



Lesson 9—Our Creator *Forgives Us When We Sin*

I Samuel 15

Memory Verse

“I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name’s sake”
(I John 2:12)

Teacher’s Objective

At the end of the session, the students should be able to:

Define the term *Pharisee*

Locate the memory verse in their Bible

Describe how God is willing to forgive us of our sins

Express in their own words how God forgives us just as the father in our story forgave his son

Materials Needed

See “Teaching Activities” for specific activities

Teacher’s Bible Study

Repentance is a gift from God. It comes when God opens one’s eyes to recognize his own sinfulness, and to see that his life has been a constant journey of self-centered vanity in defiance of God. Once one has acknowledged the reality of his sins, and has come to the heartfelt determination to change to a new life with Christ’s help, he can be baptized and receive total forgiveness for his sins. But repentance is not a one-time thing. Rather, one must repent of additional sins as he becomes aware of them; the converted Christian must confess them before God on a daily basis.

One with God’s Spirit is under “no condemnation” in spite of the fact that he must still wrestle against sin and may on occasion succumb to sin (Romans 7; 8:1). Such a converted person is not counted as a “sinner” although he may indeed sin out of weakness. He is rather looked upon by God as “holy” (Colossians 3:12) because God imputes His righteousness to him through faith (Romans 4). Only one who has had the burden of the penalty of sin completely lifted from his shoulders and has experienced the deep exhilaration of knowing that his every sin has been totally forgiven and forgotten by God can fully appreciate David’s statement, “Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin” (Romans 4:7-8; Psalm 32:1-2). Such a person has been given the “joy and gladness” which comes from having peace with God (Psalm 51:8). A forgiven Christian knows he need not feel hopeless if he sins in weakness, because God looks upon the heart (I Samuel 16:7). He realizes that God hates sin but loves the sinners enough to have sent His only Son as their Savior. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

God can appreciate our human frailty because Jesus Christ, our mediator and intercessor, is always at His right hand. To Jesus, sin is not some theoretical, theological concept; for He experienced the full force of temptation in all points of human susceptibility (Hebrews 4:15). He also experienced the full force of the penalty of sin. Though he never sinned, Jesus can well remember the enormity of the incessant battle, constantly resisting Satan’s wiles and ceaselessly fighting his own human nature. Jesus will never condone sin, but He will understand it. He will never condemn the person for it, and He will always be extremely desirous of asking God to forgive it.

God is, through man, reproducing Himself. In order to enable man to build righteous character, God created his mind with free moral agency. This means that human beings have been given the right and capacity to make their own choices and to guide their own actions, thoughts, and lives. Therefore, in effect, God has given man the right and the capacity to do evil. Yet even this accomplishes God’s purpose. For in allowing man to commit evil, God enables man also to learn a great lesson from the experience of the evil: that disobedience to God’s ways, laws, and principles will produce horrendous results.

Presenting the Bible Story

Pharisees were a strict religious sect. They were so concerned about the details of the law that they lost sight of the spirit behind the law

Luke 15:11

Luke 15:12
Swine were unclean and the man was forbidden as food (Leviticus 11:7,8)

Luke 15:13-19

Luke 15:20-24

Luke 15:25-32

The banquet symbolized the coming kingdom

Art and Activities

Explore the following questions with your students:

The Pharisees and scribes of the New Testament were enemies of Jesus. They did not like it that Jesus was kind and loving toward the sinner. In Luke 15 Jesus confronted them with three parables: the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son. All three of these parables show God's love for the lost sinner. Our story today is about the lost son.

Jesus begins the story by contrasting two sons.

The older son in a family always inherited twice as much as the younger (Deuteronomy 21:17). Here, the younger son is asking for his inheritance before the death of his father. The son that is asking for his inheritance did not earn it, or deserve it. The father here is a picture of God's love for us. We did not earn nor do we deserve His love, but He willingly gives to us all. God is love (I John 4:8).

Can you think of an example when you have gone your own way and did something that displeased God? The young son went far away and squandered his inheritance on riotous living. When you sin, you are far away from God. This young man fell to an all-time low—feeding pigs, and being so hungry that he was willing to eat what he fed to the pigs. When he came to his senses, he decided to return home and work for his father.

This young man represents the sinners we all are. However, just as God forgives and welcomes us back, the father in our story showed compassion for his son by welcoming him back.

The older brother is not happy about how his father has received his younger brother back into the family. The older brother represents the attitude of the Pharisee. Pharisees did not like what Jesus was teaching. They did not like the idea that sinners could enter into the Kingdom of God. Just as Jesus would eat and talk with the Pharisees, the father went out and pleaded with the older son to come in to the feast. Even a proud Pharisee can repent of his sinful attitude. The older brother had the attitude that his work deserved a reward from his father rather than the attitude that he worked for his father because he loved him.

Teaching Activities

Activity Pages

Provide a copy of the Activity Page suitable for each of your students. Provide pencils and crayons.

Explore the Subject

1. Did this story have a happy ending? (Yes.)
2. Why was it a happy ending?
(The son that was lost was found.)
3. Who does the father in the story represent? (God)

4. Who does the younger son in the story represent?
(All those who sin).
5. Who does the older brother in the story represents? (The Pharisees.)
6. When the younger son left home and disobeyed his father, did he stop being his father's son? (No, he was still a member of the family.)
7. When we disobey God, are we no longer able to be in His Kingdom?
(No, we must ask for forgiveness and try not to sin anymore.)

Respond and Reinforce

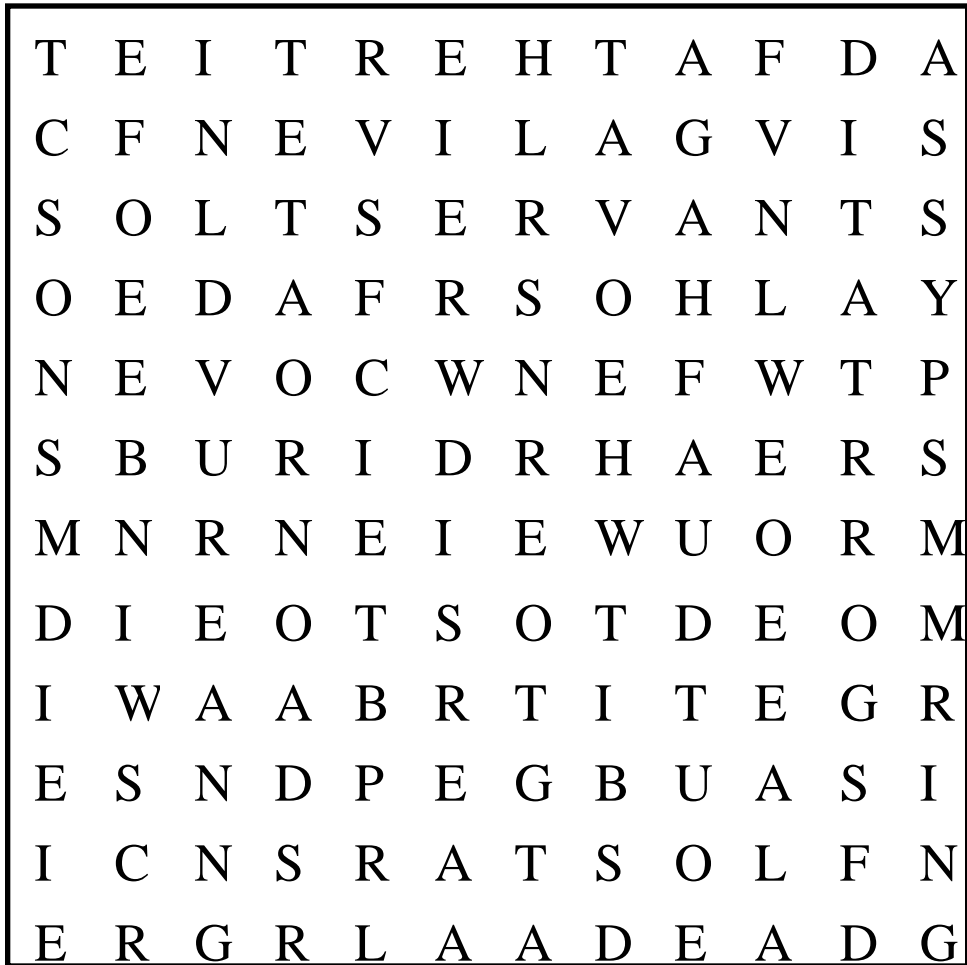
**Always close your
class with prayer**

1. What have you learned today about God's forgiveness?
2. Discuss memory verse.

Activity Page

The Prodigal Son Luke 15:11–24

Read the Scriptures. Find the words hidden in the word search puzzle below.



PRODIGAL

SWINE

FATHER

SONS

INHERITANCE

SERVANTS

ROBE

RING

LOST

FOUND

FATTED CALF

DEAD

ALIVE

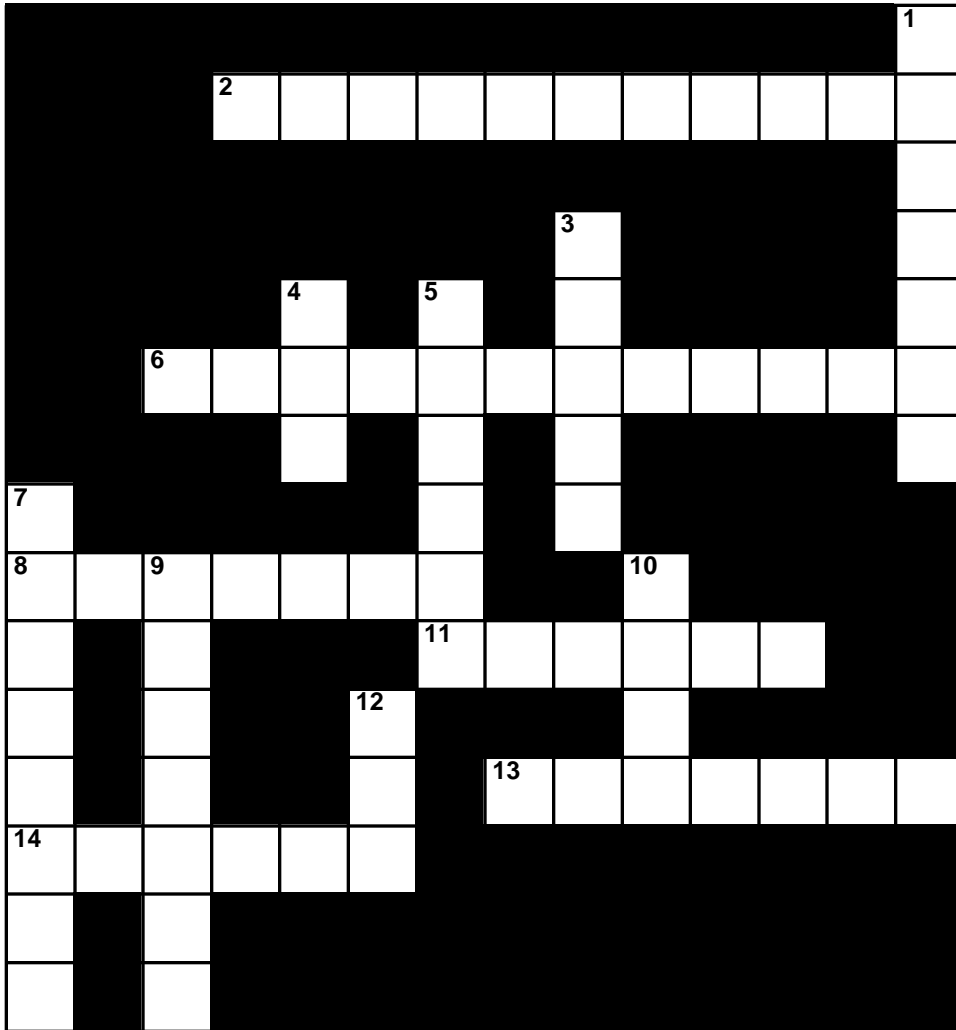
SERVE

SAFE

Activity Page

The Joy of a Father Luke 15:11–24

Read the Scriptures and complete the crossword puzzle below.



Across

- 2. A title or property that is inherited.
- 6. To reconcile, or make right.
- 8. To feel great joy and gladness.
- 11. To experience great regret.
- 13. Settle a dispute.
- 14. Connected with, characterized by, or involving guilt.

Down

- 1. A person working in the service of another.
- 3. Old World family of Suidae.
- 4. A male child.
- 5. A person who sins or transgresses.
- 7. Recklessly extravagant.
- 9. To declare innocent or guiltless; absolve; acquit.
- 10. People who are no longer living.
- 12. A feeling or state of great happiness.

Across: 2. Inheritance; 6. Propitiation; 8. Rejoice; 11. Repent; 13. Mediate; 14. Guilty. Down: 1. Servant; 3. Swine; 4. Son; 5. Sinner; 7. Prodigal; 9. Justify; 10. Dead; 12. Joy.

Activity Page

Our Father Forgives Us Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32

Fit the words into the poem,
A few letters are given to help you get started

day	sons	told	crowd	father
old	arms	story	loved	younger
away	open	teach	heart	brothers

Jesus told a _____
to t _____ the _____ one _____
It was about two _____,
one who went _____.
The f _____
his _____,
both the _____ and the _____.
His a _____ and _____ were _____
... hear the story _____.

Activity Page

Our Father Forgives Us

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Like the father in the story of the prodigal son God rejoices when we turn from sin and return to Him. Color the picture below.

Connect the dots.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

