

## Power of Prayer (Pre-K)

Week 3

### **BIG IDEA**

God Forgives

### **BIBLE**

Prayer of Confession (1 John 1-2)

## FOR LEADERS

### LEADER DEVOTIONAL

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use this section to get yourself ready to teach! Familiarize yourself with the Bible passage and reflect on what it shows us about God and about ourselves.
- **DID YOU KNOW...**
  - **WHO?**
    - First John is a letter most likely written by the same person who wrote the Gospel of John. The main point of the letter is to encourage the members of the unnamed church in their faith in Jesus.
  - **WHAT?**
    - First John addresses a difficult situation in which some members of the church had walked away from the faith. In [1 John 1-2](#), the author teaches the remaining believers how to know they are walking in the truth of God's love.
  - **WHERE?**
    - The letter does not tell us to whom it was written or where the church was located, but the concerns of the community to know that they were really following the true God are as relevant today as ever.
  - **WHEN?**
    - While [1 John](#) reflects a concern for the first generation of churches, its exact date is not known. The letter begins with a description of Jesus as Word, similar to the Gospel of John, and is followed by the discussion about confession and forgiveness.
  - **CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY**
    - Both the Gospel of [John](#) and [1 John](#) place Jesus at the center of our lives. Both emphasize that Jesus is the Word who existed from the beginning ([John 1:1](#); [1 John 1:1](#)), and it is Jesus who brings forgiveness of sin ([1 John 1:7](#)).
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pause to read [1 John 1:8-2:2](#).
- Confession is more than a nod toward our need to grow spiritually. It's taking sin as seriously as God takes it and coming to Him with humility and honesty.
- There's forgiveness waiting for you, you know. Jesus has paid for every sin you mention.
- What do you have to confess? And what might happen if you read [1 John 1:9](#) aloud and choose to believe it?

# WELCOME

## MUSIC | Worship Playlist

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *During free time, use the Power of Prayer Spotify playlists for background worship music.*

## PLAY | Free Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tables will be set with toys and activities for kids to play until the lesson begins. This is a great opportunity to get to know kids and build relationships.*
  - *Get on the floor and be silly*
  - *Play along with what they're playing*
  - *Ask get-to-know-you questions*
  - *Learn names and use them as you interact*

## CLEAN UP

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before moving onto the lesson content, play the "Clean Up" song and work together as a class to put all toys and activities away.*
  - *Place all toys in labelled tubs.*
  - *Place all tubs away in labelled cabinets Invite kids to find a "sit spot"*

# INTRO

## TALK

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Gather kids on the floor and welcome them to church. Lead them through a repeat-after-me declaration to start the class.*
- **Welcome to church today, friends! I am so glad to be here with all of you.**
- **Let's say these words together.**
  - **Thank You, God, that You made me!** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*
  - *Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.*
  - **And I am Your kid!** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*
  - *Put your hands on your hips.*
  - **Jesus loves me so much,** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*
  - *Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.*
  - **His love for me is big.** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*
  - *Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.*
  - **The Holy Spirit leads me** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

- Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.
- **And I can follow You.** (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)
- March like you're following the leader.
- **My life can tell Your story,** (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)
- Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.
- **I'm a wonder, this is true.** (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)
- Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").
- **Today, we are going to learn that God forgives us when we make wrong choices.**

#### ACTIVITY | Where's My Treasure?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have kids sit in a circle while you stand in the middle of the circle with a small, plastic gem.*
- **For this activity, I'm going to choose someone to be the guesser. The guesser will leave the circle and stand away from the group with his eyes closed.**
- **Then I will quietly give this treasure** (*hold up the small gem*) **to one person in the circle. That person will hide it in her closed hand, and the rest of you should act like you have something in your closed hands.**
- **The guesser will come back and get three chances to guess who has the treasure. If the guesser is correct, he will join the circle and the person who had the gem becomes the new guesser. If the guesser doesn't guess who has it, he can choose someone else to be the new guesser.**
- *Choose a kid to start as the guesser and lead him to a spot that's far enough away from the rest of the group that he can't see what's happening, but so you can still see the kid. Pick a kid to hide the gem in her hands, then instruct all the kids to pretend to have the gem in their hands and call the guesser over. Play several rounds until most kids have had a chance to be the gem hider or the guesser.*
- **That was a fun game, and you all did a great job guessing who was hiding the treasure!**
- **You were also really good at hiding the treasure and pretending you had it when you didn't.**
- **We don't have to hide anything from God, and we can come to Him with anything. We're going to learn more today about how He forgives us when we sin—when we do wrong things that separate us from God.**

#### MUSIC | Worship Videos

- **Today, we'll learn about how God forgives. Let's sing about God's amazing forgiveness together!**
- **Will you dance and sing to God with me?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play the worship music videos on the TV. Invite kids to participate by dancing and singing along.*
- **Thank you for worshipping God with me!**
- **Now, let's pray together before we hear our Bible Story.**

## PRAYER

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words*
- **God, thank You for each kid here today, and the ones who could not be here with us. We ask that Your Holy Spirit will open our hearts to hear what You have to say to us. Help us understand that You want us to turn from our sins and receive Your forgiveness! In Jesus' name, Amen.**

## STORY TIME

### SCRIPTURE | 1 John 1-2 (Prayer of Confession)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before kids arrive, scribble on an old toy with washable markers. Fill a small bowl with water and add a few drops of dish soap to make it sudsy. Set a cloth beside the bowl and put it where kids can't get it. Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of [1 John](#) in the New Testament. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.*
- **God's big story today is from the book of [1 John](#) in the Bible. It was a letter that John wrote to a church. Let's find out from the Bible what John had to say! Read the God's Big Story Script provided or read [1 John 1:8-2:2](#) and [2:12](#) from the Bible.**
- **We all do wrong things sometimes that disobey God or hurt others. This is called sin. Every one of us sins. The Bible says Jesus is the only Person who has never sinned. As you talk, dip the rag in the soapy water and begin to clean the toy.**
- **Some people in the church were trying to pretend they didn't sin, and John told them that's silly! Everyone sins.**
- **He told them instead of pretending to be perfect or trying to hide their sin from God, they should go to God and ask Him to forgive them. John said that no matter what we have done, God will always forgive us. Continue cleaning the toy until it's as clean as you can get it.**
- **This toy was so dirty when I first started talking. But it's so clean now that it almost looks new! It's the same toy, but now it's clean.**
- **When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, God sees us as clean and new. Jesus makes us clean!**
- **Sin is when we disobey God, and the Bible says we've all sinned and need God's forgiveness. Confessing our sins is admitting that we made a wrong choice and asking God to forgive us.**
- **God sees everything. He knows when we sin.**
- **But when we come to Him and admit our sins, He will always forgive us.**
- **We don't have to hide from Him; He is always on our side! God wants us to come to Him and confess our sin, admitting when we make wrong choices, and He will always forgive.**
- **That's our Big Idea today: God Forgives!**

(OPTIONAL) VIDEO | Prayer of Confession

- Watch the [Prayer of Confession God's Big Story!](#)

#### MEMORY VERSE | Psalm 66:19-20

- **We're learning that when we sin—when we disobey God or hurt someone else, we can pray and ask God to forgive us.**
- **You can say it out loud or in your head. God hears our thoughts and knows what's in our hearts!**
- **Our memory verse reminds us that God listens to us and hears our prayers.**
- **Let's practice it together now.**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.*
  - **GOD LISTENS TO ME**—*Point to your ears.*
  - **AND HEARS MY PRAYERS.**—*Fold your hands together*
  - **I CAN PRAISE HIM.**—*Hold your hands above shoulders and turn wrists back and forth.*
  - **FROM [PSALM 66:19-20](#)**—*Hold your hands out together with palms open, as if opening a book.*
- **Great work, friends! We're going to keep practicing together each week.**
- **Now we get to talk with our friends about what we learned in God's big story. Let's head to our tables.**

## SHARING TIME

#### SNACK

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Gather kids around the tables and serve snacks, while you move on to circle time. As the kids eat, you can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse.*
  - **IMPORTANT NOTE:** *Don't forget to check name tags for food allergies.*

#### ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *As kids finish their snack, distribute the [coloring page](#) along with crayons and continue discussion and prayer time.*

#### DISCUSSION | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Discuss the Bible story with the following questions. Feel free to repeat questions so that everyone has a chance to respond.*

- **What is sin?** (*the wrong things we do that hurt God or others and separate us from God*)
- **Is there anyone besides Jesus who has never sinned and never will?** (*no*)
- **Have you ever done something wrong and then tried to hide it? How did it make you feel?**
- **How does God respond when we come to Him and admit we have sinned?** (*God forgives*)
- **Have you ever confessed, or admitted, a wrong thing you have done? How did it make you feel?**
- **Should we forgive others when they do wrong to us? Why or why not?**
- **How does it make you feel to know God will always forgive you?**
- **We don't have to hide our sins from God. He loves each one of you very much. He will always forgive you when you ask Him. We don't ever have to be afraid to come to Him. We can be honest with Him and tell Him we have sinned, and He will always forgive us.**
- **Let's talk to God now and thank Him for always being ready to forgive us.**

#### PRAYER

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and thank God for His grace to continually forgive us. Close with the following prayer:*
- **God, You are so good. We know we do wrong things, and we are sorry. We admit our sin to You. Thank You for always forgiving us. Help us live in ways that honors You and shows others Your love. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

#### MEMORY VERSE | Psalm 66:19-20

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Invite kids to practice the memory verse together, following along with the motions. Award prizes to kids that say the verse.*
  - **GOD LISTENS TO ME**—*Point to your ears.*
  - **AND HEARS MY PRAYERS.**—*Fold your hands together*
  - **I CAN PRAISE HIM.**—*Hold your hands above shoulders and turn wrists back and forth.*
  - **FROM [PSALM 66:19-20](#)**—*Hold your hands out together with palms open, as if opening a book.*
- **Great job! You can keep practicing at home this week, too. Maybe you could teach the verse to your family!**

## PLAY TIME

#### EXTRA TIME ACTIVITY | Forgiveness Tag

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Choose a kid to be the tagger, give the kids a countdown to start the game, then let them play the game.
- **This game is like freeze tag, except when you get tagged and are frozen, you have to fold your hands like you're praying.**
- **You can get on your knees if you want. Any kid who's not frozen can come and "un-tag" you by saying, "God forgives you!" and then you can move again.**
- **Wow, you are fast! Great job! It's great to know that God will always forgive us!**