



GOD'S KINGDOM

LOVE

LIFE

GRACE  
God's undeserved  
love for us

SALVATION



CONFESSION

FORGIVENESS



BAPTISM

FAITH Trust and obey Jesus

REPENTANCE

TALKING WITH GOD

SIN

DEATH

## Spotlight on Prayer 1: *Prayer of Confession* (Condensed Version)

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

**Objectives:** To explain that: \*Confession means saying “I’m sorry” to God. It is part of repentance. \*We have all sinned. We are not saved because we are good, but because Jesus 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 still sin, but we continue to confess our sin, and keep following Jesus. \*God longs for us to confess 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 truly be sorry and to try not to sin again. \*We can repent and confess to God, in church and anywhere. God forgives us because he promises in his Word that he will.

**"I Wonder" Questions:** It looks like the children are praying to God. \***I wonder** what they are saying to God. Let’s find out more in our lesson.

**Lesson Props:** Small wooden (or pipecleaner) crosses to give to children. Poster: Prayer of Confession (see supplementary resource section).

**Lesson Summary:** Today our lesson is about talking with God in prayer. We will learn about the Prayer of Confession.

*(Point to symbols)* 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**. What is sin? Sin is words, actions and thoughts that disobey God’s good will. When we say sin leads to eternal death, it means that sin separates us from God’s love and life forever. But God had a rescue plan through Jesus! What does the flashlight symbol tell us about what Jesus came to do? *(Children respond)* Yes, he came to **seek and save the lost**. We have all sinned and are lost without Jesus. We are **not** saved because we are good. *(Point to symbols)* We are saved because Jesus loves us so much that he took our sin upon himself when he died on the **cross**. We can receive that free gift of salvation by **repenting** (or turning) from our sins, having **faith** in Jesus (trusting and obeying him) and being **baptized**. Then we belong to God and Jesus is our Lord and King *(point to crown)*. When we belong to God, we are still in God’s Kingdom even though we may stumble and fall into sin again. We tell God about our sin, and ask his forgiveness, and then we keep following Jesus. Does that mean we can sin as much as we like because God will forgive us anyways? No. God asks us to repent of our sin, to be truly sorry, and to try not to sin again. Telling God about our sin is called **“confession”**. *(Point to “confession”)* Confession means saying, “I’m sorry” to God. When we confess our sins to God, we receive his **forgiveness**. *(Point to “forgiveness”)*

*(Give each child a small cross to hold)*. As you hold this cross and look at it, it can remind you that Jesus took all your sins upon himself on the cross. Let’s say the prayer of Confession together *(children echo first part of Prayer of Confession)* The next part of the Prayer of Confession is where we **receive** God’s forgiveness. In church, 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 says second part of Prayer of Confession)* God **longs** for us to confess our sin and receive his forgiveness and life. We can confess our sins to God in church and anywhere. We can use this Prayer of Confession, or we can use our own words. When we confess our sins, we know that God forgives us because he says in his Word that he will. *(Read memory verse)* Our sin is washed away, and we can have hope, joy, and peace. *(Sing two verses of “Jesus loves me this I know” – see Full Lesson Plan for lyrics)*

**Suggested Questions:** **What did you learn about prayer today?** (We can confess our sins to God and receive his forgiveness.) **\*What is sin?** (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 through repentance, faith and baptism.) **\*What does the word “confession” mean?** (To tell God about our sins, and to say “I’m sorry” to God)

**Bible 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)



Back of page 3

Year 2 – Spotlight on Prayer 1 – Prayer of Confession