

Lesson

7

Be Sorry When You Do Wrong

BIBLE BASIS

A son is sorry for his choices and comes home to ask his father's forgiveness (Luke 15:1-2, 11-24).

BIBLE TRUTH

God is always ready to forgive the one who is sorry for his sins.

MEMORY VERSE:

You, Lord, are forgiving and good. Psalm 86:5

LESSON AIM

That your students will know that God is always ready to forgive them when they tell Him they're sorry for the wrong things they have done.

1

LIFE NEED (5-10 MINUTES)

Discuss the importance of saying, "I'm sorry" when students have done something wrong.

2

BIBLE LEARNING (15-20 MINUTES)

Bible Words: Prepare for the Bible story by discussing *sorry*, *forgive*, and *servant*.

- Materials: *My Bible Book* p. 27, Bible Overview Chart Teaching Aid, Bibles, "The Prodigal Son" Teaching Aid—prepare before class

Bible Story: Hear how the prodigal son received forgiveness when he was sorry for his wrongdoings.

- Materials: "The Prodigal Son" Teaching Aid, Bibles

Bible Review: Retell the Bible story, then finish incomplete sentences to show how the father responded to the prodigal son.

- Materials: "The Prodigal Son" Teaching Aid, *My Bible Book* pp. 28-29, pencils

Memory Work: Suggest ways God is forgiving and good, like the prodigal son's father.

- Materials: *My Bible Book* p. 29, Bibles

3

BIBLE APPLICATION (5-10 MINUTES)

Describe steps in receiving God's forgiveness.

- Materials: "Bella's Discovery" Teaching Aids, *My Bible Book* p. 30

4

LIFE RESPONSE (5-10 MINUTES)

Make a special craft project to be a reminder that God is always ready to forgive.

- Materials: *Elementary Kid Crafts* for Lesson 7, pencils, stapler, whiteboard and marker, *Friends* for Lesson 7



This symbol means extra preparation or supplies are needed.



Understanding the Bible

Overview of This Quarter: The first unit highlighted God's rules for His people. In this unit we are focusing on God's redemption. The unit began with the story of Jesus' death on the cross. This week we turn to Jesus' story about the son who left his father but later was welcomed home and forgiven. Next week we learn about obeying God by hearing Jonah's story. Finally, we will study God's plans for His family before starting a new unit on relationships.

This Week's Bible Story: One of the most beautiful parables Jesus told is the story of the lost son. It teaches both God's desire to recover those who are lost from Him, and the greatness of God's forgiveness.

Most of us have heard this story. Today few children would ask for their parents' belongings before their parents died. But this son was anxious to leave. Not having money of his own, his only way out was his father's money. His father, being a wise man and realizing it would do no good to stand in his son's way, gave him his inheritance.

A young person with lots of money can get into trouble. This young man was no different.

He chose his friends and his fun poorly. When hard times came, both friends and money were gone.

The young man's new job shows how poor he was. He had to keep pigs, even eating their feed. Since hogs were unclean by Jewish ceremonial law, caring for swine was embarrassing for a proud young Jewish man. Then he remembered that his father's servants lived better than he. So he decided to return home. He knew that he no longer deserved to be his father's son, but he hoped his father would accept him as a servant.

The father's patience, acceptance, and forgiveness teaches us about God. Although we turn our backs on God's love, God watches and waits for us. When we return and ask forgiveness, God opens His arms to us. God does not put us in a corner as naughty children. He gives us all that a father gives his children.

7

Understanding Your Students

Your students probably find it easier to participate in group prayers than to make up prayers of their own in front of others. You can help your children realize that prayer can be personal and spontaneous, while using the more comfortable practice of group prayer. As students recite the Lord's Prayer in the worship time, or this week's Kid Crafts' prayer during Life Response, you can enable students to pray group prayers in a sincere and meaningful way. The more your students pray together, the more comfortable they will become.

Classroom Tips

You might wish to try some of these ideas as your students participate in group prayers:

- Before using a group prayer, explain what the prayer means and remind students to pray it from their hearts.
- Let the children make up their own prayers or add sentences to other group prayers. One volunteer could print the class prayer on the board and another could lead the class in praying it.
- Write a list of students' prayer requests on the board.
- Avoid pressuring children who are reluctant to participate. It is better for a child to listen than to mouth words he doesn't mean.
- If the memory verse lends itself to being used as a prayer, have the children bow their heads and repeat it with you. (Psalms 86:5 and 40:8 make good group prayers.) This week's memory verse can work as a prayer.

Pre-session Activities

Choose from the following activities to do with your students as they arrive.

- Have your students mark their attendance on the Summer Attendance Chart.

Materials: Summer Attendance Chart

- Invite children to begin an experiment that will help them see how God's forgiveness covers our sins. They will finish it next week.

Each child will need a clean glass jar labeled with



"Attendance Chart" Teaching Aid

his or her name, a craft stick, a piece of sponge, salt, and a piece of wax paper. Pour lukewarm water into each jar. Introduce the concept that the sponge pieces are like our sins. Have students pour salt, a little at a time, into the water then stir with the craft stick until no more salt dissolves. Talk about the salt reminding us of God's forgiveness. Have students cover their jars with the wax paper and put the jars on a shelf.

Materials: clean glass jars, lukewarm water, pieces of sponge, craft sticks, wax paper

- Sing "Arms Wide Open" from the DisKit CD.

Materials: DisKit CD, CD player



1

Life Need 5–10 minutes

Objective: That your students will begin to think about the importance of being sorry.

This discussion will prepare students for the Bible story about the prodigal son.

- Have you ever been playing on the playground with your friends when someone you know comes by and wants to play with you?** (Allow responses.)

Maybe this person is younger than you and you're embarrassed as she comes to ask you to play when you are with friends your age. Or maybe he is someone the kids you're playing with don't like. Maybe he has been mean to other kids but not to you because you're nice to him. Let's say this happens and you decide to ignore the person who wants to play or to not include the person as part of your group.

- How have you treated that person?** (Not well, rejected him or her, etc.)

- You realize as you're playing that what you did wasn't right. How can you make it right?**

(Include the person, say you're sorry for what you did.)

- What might happen if you decide to not apologize?** (This person would be hurt and might not want to be your friend or play with you when your other friends aren't around and there isn't anyone else to play with.)

It's important to say we are sorry when we have done something wrong to someone.

- What are some times you have had to say "I'm sorry"?** (Suggest things that may have happened with siblings, parents, or neighbors.)

This week's Bible story is about a young man who did some bad things. But he was so sorry about the things he had done that he was willing to become a servant in his own father's house.

2

Bible Learning 15–20 minutes

Objective: That your students will learn about God’s love and willingness to forgive.

■ Who can tell me what the word **sorry** means?

(Encourage students to offer definitions even if they are not sure if they’re correct. Listening to their definitions can help you find out how well they understand this concept.)



My Bible Book, page 27

■ What do you think **forgive** means? (Encourage participation, but don’t give them an answer.)

Both of these words are important for today’s Bible story. Turn to page 27 in **My Bible Book**. Read or let a volunteer read the definitions of *sorry* and *forgive* aloud. Then have the students look at the picture

below the definitions and have a different volunteer read the lamb’s thought balloon. **How do you think the lamb got so dirty?** You may point out that the little girl is dirty too. Then let volunteers read the children’s speech balloons.

When Bible-time people got their clothes dirty, how did they clean them? Explain that there were no washing machines. People washed their clothes by hand. It was hard work.

Point to the picture at the top of the page. **This is how many Bible-time people washed their clothes. But some people didn’t have to do it themselves. They had servants who did it for them.** Read the description of a *servant*.

Ask a volunteer to find the New Testament on the Bible Overview Chart. Ask a second child to find Luke.



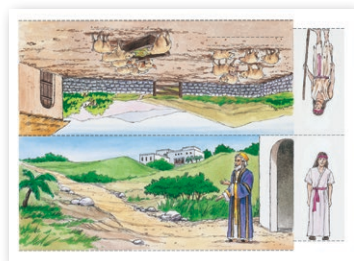
Bible Overview Chart Teaching Aid

Talk about how Luke is a book called a Gospel. It tells about Jesus.

Have the children find and bookmark Luke 15:22 in their Bibles to use later in the lesson. Remind

them to use the table of contents in the front of their Bibles if they need help finding the correct page.

Prepare “The Prodigal Son” Teaching Aid as instructed on the back.



“The Prodigal Son” Teaching Aid

BIBLE STORY

(Place the stand-up scene on the table. Stand the happy son to the far left of the father.) Once there was a young man who had a good home and a kind father. He had everything he needed to make him happy. But this young man thought he would be happier if he could go far away.

So the young man went to his father. (Place the happy son next to his father.) He said, “Father, I want to leave home and go far away. I want to make my own friends and have a good time. Give me my share of the family money.”

The young man’s father was very sad to hear these words. He didn’t want his son to leave home. But he said, “Here is your money, Son.”

The young man took the money and started out. (Slowly walk happy son to the left around the poster.) He whistled as he went along. How good it was to be on his own and have plenty of money to spend!

At last the young man came to a city far from home. (Remove the scene.) He made new friends, but they were not good friends. They did many things that were wrong and helped the young man spend his money foolishly.

When his money was all gone, his friends left too. They didn’t care about him now that he had no money to spend. He was dirty and ragged and very hungry. (Turn the happy son around to show the sad son.)

“I’ll have to find some work to do,” the young man said to himself. But the only work he could find was taking care of a farmer’s pigs. (Place scene on table with the pig side showing.) He really didn’t like to take care

of pigs, but he had to. *(Walk the sad son near the pigs.)*

Every day he watched the pigs gobble up their food. He was so hungry he wished he could eat some of their food.

The young man was sorry he had left his father. He said to himself, "What am I doing with these pigs? The servants in my father's house have plenty to eat and a good place to stay. I'll go home and ask my father if I can be one of his servants. I'm not good enough to be his son now."

So the young man left the pigs and started home. *(Walk the sad son slowly around the stand-up scene.)* All the way he thought about his beautiful home and his kind father. He was sorry he had left home, and he wondered, "Will my father forgive me?"

At last the young man saw his home. *(Turn the scene around.)* Someone was coming to meet him. It was his father! His father ran to him and hugged him.

"Oh, Father," cried the young man. "I'm sorry. I have done wrong things. I am not good enough to be your son."

Have your students read aloud together Luke 15:22 to discover how the father responded.

But the father called to his servants, "Bring out the best clothes for my son, and put shoes on his feet. Then prepare a big meal. Let's have a party and be glad together! My son who was lost is home again." *(Turn figure around to show the happy son.)*

BIBLE REVIEW

Divide your class into groups of three. Have each group decide who will be the narrator, the father, and the son. Give each group a couple of minutes to retell the Bible story to the rest of the class using the figures and scene from "The Prodigal Son" Teaching Aid.

Then have students turn to page 28 of *My Bible Book*. **I'm going to ask you to help me find the right endings to these sentences.** Read the opening part of each sentence yourself. Then let different volunteers read the possible endings. After both options have been read, have the class point to the person who read the ending they think is correct. Then have students circle the right ending. Let a third

volunteer read the entire sentence aloud.

Look at pages 28 and 29. Now, help me finish these sentences about the father.

Read each phrase twice, once with each possible answer. Let students choose the correct word and write it in the blank (or circle the right word to save time).

When all the blanks are filled in, let a volunteer read the whole page.

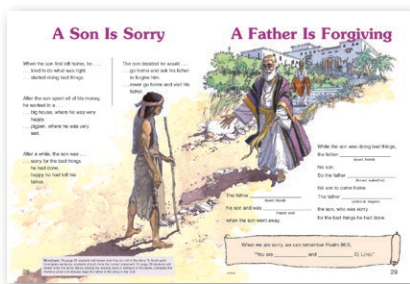
■ **How did the father show his love and forgiveness?** *(He ran out to meet his son and hugged him, he gave the son new clothes and shoes, he gave a party to celebrate the son's return.)*

MEMORY WORK

■ **Who does the father in the Bible story remind you of?** *(Tell the students that God is like the father in the story.)*

■ **Can you tell me some ways that God is like the young man's father?** *(God loves us even when we sin, God forgives us when we are sorry, God gives us good things.)*

This week's memory verse is a good one to remember. Look at the scroll at the bottom of page 29 in *My Bible Book*. Let's see if we can fill in the missing words without looking at the Bible verse on page 27. Remember that God is like the father in today's Bible story. Let the students get a partner and look up today's memory verse. Read the first sentence on the scroll and let the class read the completed memory verse together.



My Bible Book, pp. 28-29



3

Bible Application 5–10 minutes

Objective: That your students will understand how to receive God’s forgiveness.



“Bella’s Discovery” Teaching Aid

It is important to remember that God is forgiving and good. When we have done wrong, there are some other important things to remember too. Let’s look at how some children have discovered these things.

Before class, put together the poster “Bella’s Discovery” Teaching Aids following the directions on the back.

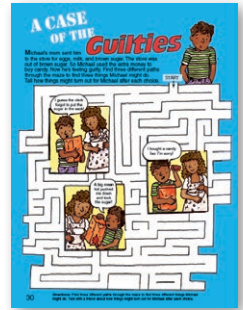


“Bella’s Discovery” Teaching Aid

As a class, go through the path on the poster to read Bella’s story. Then divide the class into pairs. Using the poster to give prompts, have one person in each pair share a brief story, similar to Bella’s. Repeat with the other student telling a story. Encourage students who have received Christ as Savior to tell their story of when they asked Jesus to

forgive their sins to become part of God’s family.

Next, have your students look at page 30 in *My Bible Book*. Read the scenario at the top of the page aloud to the children. Have the students complete the maze on the page, going through the three different things Michael can do. Talk about how things might turn out for Michael after each choice.



My Bible Book, page 30

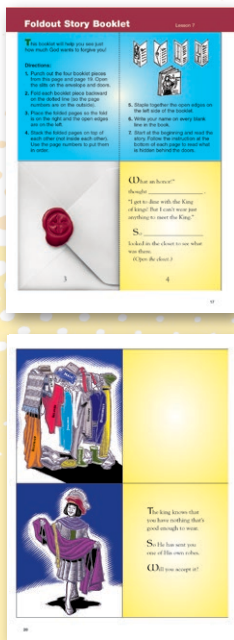
■ **What does Michael need to do to receive forgiveness from his mom and from God?** (*When we do wrong, or sin, God will forgive us if we tell Him we are sorry for our sin and ask Him to forgive us.*)



4

Life Response 5-10 minutes

Objective: That your students will know that God will always forgive when they tell Him they're sorry for wrong things they've done.



Elementary Kid Crafts,
Lesson 7

Before you distribute Lesson 7 from *Elementary Kid Crafts*, show your students a completed sample of the Foldout Story Booklet. To prepare the sample, follow the directions on page 17.)

Help the children put the books together correctly. When the booklets are put together, the children may fill in their names on every blank line. Then read through the booklet together. Pause and discuss how each page helps them understand more of God's forgiveness. Point out that God will forgive us. He doesn't keep track of how many times we ask. We make Him happy when we obey Him.

You can use this booklet

to remind you what to do when you are sorry for something wrong you've done. God will always forgive you if you ask Him to.

CLOSING ACTIVITY

Close by leading the class in singing, "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" in a prayerful manner. This melody may already be familiar to the children. Write the words on the whiteboard if your students don't know them. Or you may choose to sing a favorite class song that talks about forgiveness.

Encourage children to ask God to help them confess their sins and ask Him for forgiveness when they do wrong things. Remind them that God loves them and is faithful and just and will forgive their sins.

As your students leave, make sure they have *My Bible Book*, pages 27-30, and the *Elementary Kid Crafts* project. Encourage them to review the memory verse at home.

