



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Who made David king?
- When David did something bad and disobeyed God, how did he try to cover it up?
- Since David wasn't with his army, was he really responsible for Uriah's death? Why or why not?
- How did David react when he heard that Uriah had been killed?
- David tried to hide his sin. What should we do when we sin?
- How did Bathsheba react when she heard about her husband Uriah's death?
- Why was God not happy with David?
- What are some of the things you do that make God sad?
- After doing bad things, how can you have a clean heart again?

(Emphasize that the only way to have a clean heart is to ask for God's forgiveness. Remind your children about the conversations you had last week about ways that they can be boys and girls "after God's own heart.")

TODAY'S STORY – CONTINUED

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

SAMUEL 11

FOCUS FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN:

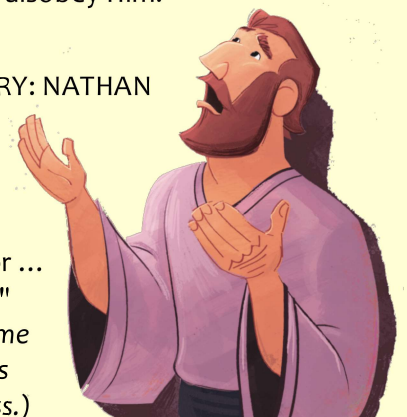
"God is sad when I disobey Him."

NEXT WEEK'S STORY: NATHAN

(2 Samuel 12:1-25)

PRAYER:

"God, I am sorry for ...
_____."
(Then take some time to thank God for His love and forgiveness.)



Dear Parents:

This page lets you know what your child learned today at church. Included are suggested discussion questions and possible activities that you may use to reinforce the Bible story at home. Please ask your child to share today's story with you. You may be surprised at how much he or she remembers!

TODAY'S STORY: DAVID & BATHSHEBA

The children's version of the David & Bathsheba story differs from the version shared with the adults at church today. Below is the story we told your children:

David was king, but sometimes he did wrong things and disobeyed God. Once, when kings normally went out to war, David sent his army to fight. But David stayed home. While his army was away, David disobeyed God. He was afraid that people would find out what he had done wrong so he tried to find ways to cover it up. It got so bad that David ended up killing a man named Uriah – one of his most trusted soldiers on the battlefield! David did this to try to hide his mistakes. This is how David planned to kill Uriah ...

David wrote a letter to the commander of his army. In the letter David wrote, "Put Uriah on the front lines where the fighting is worst and leave him there alone. Let him be killed in battle." The commander did as he was told. Some of David's men were killed, and Uriah was one of them. Then the commander of the army sent a messenger with a battle report to David. He told him that Uriah had been killed along with others. David said, "Tell the commander not to be discouraged. People are killed in battle. Fight harder next time!"

Now Uriah had a wife that David decided to marry. Her name was Bathsheba. When Bathsheba heard that her husband was dead, she cried for him. After she finished her time of sadness, David sent servants to bring her to his house. Bathsheba became David's wife. But God did not like what David had done.

DAVID, URIAH, BATHSHEBA

Play a version of "Rock, Paper, Scissors" with your children, but substitute the names David, Uriah and Bathsheba. Have your children create an action to represent each person. This will give you an opportunity to discuss who these individuals were and how they related to one another.

Use the following rules for the game:

David beats Uriah.

Uriah beats Bathsheba.

Bathsheba beats David.

BANANA SURGERY

What you'll need:

- ~ Banana(s)
- ~ Plastic knife
- ~ Misc items such as toothpicks, tape, rubber bands, paperclips, etc

Place a banana in front of your children. (They can work by themselves or in small groups.) Tell your children to peel the banana and cut it into several pieces. Then have them try to put the banana back together – in its original form (and peel) – using the supplies provided.

THE POINT: Explain that once you have sinned and broken your relationship with God, you cannot repair that relationship by yourself. Talk about the consequences of sin and the need for forgiveness. Only Jesus can make you whole again. (Then provide new bananas for each child.)

CLEAN HEARTS

What you'll need:

- ~ Bars of soap
- ~ Plastic knives

Instructions:

1. Give each of your children a new bar of soap and a plastic knife.
2. Let your children try to carve a heart out of the soap bar. They should begin by trimming the corners and sides, shaping it from the outside (instead of trying to dig in the middle).
3. Explain the importance of having a clean heart.



SUGGESTED PARENT/CHILD ACTIVITY

A Clean Slate

"There is no God like You. You forgive those who are guilty of sin. ... You will throw away all our sins into the deepest part of the sea."

(Micah 7:18,19; NCV)

This is a good object lesson that represents what God does with our sins when we ask for His forgiveness.

What you'll need:

- ~ Aluminium pie pan
- ~ Permanent marker
- ~ Bottle of acetone
- ~ Styrofoam cup

Instructions:

1. Pour enough acetone into the pie pan so that it covers the bottom of the dish – at least an inch deep.
2. Say, "Imagine that this Styrofoam cup is like the record of your life. When you were born, it was perfect. You had done nothing wrong. You had a clean slate." Show that the cup is clean.
3. Say, "Over the years you've done some things that displease God." Write words on the cup to reflect the types of sins that may have been committed. Examples: dishonour parents, telling a lie, talking badly about someone (gossip), etc.
4. Say, "We are all sinners, and we deserve to be separated from God. We deserve death, but when we ask God's forgiveness, He gives us a clean slate again. God throws our sins into the deepest part of the sea." Place the Styrofoam cup upright into the acetone.
5. Say, "God forgives us, and our sins are erased!" The Styrofoam cup should dissolve in just a few minutes (or less).