each player on Team A, a rolled up sheet of newspaper.
- Give each player on Team B, a paper towel tube.
- In the playing area, scatter a large bag of cotton balls around on the floor.

TO PLAY

- When the leader shouts, “Go,” each player is to attempt to get a cotton ball into his/her end zone.
- Players may not touch each other - however, they may use their “sticks” in any way they wish, to hinder an opposing player from moving his/her “ball” to the end zone.



- When time is called, the team with the most cotton balls in their end zone is the winner.
- Players should discover that they need to work as a team, and build a strategy.
- The team that plays as a team and not a bunch of individuals is the team most apt to win.

Memory Relay

MATERIALS: Masking tape or rope to mark off half way point and goal

OBJECT: To be the first team to have every member complete all it's tasks.

- Players are orally given a set of instructions they are to do.
- Instructions: Hop halfway, crawl second half; coming back run backwards halfway, crab walk last half.
- Counselors should demonstrate.
- Lay out the ropes or masking tape.
- First player hops then crawls to a designated spot. Coming home he runs backwards and then does the crab walk.
- Tag the second player on his team who repeats what player #1 did.
- Some children may have difficulty remembering due to learning disability so be prepared to help their memory. We don't want any child to feel "stupid."
- The winner is the first team to have all it's players complete the four tasks.

You might want to do this at different degrees of difficulty. The first relay could be simple and then you could work up to be harder and harder. This is very good for their short-term memory development and their oral listening skills.

The Rain Game

MATERIALS: None

TO PLAY:

- Everyone stands in a circle.
- The leader starts by **rubbing his or her hands together**.
- The person to the right of the leader joins in, then the next person to the right, then the next, until everyone is doing it. The sound this rubbing makes is much like a soft spray of rain.
- When all are rubbing their hands, the leader starts a new sound – **finger snapping**. The rain is gaining in intensity. Each player must continue to rub hands until it is his or her turn to snap fingers.
- After finger snapping has gone all the way around, the leader begins the next sound – **hands slapping thighs**.
- Finally the crescendo of the rainstorm – hands slapping thighs plus **foot stomping**.
- To end the rainstorm, completely reverse the activities (hands slapping thighs, then finger snapping, then hands rubbing together). The last sound to be passed around is the silence as each person, one by one stops rubbing hands.

Free Play

MATERIALS: All the fun equipment that you can find.

- Have fun and let your students enjoy themselves as they play on their own.

...

REPENTANCE – GOD’S RESPONSE: WEEK 3

WEEK 3 – BIBLE CLUB (HOOK)

LESSON AIM: To help the child understand that God’s response to our repentance is not only complete forgiveness but the joyful welcome and royal treatment deserved by an obedient son.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 15:11-31

MEMORY VERSE: But if we confess our sins to God, he will keep his promise and do what is right: he will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrongdoing.

I John 1:9 Good News Bible

Important Note: The focus of this week’s curriculum is *God’s response to our repentance*. The point of the following hook is NOT how well the thieves repent or even whether they repent at all. The point is the staff person’s response to the thieves: he/she gives them another brownie even though they don’t deserve one.

This is similar to the way the father in the prodigal son story gives his son a robe, a ring, sandals, and a feast, even though the son doesn’t deserve any of those things (Luke 15:22-24). Also, just as the older brother in the story became angry when the father forgave the younger son so lavishly, some of your students may protest that giving the thieves another brownie is unfair. If that happens, you have successfully “hooked” them!

We often think the prodigal son parable is heart-warming. The crowd of “sinners” and Pharisees who heard Jesus tell it (Luke 15:1-3) were more likely shocked at the “unfairness” of the father’s forgiveness. We need to remember that, fortunately for us, God’s forgiveness *is* unfair! He doesn’t give us what we deserve. Instead, when we repent, He pours His grace on us, wiping away our sin and treating us as if we are perfectly obedient sons instead of the wayward ones that we are.

Children are often afraid that if they admit what they have done wrong, they will be rejected. They need to know what kind of response they can expect from God when they come to Him honestly seeking His forgiveness. Knowing that He will welcome them as His beloved children should be great motivation to repent!

Hook: Giving Cookies to Thieves

Step 1: Bake some cookies or brownies, enough for everyone to have two. Put ten of them out on a plate where the children can reach them. Hide the rest. (Note: If you use brownies, cut them up into small pieces. This hook will be most effective if you can do it while the goodies are still warm!)

Step 2: Tell the children that you are going to leave the room for a quick meeting in another part of the building. Tell them not to eat the goodies because you baked them for some of your friends who will be here later.

Week 3 – Repentance: God’s Response

Step 3: Leave the room, taking all the staff with you. Leave one helper behind (either a staff person or mature child) and have him or her steal a brownie while you are gone. It’s possible that other children may follow his/her example.

Step 4: Come back into the room with the other staff. Walk over and count the brownies. Say, “Oh no! There were 10 brownies and now there are only ____! Does anyone know who ate the brownie(s) I baked for my friends?”

Step 5: At this point the helper should speak up and sadly admit to stealing a brownie. If there are any other brownie thieves, they may or may not speak up as well. Only address those who admit to stealing a brownie.

Step 6: Question those who have confessed to stealing brownies:

Did you eat one of my brownies?

Did you know that I baked them for my friends?

What does the Bible call it when you take something that belongs to someone else? (Stealing)

I’m very sad, because I know my friends would have really enjoyed those brownies.

Step 7: Ask all the children:

What have we been studying this month? (Repentance)

What does repentance mean? (Do the motions together: seeing your sin... being sorry for your sin... confessing your sin... asking for forgiveness... and turning from your sin)

What does God say He will do if we repent of our sins? (Forgive us & make us clean)

Step 8: Ask those who stole the brownies:

What was your sin today? (stealing brownies)

Is there anything you would like to say? (The helper should say, “I’m sorry I stole the brownies that were for your friends. Will you forgive me?” Hopefully any other brownie thieves will follow the helper’s example.)

Yes, I forgive you.

What do you plan to do next time you’re tempted to take something that isn’t yours? (Leave it alone!)

Who will help you do that? (Jesus)

Week 3 – Repentance: God’s Response

Step 9: Conclude the hook by talking to all the children:

Do you know who the friends are that I baked the brownies for?

I baked them for you! *All* of you are still my friends, and there are enough brownies for everyone to have two.

Some people have already had one brownie. Do you think those people deserve to get another one? (No) But don’t you remember that I forgave them? They are my friends and I would like for them to have another brownie along with the rest of you!

Step 10: Pass out the brownies so that everyone (even the thieves) gets a total of two.

WEEK 3 – BIBLE STORY

Bible Story

MATERIALS: Tape (to attach strips of paper to the wall in the debrief game);
Stick or cane; Two chairs

SETUP:

- Place two chairs angled toward each other at the front of the room.
- **Four staff members or older students** are needed to perform this skit—a younger brother, older brother, father, and host. Another option is for one person to be the host and one person to play the other three parts—younger brother, older brother, *and* father—using different disguises.
- Make up a funny name for your host and your talk show, or choose the name of a show and its host that are popular with your students.

Prodigal Son Talk Show Interview

(Talk show host comes in and sits in one of the chairs.)

Host: Welcome to _____ (the name of your show)! I hope you’re looking forward to the show today, because we have three very special guests! You’ve probably heard the news that the younger Bradley brother came home recently after his fling in a foreign country, but I bet you haven’t heard the inside scoop on the story! We went right to the source and arranged an exclusive interview with the three main characters. The delinquent son, his older brother, and the old man himself will hopefully answer all your questions. Let’s bring out our first guest and find out! Please welcome to the show...Junior Bradley!!!

(The younger brother enters, nods to the crowd, and sits in the empty chair.)

Host: So, Junior, the last year or so of your life has been pretty interesting. Tell us how it all got started.

Junior: Well, it all started one morning when I asked my dad to go ahead and give me my inheritance early.

Host: What do you mean by early?

Junior: Usually a son doesn’t get his inheritance until his father dies, but I just couldn’t wait that long. I needed some cash fast.

Week 3 – Repentance: God’s Response

Host: Wow, so basically you told your dad that you wished he was dead.

Junior: Yeah, you could say that. But dad gave me the money anyway. He was always nice to me even when I was really disrespectful to him.

Host: How much money was it?

Junior: I won’t tell you the actual amount, but it was half of everything my dad owned, and my dad is a pretty rich man.

Host: Half of everything?! That must have been a nice little roll of dough. What did you do with it? You’d see me driving a sweet car and living in a huge mansion if I had that kind of money!

Junior: Yeah, it was pretty fun at first. I took a trip to a faraway country and basically bought everything in sight! I don’t even want to tell you everything I did. Not all of it was exactly legal. It definitely wasn’t good.

Host: Ooh, it sounds like there are some juicy details I need to ask you about later! So if you were having such a good time spending all your dad’s cash, why’d you come back home?

Junior: Well, like I said, it was fun *at first*, but after awhile it wasn’t so fun anymore. Eventually, I ran out of money and—

Host: *(interrupting)* You spent *all* of your dad’s money!

Junior: To the last dime. I told you I wasn’t exactly responsible.

Host: I guess not.

Junior: It gets worse. After I ran out of money, there was a famine in the country I was in, and the food and water supply started getting really low.

Host: Oh no! What did you do then?

Junior: I got a job.

Week 3 – Repentance: God’s Response

Host: Oh, that’s great! What kind of job was it?

Junior: I fed pigs.

Host: Feeding pigs! What kind of job is that?!

Junior: (*shrugging*) I was hungry, and no one would give me anything. Sometimes I even wanted to eat the food the pigs were eating.

Host: That’s pretty bad. So that’s when you decided to come home?

Junior: Yeah. One day I finally came to my senses and thought to myself, “How many of the guys working for my dad have extra food, and here I am starving to death! I should go back home and say, ‘Father, I have sinned against you and against God. I don’t deserve to be called your son. Make me like one of your workers.’” So I left the pigs and went home.

Host: That was brave! I bet you were in big trouble when you got back home! I’m surprised you even went!

Junior: No, it wasn’t like what you’d expect—

Host: Sorry, Junior. That’s all the time we have for you today. Our next guest is waiting backstage, and we’ll let him tell us the scoop on what happened when you got home. Thanks for being on the _____ show! Now let’s welcome L. Der Bradley!!

(Junior walks out looking a bit confused. The older brother walks in bowing and waving repeatedly to the crowd. Host finally leads him to the empty chair.)

Host: Welcome, L. Der, so nice to have you with us.

L. Der: Sure. Anytime! You know I love your show and especially being on it! (*He waves to the crowd a few more times.*)

Host: (*clearing his throat*) Yes, well. We’d like to hear a little about what happened when your younger brother came home.

Week 3 – Repentance: God’s Response

L. Der: *(disappointed)* Oh. Why would you want to hear about that?

Host: Uh, well, you know, if I were your dad, I would’ve been pretty hard on Junior after he wasted all my money and rubbed the family name in the dirt. We thought you could give us the scoop on what kind of punishment your brother got.

L.Der: Nope. He didn’t.

Host: *(confused)* What do you mean he didn’t?

L. Der: Dad didn’t punish him.

Host: What? Not even a little bit?

L. Der: No, and don’t remind me; it’s a touchy subject.

Host: Tell me what happened. I want to get this straight.

L. Der: Well, I don’t exactly know because I was out in the field when he got home. All I know is, when I came back to the house, there was a party going on inside. I could hear all the music and dancing from half a mile away! So I called one of the servants and asked him what was happening. The servant said my brother had come home, and dad had killed the fattened calf to celebrate.

Host: Your dad threw Junior a party?! After everything he did?! I can’t believe this!

L. Der: *(getting angry)* I know. I told you not to remind me. I wouldn’t even go in the house that day. My dad came out, and I told him what I thought about the whole thing. I said, “Look, all these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders, and you never even gave me a stinkin’ goat so I could have a party with *my* friends! But when this son of yours who wasted your money comes home, you throw a party for him!” *(standing up and pacing as he gets angrier)* It wasn’t fair! Junior should have been punished! Dad shouldn’t even have let him come back home, but instead he treated him like he hadn’t done anything wrong! He treated him like he was even better than me! It’s not fair!

Host: *(jumping up and leading L. Der off the stage)* Woah! Woah! I think it’s time for our next guest. Thanks for being on the _____ Show!

Week 3 – Repentance: God’s Response

(The older brother leaves. Host takes a deep breath and fans himself.)

Host: Whew! That was getting out of control! Maybe our last guest can straighten all this out. Let’s welcome Mr. Bradley!

(The father comes in slowly using a cane. He sits in the empty chair.)

Host: Welcome to the show, Mr. Bradley! You sure have two interesting sons.

Mr. Bradley: *(proudly)* Yep, those are my boys!

Host: *(puzzled)* Hmm…yes. Well, we talked to Junior, and he told us about how he wasted your money living a wild life off in some foreign country. Tell me, how did you feel when he asked for his inheritance early and then skipped town? Were you upset?

Mr. Bradley: To tell you the truth, yes. It hurt a lot when he did that. It felt like he didn’t care at all about me or about our family; he just wanted my money. That made me sad and a little angry, but I went ahead and divided all my property between my two sons. Later on, I was just worried about Junior, especially after we heard about the famine.

Host: I bet you were. And then one day he came home. Had you been planning what you would do if he ever came home?

Mr. Bradley: Well, I don’t think I had planned it, but as soon as I saw him, I just kind of lost my head. He looked so pitiful and dirty and hungry that I couldn’t help but feel compassion for him.

Host: Where were you when you saw him?

Mr. Bradley: I was outside. I guess I had taken to watching for him a lot when I was outside working; so that day I was staring down the road as usual, and there he was! He was still a long way off, but I knew it was him.

Host: What did you do?

Mr. Bradley: I ran! I ran all the way down the road to meet him.

Week 3 – Repentance: God’s Response

Host: *(looking at Mr. Bradley’s cane)* You ran?

Mr. Bradley: *(laughing)* Yeah, I’m sure it must have looked pretty funny to see an old man run; but I ran to meet him, and then I threw my arms around him and kissed him!

Host: Wow! You must have been really glad to see him. What happened next?

Mr. Bradley: Junior started to say something about how he had sinned against me and against God, but I was so excited I could hardly listen to him. I called the servants and said, “Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet! Bring the fattened calf and kill it! Let’s have a feast and celebrate!”

Host: That’s amazing! I wish my dad was like that! He still hasn’t forgiven me for that window I broke when I was 10. Anyway, we also talked to your older son, and he wasn’t too happy about the party you threw for Junior.

Mr. Bradley: *(turning sad)* No, he wasn’t. He wouldn’t even come to the party.

Host: He said you came out and tried to talk to him?

Mr. Bradley: Yes, I begged him to come in and celebrate with us, but he wouldn’t. He was very angry and jealous. He thought he deserved more than Junior. He didn’t understand that he’s always with me and everything I own is his. He could have had a party with his friends anytime he wanted; all he had to do was ask. But when Junior came home we *had* to celebrate, because this son of mine was dead, and now he’s alive! He was lost, and now he’s found!

Host: *(wiping away a tear)* Thanks, Mr. Bradley. Well, folks, I think that about wraps it up for the story of the Bradley Brothers. Tune in next time to hear another scandal about some sons who sold their kid brother into slavery!

(Mr. Bradley & Host leave the stage.)

Week 3 – Repentance: God’s Response

DEBRIEF:

Consider dividing the students into small groups based on age for the discussion. Have each group leader ask the following questions:

- 1. What things did the younger brother do that hurt his father?** (He asked for his share of his father’s money before his father was dead, which was very disrespectful. He didn’t care about his dad; he only wanted the money. Then he wasted all the money on wild living.)
- 2. Did the younger brother repent?** (Yes. He *saw* that he had sinned against his father and against God. He was *sorry* for what he had done. He *confessed* his sin to his father. He didn’t directly ask for forgiveness, but he *asked* his father if he could come back home and just be a servant. He *turned* from the wild life he was living and came back home.)
- 3. How did the father respond when the son came back home and admitted his sin?** (He ran to the son, threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. He had the servants bring him the best robe, a ring, and sandals. He had the fattened calf killed and threw a party to celebrate.)
- 4. How do you think God responds when you repent?** (The students may think that God is angry or ready to punish them when they repent. Listen to their responses but then point out gently that God is like the father in the story. He is watching and waiting and longing for us to admit what we have done wrong and come back to him, and He is overjoyed when do! He treats us like we are His special children and welcomes us home! Jesus said that there is rejoicing in heaven when even one person repents. Luke 15:7)
- 5. Why was the older brother so angry?** (He was jealous of the younger brother. He thought the younger brother deserved to be punished. He thought he was the one who deserved a party, because of the way he had obeyed the father and worked hard for him. He didn’t understand that his father loved him too—not because he was obedient but just because he was his son—and would have given him a party anytime he asked.)
- 6. Did the older brother do anything to hurt the father?** (Yes, he was angry and jealous. He was disrespectful to his father and said unkind things about his brother.)
- 7. Did the older brother repent?** (No. He didn’t think he had done anything wrong. “All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders” Luke 15:29).
- 8. How did the father respond to the older brother?** (He came out and begged the older brother to come in to the party. He explained to the older brother that he was always with him and everything he had was his. He loved the older brother, too! Even though the older brother was angry and jealous and unkind to his younger brother, the father wanted him to come into the party and be with him.)
- 9. Did anyone get angry when the brownie thieves got another brownie? Or have you ever gotten angry or jealous when someone else didn’t get the punishment they deserved? Why?** (It’s not fair! They didn’t deserve another brownie after they had already stolen one!)
- 10. What do you think would have been fair for me to do to the brownie thieves?** (They shouldn’t have gotten another brownie. They should have been punished instead.)
- 11. What do you think would have been fair for the father to do to the younger brother in the story?** (He should have been punished. If the father even let him come back home, he should have made him be like one of his workers instead of like his son.)

Week 3 – Repentance: God’s Response

Do you know what? You’re right! It isn’t fair that the brownie thieves got another brownie, and it wasn’t fair that the younger brother got a ring, a robe, sandals, and a party! But that’s how God is!

When we sin, we deserve to be punished, but instead, God says that if we repent, he will forgive us and make us clean again!

Do you know how He does that? He punished Jesus, so He could reward us! It’s not fair, but it’s very, very good! So, whether we are like the younger brother who did things that were obviously wrong or whether we are like the older brother who looked good on the outside but was angry and proud and jealous on the inside, God wants us to be near Him.

When we repent, He is ready to welcome us and to treat us as His special children! We should never be afraid to admit our sin to Him, because He promises to welcome us back home!

Review Game: “Who Was It?”

Note: This game is a great way to check for and solidify the students’ understanding of the story. It is optional, however, and can be done a day or two after the skit and application questions.

SETUP:

- Make a copy of “Week 3 Game: Who Was It?” found on the following pages.
- Cut out the category headings and post them on the wall or white board as shown below.

Younger Brother

Older Brother

Father’s Response to
the Younger Brother

Father’s Response to
the Older Brother

- Cut out the phrases under “Younger Brother” and “Older Brother.” Mix them up and put them in a box, bowl, or hat. This is Box #1.
- Cut out the phrases under “Father’s Response to the Younger Brother” and “Father’s Response to the Older Brother.” Mix them up and put them in a *different* box, bowl, or hat. This is Box #2.

HOW TO PLAY:

- Divide the students into two teams.
- Have each team line up a few feet from the place where the category headings are posted.

Week 3 – Repentance: God’s Response

- Have the first team send a representative to draw a phrase from the hat and stick it under the right category heading on the wall. (**Note:** Post all the phrases from Box #1 before beginning with Box #2 explained in the Setup section above.)
- If the team member does this correctly, his/her team gets a point! If the team member places the phrase under the wrong category, the leader should explain where it goes and move it to the right category, but the team should not get a point for that round.
- Next have the second team send a representative to draw a phrase from the hat and stick it under the right category.
- Continue until all the phrases are posted on the wall or until you run out of time. Team members should take turns drawing phrases from the hat so that each person gets at least one chance to post a phrase.
- The leader should choose at the beginning of the game whether the students must post their phrases on their own or with input from their teams.

Cut-Outs for Week 3 Game: “Who Was It?”

Younger Brother

Got together all he had and went to a faraway country

Wasted all his money on wild living

Got a job feeding pigs

Went back to his father

“Father, give me my share of all your money.”

“How many of the people working for my father have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will go back to my father.”

“Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; make me like one of your workers.”

Got hungry

Came to his senses

Felt sorry for what he had done

Older Brother

Was out in the field

Heard music and dancing when he came near the house

Called one of the servants and asked him what was going on

Refused to go in to the party

Worked hard for the father & obeyed him

“Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders.”

“You never even gave me anything so I could celebrate with my friends.”

“When this son of yours who wasted your money comes home, you throw a party for him!”

Felt angry and jealous

Father’s Response to the Younger Brother

Gave him half of his money

Saw him while he was still a long way off

Ran to him

Threw his arms around him & kissed him

“Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate.”

“This son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.”

“We had to celebrate and be glad!”

Was filled with compassion for him

Father’s Response to the Older Brother

Went out and begged him to come to the party

“My son, you are always with me and everything I have is yours.”

Answer Key for the “Who Was It?” Game

Younger Brother	Older Brother
Got together all he had and went to a faraway country	Was out in the field
Wasted all his money on wild living	Heard music and dancing when he came near the house
Got a job feeding pigs	Called one of the servants and asked him what was going on
Went back to his father	Refused to go in to the party
“Father, give me my share of all your money.”	Worked hard for the father & obeyed him
“How many of the people working for my father have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will go back to my father.”	“Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders.”
“Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; make me like one of your workers.”	“You never even gave me anything so I could celebrate with my friends.”
Got hungry	“When this son of yours who wasted your money comes home, you throw a party for him!”
Came to his senses	Felt angry and jealous
Felt sorry for what he had done	
Father’s Response to the Younger Brother	Father’s Response to the Older Brother
Gave him half of his money	Went out and begged him to come to the party
Saw him while he was still a long way off	“My son, you are always with me and everything I have is yours.”
Ran to him	
Threw his arms around him & kissed him	
“Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate.”	
“This son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.”	
“We had to celebrate and be glad!”	
Was filled with compassion for him	

ANOTHER OPTION: If you do the skit and the review game in the same day, consider giving each student a phrase from Box #1 in the game before the skit starts. Explain that you will play a game after the skit and that each student will have to tell whether their phrase describes the older or younger brother. This can be a great way to motivate the students to listen during the skit!

WEEK 3 - MEMORY VERSE

MEMORY VERSE: But if we confess our sins to God, he will keep his promise and do what is right: he will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrongdoing.

I John 1:9 Good News Bible

“Take Away”

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Your poster of the verse
- A file folder

**But if we confess our sins to God,
He will keep his promise
and do what is right:
He will forgive us our sins
and purify us
from all our wrongdoing.**

1st John 1:9

- If you haven’t already done so, write the verse on the board or on a poster, with one phrase on each line.
 - Have the whole group read the whole verse.
 - Use the file folder to cover up a phrase. Have the group say the phrase that is missing. Then have the group try to recite the whole verse while that phrase is covered up.
 - Keep covering up different phrases and having the group tell you the missing phrase first and then the whole verse.
- Challenge individuals to come up and try it by themselves. Tell the student to close his eyes or turn around. Cover up a phrase. Have the student open his eyes and tell you what is missing. If he can, have him recite the whole verse. Give S.A.Y. Yes!® dollars for correct answers!

WEEK 3 - PRACTICAL LIVING



How to Exercise

MATERIALS: Any exercise equipment that you might need for the centers like small hand weights (canned fruits and vegetables may be used), mats to lay down on, a jump rope, copies of the Exercise Journal Sheet see following pages)

OBJECT: This Practical Living is designed to teach the children about all the different types of exercises that you need to do, and how having someone to exercise with is very helpful.

- You may choose as many of these exercise stations that are suggested or even make up your own.
- When the children come into Practical Living, number them off in the same number of groups as you have exercise stations.
- After you number them off, tell them the name of the station that they are to start at.
- Make sure that the station leaders know the rotation, so that they can help direct children to the next event when it is time to change.

Suggestions for the Exercise Stations:

#1 STRETCHING

- Show the children some basic leg, arm, and back stretches.
- Have them do the stretches with you.
- Tell them that it is important to stretch, because it helps get your muscles ready to exercise.

#2 JOGGING AND WALKING

- Explain to the children how when you run or walk for exercise, you are also doing a cardiovascular exercise. This kind of exercise gets your heart beat up past a certain rate. You must run or walk for at least 20 minutes at a fast pace for the exercise to really help your body.
- Have some sort of course set up where they can run around a little. If you have no space, have them run in place.
- After they have run, show them how to find their heart beat in the wrist by using their index and middle finger of the opposite hand. Let them see how much harder their heart is working. This is what you want to achieve!

#3 TONING

- Show the children how to do leg lifts, sit ups, push ups, and anything else that they can do at home.
- Explain to them that doing exercises like this helps their muscles firm up. They need this kind of exercise, along with the other ones.

#4 WEIGHT LIFTING USING HAND WEIGHTS

- Show the children how to lift the weights safely and slowly.
- Show them how to hold the weight with their arm straight down and bring the weight up to be level with their elbow. This is called a curl. This works their biceps. (The muscle on the inside of the upper arm.)
- Show them how to hold the weight with their arm up and over their shoulder. Hold their triceps (the muscle on the outside to the upper arm) with their other hand. Then raise the weight up until their arm is almost straight and then back down.
- Explain to them that if they want to tone their muscles, they should do many repetitions with a lighter weight. If they want to get bigger muscles, they should do fewer repetitions with heavier weights.
- Feel free to add any other uses for hand weights.

#5 OTHER KINDS OF EXERCISING

- This center is to help the children think of other things that they can do that can be exercise.
- They can swim, use a hula-hoop, play sports, jump rope, aerobics, fast dancing, and many others.
- Have one of these other alternatives available for them to try for a few minutes.
- After they are finished rotating through the stations, gather them back together for a few minutes.
- Give them a copy of the exercise journal sheets.
- Show them that there are different places to write down what kind of exercises they did, how long they did them, and with whom they did them.
- Ask the children: How can they help each other to exercise? Which do they prefer to do an activity alone, or with someone?
- Offer them an incentive of S.A.Y. Yes![®] dollars if by next week they have exercised at least three times with someone at the center, or by themselves.

WEEK 3 - READ-ALOUD

Jamela’s Dress

Jamela’s Dress

Story & Pictures by Niki Daly

*Library book

PRE READING QUESTIONS

1. **Have you ever broken or messed up something that belonged to someone else? What was it? Who did it belong to?**
2. **What did you do when you realized you had broken it?**
3. **Did you have to replace the thing that you broke?**
4. **How did the other person react? Was he or she angry? Did he or she forgive you?**
5. **In this story Jamela messes something up that is very important to her mom. How do you think her mom reacts?**

Listen to find out what happens!

POST READING QUESTIONS

1. **What happened to Mama’s new material?** (It got messed up when Jamela wore it on her back and paraded through town.)
2. **What was the new material for?** (Mama was going to make a new dress to wear to Thelma’s wedding.)
3. **Did Mama get angry? How do you know?** (Yes, the book says Mama was so upset that she couldn’t even look at Jamela.)
4. **How did Mama get a new piece of material at the end of the story?** (Archie bought her a new piece with the prize money from his photograph of Jamela.)
5. **Did Mama forgive Jamela? How do you know?** (Yes, she gave Jamela a big hug. She sang songs and played games with her and taught her how to fold the material.)
6. **Do you think Mama would have forgiven Jamela even if she hadn’t gotten a new piece of material?** (Most likely, because she loved her daughter Jamela more than she loved the material; but we don’t really know! Human mothers make mistakes sometimes; they don’t love us perfectly the way God does. We *do* know that God promises to forgive us when we confess our sins! I John 1:9)

WEEK 3 - CRAFTS

✂ Prodigal Returns Picture

MATERIALS: colored pencils or oil pastels*, printer or copier paper, construction paper, glue or tape, print of Rembrandt’s painting, “The Return of the Prodigal Son,” (see following page)

* As of this writing, affordably priced oil pastels can be purchased online at www.OrientalTrading.com for \$3.95 per unit.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Show the children the Rembrandt painting and explain that it is a picture of a painting done by a famous artist named Rembrandt who lived in Europe over 300 years ago. (If you like, you can read more about Rembrandt at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rembrandt>)
- Tell them that the title of the painting is “The Return of the Prodigal Son,” and it shows the scene from this week’s Bible story where the younger son, who had gone away and spent all of his father’s money, came home.

- Ask the children some questions to get them thinking about the painting:

Which person in the painting is the younger son? (The man who is kneeling)

Which person is the father? (Older man leaning over the younger son)

What do you notice about the son’s clothes? (dirty, ragged, broken shoes)

What do you notice about the father’s clothes? (rich, fancy)

How do you think the father feels? (happy, relieved, full of love, etc.)

How can you tell? (hands on his son’s shoulders, closed eyes, etc.)

How do you think the younger son feels? (ashamed, humbled, surprised, relieved, loved, etc.)

How can you tell? (He is on his knees hugging his father, etc.)

The man with the hat and the man with the walking stick are probably the father’s servants or friends. **Who do you think the man in the background is?** (The older brother)

How do you think the older brother feels? (angry, proud, jealous)

How can you tell? (The expression on his face; he’s hiding in the shadows, etc.)

ACTIVITY:

- Pass out a piece of white paper to each student.
- Have the children use the colored pencils or oil pastels to draw their own picture of what it was like when the prodigal son came home to his father. Tell them to include the father and both sons. Ask them to try to show the way the people in their picture are feeling.
- As each child finishes his drawing, let him choose a piece of construction paper. Attach his drawing to the construction paper using glue or tape, so that the construction paper makes a frame for the drawing. Have each child write a title for his picture on the frame below his drawing.



The Return of the Prodigal Son c. 1669 Oil on canvas, 262 x 206 cm The Hermitage, St. Petersburg

By Harmenszoon van Rijn **REMBRANDT** (b. 1606, Leiden, d. 1669, Amsterdam)

WEEK 3 - RECREATION

Choose from any of the following recreational activities:

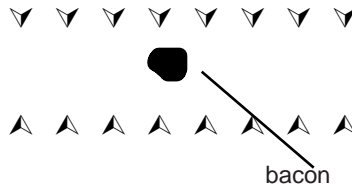
Steal The Bacon

MATERIALS: Something to use as the “bacon”.

OBJECT: To have the most points scored by your team at the end of the time.

SET UP:

- Divide the students into their two teams.
- Each team forms a line, facing each other.
- Number each team, start the numbering from the opposite ends. Try to match students age-wise as much as possible.



TO PLAY

- The “bacon” (rag, chalk eraser, twig, etc.) is laid in the center, between the two teams.
- The leader calls out a number.
- The two players with that number run to the center, try to grab the “bacon,” and bring it back to their team.
- However, if you are holding the “bacon” and the opposing player tags you, his team receives the point.
- If you grab the “bacon” and are able to make it back to your line without being tagged, your team wins a point.
- Players may pick up the “bacon” and drop it if they think they are going to be tagged.
- The “bacon” may be kicked or tossed, but it must be carried across the line.

An Alternative: Mathematical Steal the Bacon

MATERIALS: Something to use as the “bacon”, perhaps a rag, chalk eraser, twig, etc.

OBJECT: To be the team that receives the most points by having members successfully steal the “bacon.”

SET UP:

- The game is played exactly like the regular game of Steal the Bacon.
- Have the students break up into their two teams.
- Each team forms a line facing each other.
- Arrange the students in the line according to age and ability.
- Number the children in the lines. The youngest children starting at one all the way up to the oldest or fastest child. The numbers on the two lines should correspond. For instance, number one on each team should be the youngest girl on each team, while the highest number on each team should be the oldest boy, etc.
- The “bacon” (rag, chalk eraser, twig, etc.) is laid in the center between the two teams.

TO PLAY:

- The leader calls out an easy math problem, the children solve the problem silently, and the child whose number matches the answer runs out to the middle to steal the bacon. For instance, if the leader calls out $5 + 4$, then the children numbered nine should run out.
- As the child from each team runs out, they try to grab the “bacon.” If the person who grabs the “bacon” makes it back across their line without being tagged they earn a point for their team. But if they get tagged, the other team gets the point. So each child must decide if they can grab the “bacon” and successfully make it back to the line, or if they should wait for the other person to grab the “bacon” and try to tag them.
- Players may pick up the “bacon” and drop it if they think they are going to be tagged.
- The “bacon” may be kicked or tossed, but it **must be carried across the line**.
- The team at the end with the most points is the winning team.

Blindman’s Bluff

MATERIALS: Blindfold

This game is best played in a confined area - perhaps a small (relative to size of group) room

- A “Blindman” is chosen and blindfolded
- As the other players move around him he tries to out fox them and grab one player
- If a player is grabbed he gets to be the next “Blindman”

Free Play

MATERIALS: All the fun equipment that you can find.

- Have fun and let your students enjoy themselves as they play on their own.

...

REPENTANCE – MAKING CHANGES: WEEK 4

WEEK 4 – BIBLE CLUB (HOOK)

LESSON AIM: To help the child understand that repentance should result in a change of behavior, and changed behavior is a good indication that repentance has taken place. To help the child understand that you can't change your behavior by yourself, but Jesus can change you.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 19:1-10

MEMORY VERSE: But if we confess our sins to God, he will keep his promise and do what is right: he will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrongdoing. I John 1:9 Good News Bible

Hook: Backward Tag

MATERIALS: scissors, a timer, string (choose string that will make a tight knot and that is not stretchy)

SETUP:

- Cut the string into 10-inch lengths. Make at least two lengths for each student, depending on how many rounds of the game you want to play.
- Wrap a piece of string around each student's right ankle & tie a knot in the string. Tie it tightly, so that the students can't get the string off; but don't cut off anyone's circulation!
- Choose one or two people to be "it." Tell the students that these people are the "light."
- Set the timer for 3 minutes.

OBJECT OF THE GAME: To get the string off your ankle before the timer goes off.

RULES: Do not touch your string or anyone else's string with your hands or mouth.

Do not take off your shoes.

If you are tagged by the "light," sit down right where you are and remain seated.

Week 4 – Repentance: Making Changes

BEGIN PLAYING:

- Turn on the timer, and tell the students they may begin playing.
- As the students try to remove their string, the “light” should run around and tag people. The students will most likely try their best to avoid the “light” while also trying to remove their string. In fact, they may concentrate so hard on avoiding the “light” that they forget the goal of the game is to remove the string!
- **The Twist:** While the students are playing, have a helper secretly use scissors to remove the string from all the students who have been tagged by the “light” and are sitting down.

ENDING THE GAME:

- When the timer rings, have all the students sit down.
- Ask those who got rid of their string to stand. They are the winners! Give them each a small prize. Most likely only those who were tagged by the “light” and had their string removed by the helper will win.
- Play the game a few times and see if the students begin to catch on: the way to win the game is to let yourself be tagged by the “light.”

After the game, ask the following debrief questions.

DEBRIEF:

Was it hard to get the string off your ankle?

Was anyone able to get their string off by themselves?

Why were most of you trying to avoid getting tagged by the “light?”

Did I tell you to try not to let the “light” tag you? (No)

What was the goal of the game? (To get the string off)

Those of you who won the game, how did you get your string off? (The helper took my string off after I got tagged.)

Did anyone figure out the secret to winning this game? (Let the “light” tag you, so the helper will take your string off!)

You may want to play one more round of the game after the “secret” has been revealed, to give the students a chance to put it into practice and get a prize!

WEEK 4 – BIBLE STORY

MATERIALS: Several Bibles

BEFORE THE STORY:

- Think of a student at your school who has a reputation for being a “bad” kid. Don’t say his/her name out loud, but tell me what he/she is like. What things does he/she do to get labeled as bad?
- What would you think if Jesus came to visit your school, and He became best friends with that bad kid? Would you be surprised?
- What would you think if after hanging out with Jesus for a few days, that bad kid suddenly stopped fighting, stealing, and lying, and started obeying all his/her teachers, making good grades, and being nice to everyone?
- What kind of adults can you think of who are labeled “bad” in our world today? Maybe they have a reputation for scamming or hurting people or going to jail a lot. (Drug dealers, gang members, murderers, thieves, etc.)
- What would you think if Jesus came to visit your neighborhood and He started hanging out with those kinds of people?
- What would you think if after being with Jesus for a few days, those bad people suddenly stopped stealing, killing, dealing drugs, etc.?

In this week’s Bible story, something just like that happened. It’s the story of a man named Zacchaeus, who had a really bad reputation in his town. His job was to collect taxes from people and give them to the government, but just like most tax collectors in that time, he was known for cheating people out of their money so he could get rich. However, when Jesus came to town, He came to stay with Zacchaeus, and Zacchaeus suddenly made a big change.

Zacchaeus Changes

- Divide the students into groups of 4 to 6 people. Depending on the maturity of your students, it may be a good idea to assign an adult to each group.
- Distribute Bibles, and have one student in each group read the story of Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10) to his or her group.
- Each group should then come up with a way to act out or present the story in front of the other group(s). Let the students creatively use music, rap, poetry, art, drama, etc. to present their stories if they would like. Give them the option of modernizing the story. (For example, maybe Zacchaeus could be a gang banger or the school bully.)
- Give the students at least 20 minutes to prepare for their presentations, and then give each group five minutes to present.

Week 4 – Repentance: Making Changes

DEBRIEF:

1. **What sins had Zacchaeus committed?** (Cheating, stealing, being greedy, etc.)
2. **Who remembers our definition of repentance?** (seeing your sin, being sorry for your sin, confessing your sin, asking for forgiveness, turning from your sin)
3. **Do you think Zacchaeus repented in this story? (Yes!) Did Zacchaeus say he was sorry? (No) Did he confess his sin? (Not exactly) Did he ask for forgiveness? (No) Then how do you know that he repented?** (Because he changed his behavior)
4. **What did Zacchaeus announce that he would do after Jesus came to stay with him?** (Give half of his possessions to the poor and pay back those he had cheated four times the amount).

We can't always see other people's repentance, because it's something that happens on the inside of their hearts. However, if you see someone change the way he has been acting from bad to good, it's a good sign that he really did repent inside his heart.

5. **What would you think if Zacchaeus decided to keep all the money after Jesus left? Would you think his repentance was real?** (No. Then I would think he was just pretending to be sorry because Jesus and all the people were watching. He didn't really repent.)
6. **If someone confesses her sin and asks for forgiveness but then goes right back to doing what she was doing before, was her repentance real?** (Probably not. It may take a while to change if the sin has become a habit or an addiction, but real repentance should eventually lead to a change in behavior.)

Real repentance should cause a change in behavior.

7. **Have you ever had a bad habit that you tried to change, but you just kept going back to it?** (Example: getting in fights, forgetting to bring your homework, lying, complaining)

Stealing money was sort of like a really bad habit for Zacchaeus. He may have wanted to stop being a thief. He may have even tried to stop stealing many times before, but he would always feel greedy again & take a little more money than he should.

8. **What happened that finally gave Zacchaeus the power to change? What made him decide to be so generous after being greedy for so long?** (Jesus came to stay with him! Being around Jesus changed him! Jesus' love for him made him want to be generous to others!)

Week 4 – Repentance: Making Changes

9. **Do you think Zacchaeus would have decided to give his money away if he had not met Jesus?** (No)
10. **When we played the backward tag game, could you get the string off your ankle by yourself?** (No) **How did you get the string off your ankle?** (We got tagged by the “light” and then the helper took the string off for us.)

Turning from sin is kind of like the backward tag game. Your sin is like the string on your ankle; you can't get it off by yourself. Jesus is like the helper; He will get rid of the sin in your life if you let Him. The Holy Spirit is like the “light,” the people who were “it;” The Holy Spirit will shine His light on you so that you can see your sin and take it to Jesus to ask for His help. Most people try to hide when they know they've made a mistake or done something wrong, but the quickest way to change is to be honest with God about your sin. Go to Him and admit what you've done wrong; ask Him to forgive you and to help you change.

You can't change your behavior by yourself, but Jesus will change you if you let Him!

Application:

Close your eyes and think quietly about this question: Is there any sin inside of you that the Holy Spirit might be trying to show you?

It might be something you did recently that hurt someone and you didn't say you were sorry. It might be an attitude that you've had, one that you know God doesn't like. It might be something that you have been thinking that was mean or ugly. It's ok if you find some sin hiding inside; just talk to God about it.

Without saying any words out loud, tell God exactly what sin you see inside yourself.

- If you're sorry, tell him that you're sorry for that sin. (Pause to let the children do this silently.)
- If you want Him to forgive you for that sin, ask Him for forgiveness. (pause)
- If you want to treat people more kindly or to have a better attitude or better thoughts, ask Him to help you change. (pause)

Open your eyes. Does anyone remember the memory verse?

(But if we confess our sins to God, he will keep his promise and do what is right: he will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrongdoing. I John 1:9)

Week 4 – Repentance: Making Changes

If you confessed your sins to God just now, He forgave you! That’s His promise to you!

Here’s another promise He has made: “He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus” (Philip 1:6).

God has begun a good work in you, and He promises that He will finish it! You will sin again. You might even make the same mistake again that you just confessed to God. That’s ok. Just keep coming back to God and confessing your sin to Him. He will forgive you, and He will keep changing you until you look just like Him!

WEEK 4 - MEMORY VERSE

MEMORY VERSE: But if we confess our sins to God, he will keep his promise and do what is right: he will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrongdoing. I John 1:9 Good News Bible

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Your poster of the verse
- A ball, bean bag, or small stuffed animal
- M&Ms or other small treats

Hot Potato

- Hide your poster of the verse unless the students really struggle with this activity.
- Have the students sit in a circle. Toss a ball, bean bag, or small stuffed animal around the circle, each child saying one word of the verse as she catches the ball.
- If someone misses, start the verse over by having the child who missed say the first word of the verse.
- If the children get all the way to the end of the verse, everyone gets a small treat, such as a few M&Ms®.

WEEK 4 - PRACTICAL LIVING

Fire Drill

Being prepared for emergencies, allows one to make the right choice in the midst of a terrifying time. Before you begin, make sure you have an evacuation plan worked out in the event of a fire at the Center.

MATERIALS: Have an evacuation route from each room drawn on paper; a bell, whistle, or horn that can be used to sound alarm. S.A.Y. Yes!® Dollars.

- Take the children through the evacuation procedures. You may want to have them go from each room.
- When the “alarm” sounds, the children should:
 - get in a line, as quickly as possible
 - wait for the “adult-in-charge”, to tell them to walk out
 - walk, do not run, to a designated spot out-doors.
- Give “S.A.Y. Yes!®” dollars to those children who go through the exercise in a responsible manner.
- Return to the inside, and take the children through what they should do if evacuation is not possible.
 - Close all doors
 - If doors don’t have smoke seals, grab anything in the room that may be placed around the door to block smoke from entering the room. Children may need to remove sweaters for such use.
 - Lay on the floor as smoke and heat rises.
 - Wait for someone to come for you.
 - While laying on the floor and waiting, have a time of prayer. You may not want to sing, because you will want to be able to hear, if someone calls for you.

WEEK 4 - READ-ALOUD

“The Tale of Rippon Tance, a Porpoise with a Purpose”

O. Whillikers in the Hall of Champions, by Jay Carty, page 20

(Note: If you don't have a copy of *O. Whillikers in the Hall of Champions*, contact your Cru® staff.)

PRE READING QUESTIONS

Did you know that God can change anyone? He can! It doesn't matter what you've done wrong or what you're like or what other people think about you, you can follow God and make good choices.

We're going to read a story about a porpoise named Rippy who started off making some very bad choices. Let's see if you can guess what some of them were:

1. **What bad choice do you think Rippy might make while taking a test at school?** (to cheat)
2. **What bad choice do you think Rippy might make when he wants some gum from the store but he doesn't have any money?** (to steal something)
3. **What bad choice do you think Rippy might make when his mom asks him to do chores?** (say no, not do his chores)
4. **What bad choice do you think Rippy might make when all his friends are making fun of someone else?** (to join in)

Yes, Rippy is going to make some of those bad choices, but later, he will make some big changes. Let's read to find out what repentance looked like for him!

POST READING QUESTIONS

1. **What sins did Rippy commit in this story?** (cheating, stealing, lying, etc.)
2. **What do you think made Rippy decide to stop doing those things?** (He realized he was losing his good character. He also felt sorry for Wally Walrus when the others were making fun of him, and he decided he didn't want to join in.)
3. **There were four people that Rippy confessed his sins to. Who were they?** (Mrs. Orca, Sam Squid, his mom, God)
4. **How did those people know Rippy's repentance was real? What changes did he make to show his repentance?** (He stood up to Eddie and the gang to defend Wally. He told Mrs. Orca he was willing to get an F or to retake the test. He swept the floor and took out the trash to pay back his debt to Sam Squid. He told his mom he would do his best not to lie to her again.)

WEEK 4 - CRAFTS

✂ “Jesus Is Changing Me!” Crayon Etching

MATERIALS: crayons (you may want to separate the black crayons and put them in a different container), markers, construction paper, white (copier or printer) paper cut into half sheets, scissors, paper clips, glue or tape

INSTRUCTIONS FOR EACH CHILD:

- Choose a piece of construction paper and fold it in half to make a card.
- Choose a marker and write, “Jesus is changing...” on the front of the card.
- Set the construction paper aside and get a half sheet of white paper.
- Use several colored crayons to cover the half sheet in a multi-colored design. Don't leave any white spaces! Do not use black in your design.
- Now color ON TOP of your multi-colored design with a black crayon. Make a thick layer of black on top of the whole sheet. Try not to let any of the underlying colors show through.
- Use a paper clip to scrape out the word “ME!” in the black wax. The colors beneath the black should show through. The thicker the letters, the better the word will show up.
- Glue or tape the half sheet to the inside of your construction paper card.

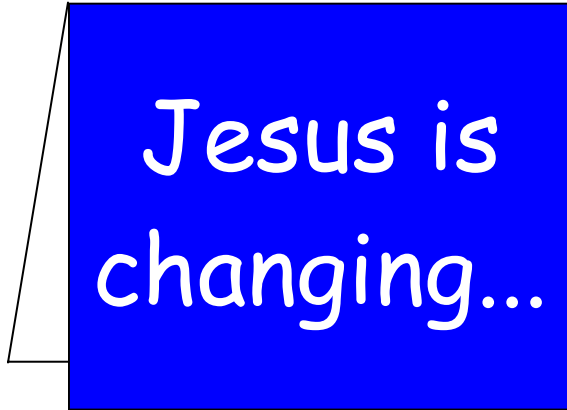
GUIDED CONVERSATION:

As the children work on their cards, you may ask any of the following questions or some of your own. These are big questions! You don't have to have all the answers to ask the questions; just get the kids thinking!

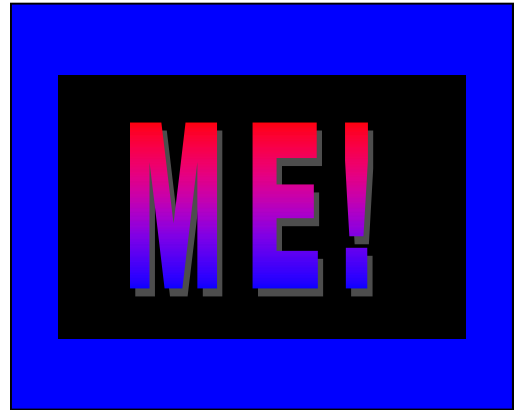
1. **What do you think Jesus wants to change you into?** (to be like Him! Rom 8:29)
2. **How do you think Jesus changes us?** (by showing us our sin, through the Bible, through the Holy Spirit, by living inside us! Hebrews 4:12; Ephesians 5:25-27; Galatians 5:16, 22-24; Galatians 2:20; Philip 2:13)
3. **Can you think of something about yourself that has changed this year?**
4. **Why do you think Jesus wants to change you?** (it brings glory to God! Jude 24-25; John 15:8)

Week 4 – Repentance: Making Changes

Front:



Inside:



WEEK 4 - RECREATION

Choose from any of the following recreational activities:

Missing Person

MATERIALS: None

TO PLAY:

- Keep the group seated in one area, all visible at one glance.
- One person, selected to be IT, faces away from the group and covers his or her eyes.
- Another person is selected to leave the room while the rest change their positions.
- At a signal from you, the person who is IT turns around and tries to guess who is missing while the group slowly counts to ten.
- If the IT guesses the one who is missing before the group finishes counting, he or she can have another turn. Otherwise, a new person is selected to be IT for the next game.

Frisbee Fling

MATERIALS: Two Frisbees.

OBJECT: To score points by getting a Frisbee over the goal line to a team member.

SET UP:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Each team marks it's goal at a different corner of the playground.
- A player from each team should be stationed at a goal.

TO PLAY:

- Begin with both teams gathered in the center of the playing area.
- Randomly toss the Frisbees into the group.
- Team members toss the Frisbee from player to player but are not allowed to run while carrying it.
- A player who intercepts a flying Frisbee cannot move before throwing it again.
- The other players are not allowed to interfere with players throwing the Frisbee. However, the opposing team can jump up and catch the Frisbee, heading it towards their goal.

Week 4 – Repentance: Making Changes

- Points are scored when the Frisbee is tossed over the goal line and caught by the team member behind the line.
- The team with the most points at the end of the time is the winner.

Kangaroo Relay

MATERIALS: A small basketball, an inflatable beach ball or a balloon

TO PLAY:

- Divide the group into two teams and have players line up, one behind the other.
- Place a chair about ten feet in front of each team.
- The first players place a ball between their knees, hop around the chair, and return to tag the next players in line. Players may touch the ball with their hands to pass it to the next player or to pick it up when dropped, but they cannot move while touching the ball with their hands.
- The first team to send every member around the chair and back is the winner.

Free Play

MATERIALS: All the fun equipment that you can find.

- Have fun and let your students enjoy themselves as they play on their own.