

WEEK SEVEN

PSALM 51: SAYING SORRY

BIG IDEA

Saying sorry to God

GIVES US A CLEAN HEART

PREP: *(Kids can help!)*

- Find two pieces of A4 paper. Cut a heart as large as you can out of one of the pieces and write "I'm sorry" on it.
- Get these items ready – a toy, a pen and paper, a packet of coloured pencils.

WHAT GOES IN THE BOX?

- The piece of paper and the cut out heart with "I'm sorry" written on it
- Felt tipped pens (including a black one)
- A glue stick
- Faith Board fridge magnet (or a whiteboard) and whiteboard marker pen



OUT OF THE BOX

- As Faith Box time starts deliberately make three mistakes with the items you have prepared
 1. Drop the toy on the floor.
 2. Start writing on the paper and then cross it out.
 3. Spill the packet of pencils on the floor.

After each mistake say, "I'm sorry; I made a mistake" but don't correct the mistake...
- Make sure you leave the spilled pencils on the floor.

INTRO

- Did you notice all the mistakes I made?
- Do you think it is okay to make mistakes?
- Does anyone ever not make a mistake?
- What about saying sorry when we make a mistake?
- Is there anything else we need to do?

Sometimes we don't just make mistakes, we make wrong choices. A bad choice is not like just dropping some pencils; it is when we do something that is wrong; something that God does not want us to do.

PLAY

Sorry Game

- Allocate the four corners of the room (or the backyard) to four options
 1. Fix the mistake
 2. Say sorry to the person
 3. Say sorry to God
 4. Do nothing
- Read out the scenarios and children must choose which corner of the room to go to for each scenario.

Scenarios:

- You dropped your pencils.
- You said you would help with the dishes but you forgot.
- You felt really cross because you missed a sports game and had to go to church.
- You borrowed something from a friend, and then you lost it.
- You played with your toys.
- You told your friend at school that you don't go to church (you were embarrassed).
- You had a bad day and were mean to your friend.

When we make wrong choices, we often hurt other people and make them unhappy. We make ourselves



unhappy too. When we do something wrong, it makes us feel bad inside. But when we say sorry it makes us feel better – even if it is hard to say sorry. It makes us know that we are at peace again with other people and with God.

Today's psalm reminds us how important it is to say sorry, and to do whatever we can to make it better.

It is another psalm that David wrote.

- **What can you remember about David?**

READ

Psalm 51

“Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear

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joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.))

NIV

EXPLORE

David had done some really bad things and made some wrong choices. He had taken another person's wife and he had killed her husband to cover up what he had done. The things he did were really bad and he knew he didn't deserve to even be able to talk with God anymore.

Yet when he told God how sorry he was and wanted to change what was in his heart, God forgave him. God cleaned him up on the inside. David was amazed at God's kindness and that God wanted to forgive him. He felt so much better and burst into praise to God!

- **Have you ever done something you knew was wrong and it made you feel yucky inside?**
- **Do you remember saying sorry and how that felt?**

When we say sorry and do what we can to make things right, we will feel better on the inside as God forgives us and gives us clean hearts.

As well as saying sorry, what do you think you should do if...

- you took something that didn't belong to you?
- you said something unkind to someone?
- you didn't tell the truth to your parents?
- you cheated in a game?
- you pushed someone over?



OUT OF THE BOX

- Take out a piece of paper and felt tips and draw a large heart.
- Everyone brainstorm what they think of when they see a heart...

When everyone has written some words on the heart e.g. love, caring, sharing, kindness... you can add some decorations like flowers and little hearts if you wish.

- Now take a black felt tip pen

Share something you did recently that was wrong (e.g. didn't help to tidy up), and scribble over some of the heart with the black pen.

- **What other things might spoil this heart full of good things?**
- Scribble more black felt pen over the heart as things are suggested, e.g. lying, cheating, bullying...

When the heart is all covered in black, ask what can be done for this heart.

How can we make it clean?

There actually isn't anything to do to make the piece of paper clean again!

« IT TAKES A STRONG PERSON TO SAY SORRY, AND AN EVEN STRONGER PERSON TO FORGIVE. »

- ANONYMOUS -

- Take the paper heart and glue stick from the Faith Box and stick this heart over the black one.

The wonderful thing God does when we say 'sorry' is to make our heart clean again.

It makes us feel much better.

- Hand out the coloured pencils and let everyone draw a colourful smiley face on the clean heart.

PRAY

- Bring out the Faith Board. Let everyone put some black scribble on it and share something they have done wrong. Then invite each person to say "I'm sorry God" and wipe the black off the whiteboard to make it clean again.

LIVE

- Together write your own family 'I'm sorry' psalm.



OTHER IDEAS

- **Make pop-up heart cards** – see website www.instructables.com/id/Make-a-pop-up-card-of-hearts/
- **Shaving cream painting** – Put shaving cream with drops of different food colouring on a baking sheet. Mix lightly with Q-tips & then press a piece of white paper on the top... it turns out with beautiful "marble-like" colours! (Just scrape the shaving cream off when it dries.)
- **Watch the Veggie Tales DVD** "King George and the Ducky."

CHECK OUT WHAT YOU
NEED FOR NEXT WEEK...

