

WEEK 1 ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

FAMOUS

THE BIG IDEA

When we make mistakes, we can make things right.

THE BIBLE

Nathan Reveals David's Sin: II Samuel 11:26-12:13a;
Ephesians 4:14-16

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *You can lead kids in worship with any songs you like best, but here are a few songs that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)*
 - "We Are Royals" (North Point InsideOut)
 - "Sing from the Rooftops" (Vineyard Kids)
 - "Turn It Up" (Planetshakers)
 - "Better is One Day" (Shaylee Simeone)
 - "Everything I Could Want" (Hillsong Young & Free)

ACTIVITY | Famous Pairs

- Welcome to Famous, everyone! In this series, we are going to follow the Bible's most famous royal family – the family of King David! We'll get the inside scoop on all the family secrets and drama . . . and learn how God famously watched over these royals!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *In the middle of the room, place the matching cards you made and the five camera cards face down on the ground (see your Shop & Prep List for instructions on how to create the cards). Set up twenty chairs in a circle around the cards and designate start and end points. Divide your group into two to four teams and have one kid from each team be the "celebrity." Choose a kid or a leader to be the "paparazzo."*

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Tweak this activity by providing photos of current celebrities kids may know on the cards.*

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Simplify this activity by giving kids toy cameras to pretend to be paparazzi.*

- You might think that people who are famous have it easy, but they have their share of discomfort. “Paparazzi” are photographers who follow celebrities around and take pictures of them. All. Day. Long.
- When it’s your team’s turn, turn over two cards. If they are a “famous pair,” then your celebrity gets to move to the next chair. If it’s not a match or if one of the cards is a camera, they don’t move at all. If any player turns over a camera card, the paparazzo gets to move five spaces. Your goal is not just for your team to win . . . it’s to not let the paparazzo win!
- **Can you imagine what it would be like to have the paparazzi follow you around and capture all your embarrassing mistakes?**

ACTIVITY | Musical Mistakes

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Ask five to eight volunteers to come to the front. Play five to eight lines of a song the kids are unfamiliar with, one line for each person. Let them listen to it two to three times, and point to each kid to let them know to pay attention to their line. Then, turn on the instrumental version. The kids have to sing those exact lines without making a single lyrical mistake.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Instead of having preteens remember lines to a song, have them try to learn a simple dance from YouTube or Tik Tok and see if each person can do it without making a mistake.*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *To accommodate kids who are nonverbal or have speech impairments, have a leader demonstrate a gesture or simple sound for kids to repeat.*
- It’s okay to make mistakes when we’re trying something new . . . it’s how we learn! **Making a mistake is normal, but what should we do after we’ve made a mistake?**

QUESTION | Favorite Celebrities

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Divide the group into two teams and have them each come up with the name of their favorite celebrity – or just one they all know. You might want to provide photos or a list of some celebrities kids would be familiar with. Have the teams take turns asking each other yes or no questions until one team correctly guesses the other team’s celebrity. Afterward, ask a few kids to share their responses to the questions below.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *To make this more interesting for preteens, have them act out the celebrity of their choice, and even answer the questions from the other team as that celebrity.*
- **Who is your favorite celebrity?**
- **What is this person famous for?**
- **What is something this person might wish they weren’t famous for?**
- The thing about being famous is that a lot of people only remember the not-so-flattering things about you. That’s what happens when the world knows everything about you!
- But let’s take a look at today’s Bible story and watch what happens with God, who really does know everything about everyone!

SO WHAT? *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

BIBLE STORY | Nathan Reveals David's Sin

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell the Bible story from II Samuel 11:26-12:13a in the form of a mock press conference. Print out the reporter questions below and distribute them to a few readers beforehand. Ask a volunteer to play David, wearing a suit and a crown.*
- Hello, everyone. Please take your seats. We are holding this press conference today because the king has something he'd like to say to the people. Please hold your questions until the end. Your Majesty?
 - **David:** Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your time. I stand before you today to address recent rumors that I played a part in the death of the queen's former husband, Uriah the Hittite. This is true. I deeply regret my actions and I would like to sincerely apologize to Uriah's family, and also ask for forgiveness from my wife, my children, and you – the people.
- The king will be taking questions now. If you have a question, raise your hand and come forward.
 - **Reporter #1:** Your Majesty, this is the worst scandal this kingdom has ever seen. Why did you do it?
 - **David:** I was attracted to my now wife, Bathsheba, from the moment I saw her. But she was already married. I made a choice – the wrong one – to send her husband into battle knowing that he would be killed.
 - **Reporter #2:** It's been years since this happened. Why are you coming clean now?
 - **David:** My adviser, the prophet Nathan, showed me the error of my ways. He told me the story of a rich man who had a lot of sheep of his own, but when he had a guest over, he stole the only sheep of a poor man to prepare a meal for his guest. That story made me so angry, but Nathan made me see that I was just like the rich man in the story. God has given me everything I could ever need or want, yet I had done this terrible thing. I immediately prayed to God and admitted what I had done.
 - **Reporter #3:** Is it true that the queen just gave birth to a baby boy?
 - **David:** Yes. We've decided to name him Solomon. I am so thankful for God's forgiveness and for bringing joy back into our lives. We hope that you will join us in celebrating this happy news.
- Thank you, everyone. That'll be all.

BIG IDEA | When we make mistakes, we can make things right.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Write the Big Idea and place it inside a gold envelope, sealing it with a gold foil seal and red ribbon ([like this](#)). Invite a volunteer to present the "award." Once the Big Idea is read aloud, play awards music ([like this](#) one) and encourage the kids to applaud.*
- And the winner for today's Big Idea is . . . **When we make mistakes, we can make it right!**

VIDEO | Famous, Episode 1

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

ACTIVITY | Note to Self

- David realized his mistake because of the prophet, Nathan.
- **Have you ever looked back on something you did before and wished someone had given you some good advice to avoid that mistake or handle it better?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have the kids write a note of advice or encouragement to themselves at some point in the past when they made a mistake.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Have preteens construct notes to their future selves about what they could do in the event they make a mistake. Have them seal it in an envelope and keep it somewhere they can access it when they need it in the future!*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Since writing activities can be challenging for some kids with special needs, provide complete examples or have them draw or trace a picture instead.*
- We can't go back to the past and give these notes to ourselves, much like we can't change what's already happened. But we don't need to linger on guilty, embarrassed, or ashamed feelings because we can learn from having lived those moments. **When we make mistakes, we can make things right.**

OBJECT LESSON | Famous Fails

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give each kid a sheet of newspaper – feel free to dirty it up more so the kids have more to wash off. Prepare hand wipes or hand sanitizer, and put a trash can in the front or middle of the room.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Preteens might relate more with social media. Provide an example or two about online “fails,” when someone posted something mean or embarrassing accidentally, or even sent a message containing a funny error.*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *To accommodate kids who struggle with too much sensory input, swap this object lesson for something less stimulating, like kinetic sand, finger paint, or shaving cream.*
- When you're famous, you're going to get talked about in the media, whether it's on the news, a gossip website, or in newspapers. And sadly, these sources like to talk about your failures more than they do your successes.
- Let's imagine there was a big mistake you made – one you thought nobody knew about – but you just read about it in this newspaper. Now, everyone knows!
- **What would your reaction be?**
 - You might want to erase the story. *[Have the kids rub their fingers against the newspaper.]*
 - You might crumple the paper angrily like this. *[Invite the kids to follow suit.]*
 - Or you might throw it away, pretending it didn't happen. *[Toss the crumpled newspaper into the trash can.]*
 - But none of these things will cover up the fact that it did happen. In fact, a cover-up story would make matters worse!
- David made very big mistakes, and he tried to cover them up at first. But thanks to Nathan, David remembered that his actions were not pleasing to God, and he asked for forgiveness.
- Instead of getting your hands dirty by trying to cover up something you did wrong, tell God you are sorry and ask how you can make things right. *[Instruct the kids to clean their hands.]*

- **When we make mistakes, we can make things right.** And God will forgive you and love you, just like your mistakes never happened.

BIBLE | Ephesians 4:14-16

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Ephesians 4:14-16 with your group. On a circular piece of cardstock paper, write, "Jesus." Instruct the kids to write their names on a nameplate. Gather all the nameplates and connect them with brass fasteners to the "Jesus" piece like a paper stick figure or skeleton.
- **Have you ever laughed at someone who made a mistake and then told a friend about it?** The problem with telling stories is that everyone has their own version, so the truth gets lost a lot of times.
- This Bible passage tells us that one way we grow up and mature as people who love God is, "speaking truth in love." That means that we have to listen for the truth about God and others instead of dwelling on hearsay or creating opportunities for gossip.
- But it's not enough for you to do this all by yourself. The Bible also tells us that we are members of one body, and we are all connected to each other, just as we are connected to God.
- Each time we honor the truth and forgive others, we help build up and strengthen the whole body where Jesus is the head!

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

REFLECTION | Famous For: Making Us Right

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play the song, "Famous For (I Believe)," by Tauren Wells. Project or print the lyrics for the kids to follow along with as they listen, or play a lyric video. Prepare a dry erase board.
- **What are some things this song says God is "famous for?"** [Write responses on the board.]
- God is famous for miracles and acts of wonder, but even greater than those things is that God famously forgives. The story of David showed us there is no mistake too big that God won't forgive.
- **And how does God forgive?** That's right! When we pray and ask! God's own son, Jesus, gave the ultimate sacrifice to make this forgiveness available to all of us.
- But let's think about today's Big Idea: **When we make mistakes, we can make things right.** That means it's not enough to feel and say we're sorry. We need to be responsible for the mistakes we've made or the people we've hurt. We need to take the next steps toward making things right.

RESPONSE | #TheStruggleIsReel

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pass out the printable and provide writing and drawing supplies. Each kid will make a "response reel" by adding an activity every week.
- Think of a time when you made a mistake. Maybe you threw your trash on the ground. Maybe you said something to hurt your friend's feelings. Maybe you didn't study for a big test.
- Draw a picture of how you might make things right for that mistake. Is it a picture of you picking up trash and putting it in the right place? Is it an "I'm sorry" card for your friend? Is it you studying really hard for the next test?
- **When we make mistakes, we can make things right.**

MEMORY VERSE | Memory Marquee

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Help the kids memorize I Corinthians 10:31 by playing this game that's "Wheel of Fortune" meets "Hangman!" There are two ways to play: 1) Project the Memory Marquee printable onto a dry erase board, ask the kids to guess letters to fill in the blanks, and write them in using a dry erase marker, or 2) print the printable and instruct the kids to look up the missing words in their Bibles.

PRAYER

- Dear God, sometimes it's tempting to use a quick apology as a way to avoid facing our mistakes. But you forgive us and help us through what happens after we do something wrong. Help us to follow through with you and others to make things right even when we don't feel like we know what to do next. You can help us make things right again. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- What did the rich man do wrong in Nathan's story?
- Why did Nathan tell David this story?
- What did David do as soon as he realized what the story was about?
- Read Ephesians 4:15. Can you think of an example when someone might be "speaking the truth in love?"
- When is one time you learned something from a mistake you made?
- Describe a time when you might feel that saying, "I'm sorry," is not enough.
- What kinds of things can you do to make things right?

ACTIVITY | Truth or Tabloid?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give everyone two index cards. On the first card, they'll write a silly or serious mistake they've made in the past, and on the second card, they'll write a fictional mistake. Have them draw a star on the card that's true. Collect everyone's cards and put them in a pile. Read each one aloud and have the group guess whether it's "truth" or "tabloid" (false).
- Newspapers that report on celebrity gossip are called tabloids. Tabloids rarely tell the truth and it's mostly about spreading rumors.
- Probably no one will write about our mistakes, but that doesn't excuse us from owning up to what we did because **when we make mistakes, we can make things right . . .** starting by telling the truth!

MEMORY VERSE | I Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Practice this month's memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) available in your Programming folder or at growcurriculum.org/ICorinthians10-31.
- Let's practice this month's memory verse together!
- **"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."**