

Spotlight on Prayer 1

PRAYER OF CONFESSION



YEAR 2 – KINGDOM LIFE

UNIT: TALKING WITH GOD

1 | Teacher's Notes (This lesson can be taught as part of Unit 1 – Entering the Kingdom)

Scripture Romans 3:23 - 24, 1 John 1:5 - 10

Objectives To explain that

- Today's lesson is about talking with God in prayer.
- Telling God about our sin is called "confession". "Confession" means saying "I'm sorry" to God. It's part of repentance.
- We have all sinned and are lost without Jesus. We are not saved because we are good, but because Jesus loves us and took our sin upon himself on the cross. When we receive God's salvation through repentance, faith, and baptism, then we belong to God.
- We may fall into sin even though we belong to God. But we continue to confess our sin, get back up and keep following Jesus.
- God already knows what is in our hearts and he loves us anyway. God longs for us to come and tell him about our sin and receive his forgiveness and life.
- God's forgiveness does not give us a license to sin as much as we like. God asks us to repent of our sin, to be truly sorry and to try not to sin again.
- We can repent and confess to God in church and anywhere. We can know for sure that God has forgiven us because he promises in his Word that he will.

Memory Verse "God is faithful and fair. If we confess our sins, he will forgive our sins. He will forgive every wrong thing we have done. He will make us pure." (1 John 1:9 – NIRV)

ACNA Catechism Connections Today's lesson of Prayer of Confession is connected to the following Catechism questions:

Q 195 Do you sin against God's Law? Yes. I, together with all humankind, sin daily against God's Law, in thought, word, and deed, both by what I do and by what I fail to do.

Q 47 What are the consequences of sin? Because of sin, those apart from Christ are spiritually dead, separated from God, under his righteous condemnation, and without hope.

Q 5 Can you save yourself from the way of sin and death? No. I have no power to save myself, for sin has corrupted my conscience, confused my mind, and captured my will. Only God can save me.

Q 238 What is confession? In confession, I acknowledge my sins in repentance before God and receive his forgiveness.

Q 196 What is God's forgiveness? God's forgiveness is his merciful pardon of sin and removal of the guilt that results from our disobedience.

Q 107 How does God forgive your sins? By virtue of Christ's atoning sacrifice, in which I put my trust, God sets aside my sins, accepts me, and adopts me as his child and heir in Jesus Christ. Loving me as his child, he forgives my sins whenever I turn to him in repentance and faith.

Q 360 How does God enable you to live in his forgiveness? Through faith, repentance, and Baptism, I am made a member of Christ, a child of God, and an heir of the kingdom of heaven. Washed of sin and united to Christ, I am "justified", being declared righteous by God, and I am given the grace to live continually in repentance and faith.

Q 361 Does God's forgiveness excuse you from personal obedience? No. God has reconciled me to himself and freed me from bondage to sin in order to conform me to the image of his Son. As I live each day in gratitude for God's forgiveness, I seek to turn from sin and follow Christ in loving obedience.

Q 149 What is absolution? In absolution, a priest, acting under God's authority, pronounces God's forgiveness in response to repentance and confession of sin.

Q 150 What grace does God give to you in absolution? In absolution, God conveys his pardon through the Cross, removes and cancels my sin, declares me reconciled and at peace with him, and grants me the assurance of his grace and salvation.

Q 151 What is necessary to receive the grace of absolution? Repentance, in which I intend to resist further sin, accept responsibility for my actions, and endeavor to repair damage I have caused; and faith, by which I thankfully receive God's forgiveness.

**Suggested
Materials,
Props, and
Costumes**

Big story props:

- Large Bible
- Kingdom Life storyboard (see photo)

Lesson Props: (See Props Document for instructions on how to make these)

- Poster picture of the Lost Son from lesson #2.
- Storyboard symbols: prayer hands, and the unit title: Talking with God
- Word cards: CONFESSION, FORGIVENESS, SIN (in addition to the SIN card that is already on the storyboard)
- Peg dolls: Jesus (with crown) and another peg doll.
- Prayer of Confession poster (see Supplementary Resource Section)
- Confession template poster (see props document)
- Small wooden holding crosses, one for each child (available in bags of 25 or 50 through Amazon.com) Optional: Crosses made from pipe cleaners for the children to take home instead of the wooden crosses.
- First two verses of the song "Jesus loves me this I know"
- Optional: Create cue cards with the different student questions in the story. Hand out the cue cards to the children to read when teacher calls their number.

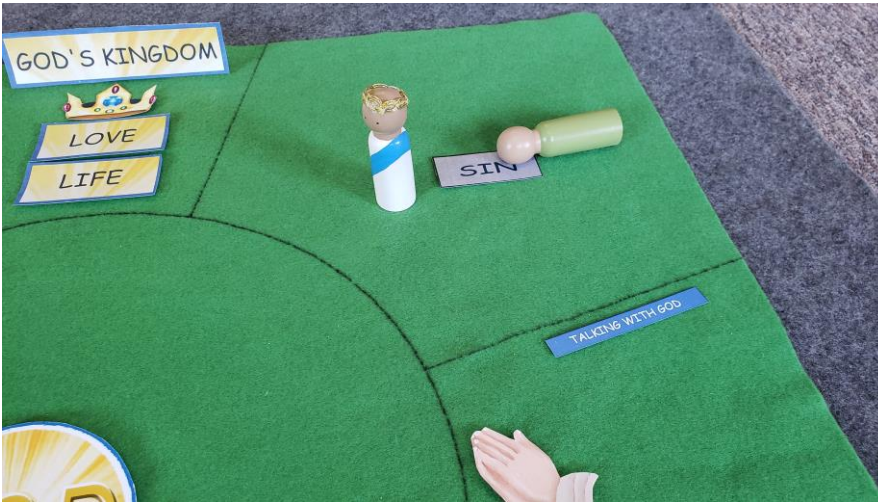
Memory Verse: "God is faithful and fair. If we confess our sins, he will forgive our sins. He will forgive every wrong thing we have done. He will make us pure." (1 John 1:9 – NIRV)

(Found on the last page of this lesson plan) Print out and place in large Bible.

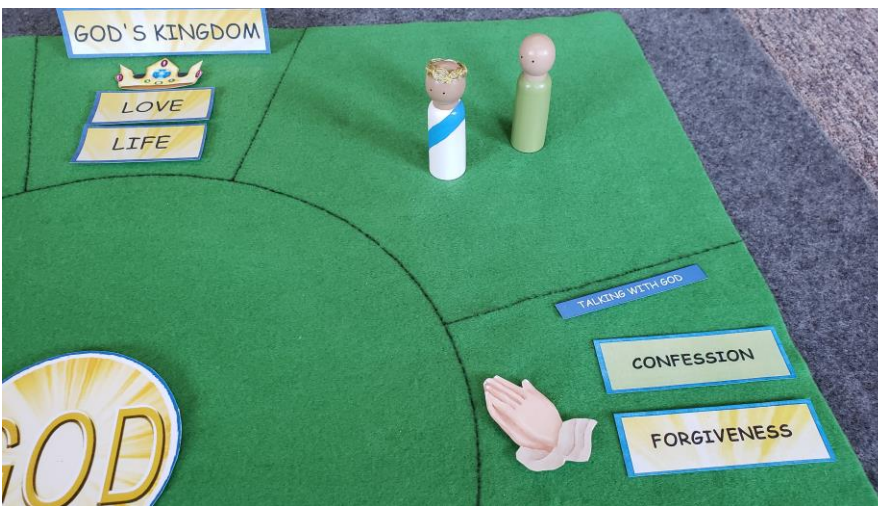
2 | Lesson Outline:

Welcome	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
Greeting & Collect for Purity	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity (<i>see Resource Section</i>)
Prayer of Confession	<u>Omit the prayer of Confession here as it is said as part of the lesson.</u> Extinguish the candles
Music	Jesus loves me this I know Jesus you died upon a cross (Salvation Poem – Superbook) <i>Please check internet for lyrics and music.</i>
Review of foundations	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment. <i>For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section</i>
Reading	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
Story Board Review	Ask review questions relating to props from previous lessons on story board. <i>Story board review is found in Section 4</i>
Props/Costumes	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) Big story props: Large Bible, Kingdom Life storyboard
Bible Story	<i>Proceed with story and prayer found in Section 4.</i>
Related activities	<i>After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.</i>
Preparation for Communion & leaving class	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. <i>See Resource Section.</i>

3 | Storyboard Progression



Even when we belong to God, we sometimes fall into sin.



This is how the storyboard should look with the word cards added.



At the end of the lesson, leave just these symbols in the Talking with God section.

4 | Story and Prayer

SETUP: *Have the Kingdom Life storyboard set up as indicated in photo. Have the children sit in a semi-circle around the storyboard. Point to the symbols on it as much as possible in the lesson. Have one or more of the children ask the STUDENT questions in the story. Have Prayer of Confession poster up on a board or easel.*

BIBLE: *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Today's lesson is from the Bible, and it is about prayer. (Place praying hands symbol on storyboard as shown.) Prayer is talking with God. (Place "Talking with God" title on storyboard as shown.) Today we are going to focus on the Prayer of Confession.*

REVIEW AND STORY:

TEACHER: *(Point to storyboard):* God made us to know him as our King and enjoy his love and life. But our sin separates us from God and leads to eternal death.

STUDENT (Question #1): What is sin?

TEACHER: Sin is thoughts, words and actions that disobey God's good will. We sin when we don't love God with all our heart, and we don't love other people as ourselves.

STUDENT: (Question #2) What does it mean that sin leads to death?

TEACHER: When we say that sin leads to death it means that sin separates us from God's love and life forever.

But God had a rescue plan through Jesus!

STUDENT: (Question #3) *(ask children)* What does the flashlight symbol tell us about what Jesus came to do? *(Children respond)*

TEACHER: Yes, he came to seek and save the lost.

STUDENT: (Question #4) *(ask children)* Who are the lost? *(Children respond)*

TEACHER: Yes, every human being. The Bible tells us that we have all sinned and are lost without Jesus. I know that I have sinned. I have thought, said, and done things that were selfish and hurtful to others. *(Ask the children):* Have you done that too? Yes, we have all sinned.

We are **not** saved because we are good. There is nothing **we** can do to earn our salvation and go to Heaven to be with Jesus.

TEACHER: *(Point to symbols on storyboard)* We are saved **only** because Jesus loved us so much that he took our sin upon himself when he died on the **cross**. We can **receive** that gift of salvation by **repenting** (or turning) from our sins, having **faith** in Jesus (trusting and obeying him) and being **baptized**. Then we have **new life in Christ**. We belong to God and Jesus is our Lord and King. *(Place Jesus peg doll and other peg doll on green area)*

STUDENT: (Question #5) But what happens when we sin again? Are we outside God's Kingdom again every time we sin? *(Teacher point to grey section)*

TEACHER: *(Place second "SIN" card on green area as shown.)* No, when we belong to God, we are still in God's Kingdom even though we may stumble and fall into sin *(peg doll falls down)*. We tell God about our sin, and ask his forgiveness, and then we get up again *(peg doll gets up)* and keep following Jesus.

STUDENT: (Question #6) Does that mean that we can just sin as much as we like because God will forgive us anyways?

TEACHER: No, God asks us to repent of our sin, to be truly sorry, and to try not to sin again.

Remember the story about the Lost Son? *(Bring out the Lost Son picture.)* The son left his father and did many bad things. But then he repented, he left his life of sin and turned back to his father. When he returned home, his father ran out to meet him with open arms of love even though he knew what his son had done.

In the same way, God already knows what is in our hearts and he loves us anyway. God **longs** for us to come and tell him about our sin and receive his forgiveness and life.

Telling God about our sin is called "**confession**" *(place "CONFESSION" card down as shown)*. "Confession" means saying "I'm sorry" to God. It's part of repentance.

We confess our sins to God and ask his **forgiveness** *(put down "FORGIVENESS")*, and we know for sure that God forgives us. Our sins are washed away *(remove "SIN" from green area)* and our hearts are made pure again. Then we can have hope, joy, and peace in our hearts.

When we come together in church, we pray the Prayer of Confession *(point to Prayer of Confession poster)* where we tell God about our sin and the priest speaks God's words of forgiveness over us.

We will say a simple Prayer of Confession together in a moment, but first I want to give you a little cross to hold.

ACTION: Give each child a small wooden (or pipe cleaner) holding cross.

TEACHER: As you hold this cross in your hand and look at it, it can remind you that Jesus took all your sins upon himself on the cross.

Look at your cross now and listen to our memory verse again:

STUDENT: "But God is faithful and fair. If we confess our sins, he will forgive our sins. He will forgive every wrong thing we have done. He will make us pure."

TEACHER: Let's pray the Prayer of Confession together now. You can repeat each sentence after me:

All: Dear Lord, I am very sorry for all the wrong things I have done.
Forgive me and help me to become a better person
in all that I think and
in all that I say and
in all that I do. Amen.

TEACHER: The next part of the Prayer of Confession is where we **receive** God's forgiveness. In our church service, this is where the priest speaks forgiveness over us in Jesus' name. In Sunday school, this is how we pray to receive God's forgiveness:

TEACHER: Almighty God, + have mercy upon us,
forgive and deliver us from all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness,
and bring us to everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

You can also say sorry to God using your own words. For example: "Heavenly Father, I'm sorry I was mean to my sister. Please forgive me and help me to be kind to her."

ACTION: Invite the children to think of one thing they want to confess to God quietly in their head. Then use the confession template poster (see picture on page 11) and say the prayer together out loud and invite the children to name their sin either quietly in their head or out loud as they pray.

TEACHER: You can repent and confess to God, in the church and anywhere. You can know for sure that God forgives you because he promises in his Word that he will.

Let's end our story time by singing this song together:

Jesus loves me, this I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong,
They are weak but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me, he who died,
Heaven's gate to open wide.
He will wash away my sin,
Let His little child come in.
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

ACTION: *Let the children take the holding crosses home or give them pipe cleaner crosses to take home instead.*

Life Application:

Do you pray at home? Do you have special times of the day or night when you pray? You can take your cross home and keep it by your bed to help you to pray before you fall asleep or when you first wake up in the morning.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

- **What did you learn about prayer today?** (We can confess our sins to God in the church and wherever we are. We can receive God's forgiveness)
- **What is sin?** (Sin is actions, words and thoughts that disobey God's good will.)
- **What does it mean that sin leads to death?** (It means that sin separates us from God and his love and life forever.)
- **Are we saved because we are good?** (No, we are saved because Jesus took our sin upon himself when he died on the cross. We can receive that free gift of salvation by repenting from our sins, having faith in Jesus, and being baptized. Then we have new life in Christ. We belong to God and Jesus is our Lord and King.)
- **Are we outside God's Kingdom again every time we sin?** (No, when we belong to God, we are still in God's Kingdom even though we may stumble and fall into sin. We tell God about our sin, and ask his forgiveness, and then we get up again and keep following Jesus.)
- **What does the word "confession" mean?** (Confession means to tell God about our sin, and to say 'I'm sorry' to God)
- **Can you **only** confess your sins when you're in church?** (No, I can confess my sins in church and anywhere)
- **Do you have to use a special prayer for confession, or can you also use your own words?** (I can use both. I can say the Prayer of Confession and I can use my own words.)
- **How can we know for sure that God forgives us?** (Because the Bible tells us that he does. Our memory verse says: "God is faithful and fair. If we confess our sins, he will forgive our sins. He will forgive every wrong thing we have done. He will make us pure.")

5 | Response Activities

Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

Optional activities

- Different learning stations, such as: a book table, modelling clay, colouring papers
- Have the memory verse printed out on red paper hearts for the children to take home.

Heavenly Father,
|
I am sorry that
I _____.

Please help me
be _____.

Amen

1

Confession prayer template

"God is faithful and fair. If we confess our sins, he will forgive our sins. He will forgive every wrong thing we have done.
He will make us pure."

(1 John 1:9)