

## WEEK 4 LESSON GUIDE



### BIG IDEA

Forgiveness is always God's game plan.

### BIBLE

David and Nathan:  
2 Samuel 11:26–12:13

## ABOUT THIS WEEK

Once the game is over, teams will often put aside whatever happened on the field and settle their differences by shaking hands. This week, we'll take a look at the time when Nathan rebuked David for what he did to Uriah and Bathsheba until David repented for his actions. David's confrontation with Nathan helped him discover firsthand that **forgiveness is always God's game plan**.

## WELCOME TIME

### ACTIVITY | Sorry Ball

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, set up a circle of ten hoops (or use painter's tape to mark off spaces). In each space, place a different sports ball (basketball, baseball, tennis ball, football). Feel free to repeat the same type of ball if needed. Have each kid roll a giant die and move that many spaces. They have to say "Sorry, ball!" and gently kick it out of the space. This continues until the first kid makes it through the circle. Then replace the balls and the next kid goes.
- **Why do we say "sorry?" What happens when we say sorry?**
- We say sorry when we have done something wrong, like when we hurt someone's feelings or we accidentally step on their foot. We all make mistakes, but it's important to say "sorry" when we do!
- When the other person is ready, they can forgive us. They tell us they won't stay angry at us for what we did.
- Today's story is all about God's game plan for us. In God's game plan, whenever we mess up, we can say sorry to God, and God forgives us!

### ACTIVITY | Basketblocks

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, provide light plastic or foam blocks, and a basket to throw them into. Spread them around the room in messy heaps. Lead the kids to race to get the blocks in the basket as fast as they can together. Create separate teams and baskets for larger groups of kids. Play a few rounds together.
- **How did it feel when all of the blocks were in the baskets?** It felt good! The room is clean again.
- God's plan is always forgiveness! No matter what kind of mess we make, God can clean it up and forgive. In today's Bible story, King David made a huge mess. But God forgave him. God always wants to forgive us!

## STORY TIME

### SCRIPTURE | 2 Samuel 11:26–12:13 (David and Nathan)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Teach this Scripture passage by reading from a preschool-friendly Bible translation, Bible

storybook, or using the talking points provided below! Additionally, have a bag of stuffed animals. When telling the kids of the rich man, pour out all of the stuffed animals except for one. When telling the kids about the poor man, hold up just one stuffed animal.

✳ **TODDLER HACK:** Remember that toddlers are still learning about animals and their sounds and textures. Offer various ways for toddlers to learn about animals, like books, sound bites, and fabrics.

- One day, David made a huge mistake. It wasn't by accident. He chose to do something that made God very sad.
  - So a prophet named Nathan came to David. Prophets heard from God and were given special messages from God.
  - **Put a hand to your ear like you're getting an important message from God.**
- Pour out the bag of stuffed animals, except for one.
  - Nathan told King David a story. He told him there once was a rich man who had a lot of sheep. He had so many sheep!
  - **Can you count these animals with me?** It's a lot!
- Take out the last stuffed animal and hug it as you talk.
  - There was also a poor man. This man only had one sheep.
  - But he loved his sheep so much! He fed his sheep. He cuddled his sheep. His sheep was his very best friend!
  - **Pass around this sheep and everyone give the sheep a big hug.**
- Toss the one stuffed animal into the pile of the rich man's animals.
  - One day, the rich man did something super mean. He took what wasn't his! Even though the rich man had a lot of sheep and the poor man only had one sheep, he stole the poor man's sheep!
  - **How sad do you think this made the poor man?**
- David was so angry when he heard this story.
  - He yelled.
  - He stomped his foot.
  - He made angry faces.
  - **Can you do those things?** Yes, David was very unhappy.
- He told Nathan that the rich man did something very wrong and he needed to pay!
  - But Nathan said, "The man is you!"
  - **Everybody say, "Uh oh ..."**
- You see, that's what David did wrong, too. It wasn't sheep, but David had taken something that wasn't his.
  - King David had messed up in a really big way. This made God sad. This made Nathan sad. And when David heard of what he had done, this made even David himself sad.
  - **Let's put on our most sad faces.**
  - Nathan told David how kind God had been towards David. God gave him so much! David didn't need to steal. David was so sad when he saw how he had messed up.
- David confessed his sin. This is a fancy way to say that David agreed with God. What he did was wrong. After David did this, Nathan said that God forgave David.
  - **Everybody say, "Wow!"**
  - "Forgive" means to let go of something done wrong. Even though David had messed up big, it wasn't God's plan to hold onto that. God was going to let go of what David did, and let him still be friends with God!
  - **Everyone wipe your brow and say, "Phew!"**
- God is always ready to forgive. But first, we need to know when we do something that goes against God. Then we can tell God we're sorry. When we do, God forgives us . . . just like that! It's always God's game plan to forgive!
- **Give yourself a great big hug!** God loves you so much!

## BIG IDEA | Forgiveness is always God's game plan.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play an upbeat sports-themed track ([like this](#)) and have kids chant the Big Idea by repeating small chunks after you while doing the hand motions below. Consider providing pom-poms, noisemakers, or foam fingers for kids to enjoy the sports theme even more!
- In any sports game, players need to follow the coach's game plan. We all have the best coach—God! God has the best game plan!
- Let's find out what's in God's game plan for us. Drumroll please ... (Lead the kids in a drumroll.)
  - **Forgiveness** ([Sign language for "forgive"](#) or have kids hug themselves.)
  - **is always** (Spin your hands around each other in a small circle.)
  - **God's** (Point up.)
  - **game plan.** (Open palms like a book.)

## VIDEO | Game Plan, Episode 4

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](#).

## ACTIVITY | Dot The Basketball

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** On a large piece of butcher paper, draw a large circle and hang the paper up at kid height. Provide a dot marker and have kids come up, wear a blindfold, and then stick a [dot sticker](#) inside the circle. The objective is to try to cover the entire basketball with orange dots. Feel free to have kids try multiple times and allow them to see where they want to put their sticker before putting on their blindfolds. After everyone is done, cut the ball out of the paper to show that even with the mistakes, there's a way to fix it!
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Toddlers may not want to take turns or like wearing a blindfold. Instead, give the toddlers their own paper with a basketball outline to put the orange circle stickers onto or color with dot markers.
- **Did you know that you need forgiveness when you play sports?** Like basketball. It's easy to make mistakes. You could drop the ball, miss the hoop, or even throw it to somebody on the other team!
- Sometimes, it's hard to forgive. We might want to stay mad for a little while. But we can talk to God. God helps us let go of those big feelings and helps us forgive. We can forgive just like God forgives us! **Forgiveness is always God's game plan.**

## PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for always forgiving us. Sorry for the times we have made you sad. Help us to forgive others who make us sad, too. Amen.

## SHARING TIME

## SNACK | Hoop Scoops

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Draw basketball lines on the lids of [orange fruit cups](#) and pass them out along with small spoons.
- **Forgiveness is always God's game plan.** That means we can forgive others, too. In any sport, a good team knows how to forgive each other when we mess up. Of course, we want to win, but it's more important that we care about each other.
- **If you had to form a sports team, who would be on your team? Why?**

## ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have one small basketball. The one who has the basketball is the one who gets to speak.

Start with the basketball yourself, then ask the first question and pass the basketball to the person who wants to answer. Keep the basketball moving around with all who wish to share.

- **Who came to tell David a story about a rich man and a poor man?** *The prophet Nathan.*
- **What did the rich man have a lot of? What did the poor man only have one of?** *Sheep.*
- **How did David feel when he heard this story?** *David felt angry.*
- **What did God do when David felt sorry for what he did wrong?** *God forgave David.*
- **Forgiveness is always whose game plan?** *God!*

### ACTIVITY | Sheep In God's Hands

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this craft, trace each kid's hands on black construction paper and help them cut it out using safety scissors. Turn the hand upside down and have them glue cotton balls onto the palm area of the hand to look like [sheep](#), drawing a face on the thumb. Consider letting the kids make several sheep since their hands are small.*
- Just like the man in the story loved his sheep, God loves you and me! We are precious to God and that is why God is always ready to forgive us when we ask.
- **Forgiveness is always God's game plan.**

### MEMORY VERSE | Psalm 33:11 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Help kids learn this month's memory verse by setting the words to the tune of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm." You can also have kids repeat the verse after you in small chunks, say them using silly voices, or create simple hand motions for keywords.*
- **"But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations."**

## PLAY TIME

### ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print and distribute [this coloring page](#) along with crayons or markers. You can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse as the kids color.*

### ACTIVITY | Sports Box

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Provide a box filled with soft balls, jerseys, helmets, pom-poms, and other sports toys for kids to play and experiment with! Feel free to use the same box every week or rotate out the items for variety.*

### ACTIVITY | Herding Sheep

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *In a large shallow bin, add copious amounts of cotton balls or pom poms. Feel free to add other elements like sand and grass. Provide popsicle sticks to be shepherding staffs. Have kids "herd" the sheep around the bin.*
- ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *This activity may require pieces that can pose choking hazards for toddlers. Consider using the stuffed animals from the Bible story and allow kids to play with them freely.*