

kidz CONNECTION - it's all about the GROWTH!,  
(Grace, Relationships, Obedience, Walk of  
Faithfulness, Talking with God, Heart for God and  
Others)

Talking with God - Elementary

Third quarter – Talking with God Changes Me!

Week 6 - Sunday School

Scripture – Jonah

Lesson – When I choose to talk with God, I'll know I  
can pray and ask God for forgiveness like Jonah  
and the people in Nineveh did!

Verse – Philippians 1:3-7a

## Opening - 20 minutes

- Music - 15 minutes
- Activity - 5 minutes

### Supplies –

- Card stock – one per child in following small groups - #1, #2 , #6 and two per child for children in small group #4
- Crayons/markers
- Black paper tablecloths – two or three per small group for small groups - #3, #5
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Yarn – to make ties for the signs children will wear in small group #4
- Paper towel for small group #3
- Scrap paper/newspaper for small group #3 – they will use this to make fish and inhabitants of the big fish’s belly
- Green paper and brown paper for children in small group #6

Assign each small group a specific part of the lesson to prepare props for. If you have more than six small groups, assign more than one small group to a part of the lesson. If you have less than six small groups, combine parts or assign more than one part to each small group. Let the children know their small group will have a part in teaching the lesson to the rest of the class. Explain to each small group the props they need to prepare and the role they will have in teaching the lesson as follows –

1. Jonah’s messenger service – make signs about how Jonah is God’s messenger and he will deliver God’s messages any time, any place, any weather – like the postal service pledge, Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night will keep brave Jonah from quickly completing his appointed mission!
2. Boat to Nineveh – make signs inviting people to “see the world” and signs showing exotic vacation destinations
3. The belly of the big fish – use black paper disposable table cloths to make the “belly of the big fish” – hold the table cloth up to make a “cave/belly” for the mini drama. Use strips of paper towel to make seaweed and paper to make “fish” and other “inhabitants” of the big fish’s belly.
4. Jonah travels to Nineveh and warns the people of their coming destruction – make “signs” to wear on your front and back saying things like “the end of your world is coming”, pictures of fireballs hitting their homes, etc
5. People of Nineveh repenting – take black paper tablecloths and cut to cover people, animals, everyone.

6. Jonah isn't happy the Ninevites repented and God didn't destroy them so God has a talk with Jonah – use green paper to make a “vine” and brown paper to make “worms”. Draw pictures of people on card stock – it is okay to make stick people and make a picture of a sun

This week's lesson is presented as mini-dramas and each small group will have a portion of the lesson they will make props for and present to the rest of the class. Most of the children should be familiar with the story about Jonah so they should be able to present their portion of the lesson with some confidence. Use the story line/script below to help each small group with their presentation. Each small group will have just a couple, brief speaking parts they may assign to children in their group – they may have Small Group Shepherds help out if they need them.

## Bible Lesson – 10 minutes

### Script for Small Group #1, first mini-drama –

#### Cast –

- Jonah – any boy who can read
- Message Deliverer – Any child who can read
- Jonah's Message Service Workers – non-speaking small group members - have non-speaking Small Group Members hold up their signs and act like office workers

Jonah – **What a beautiful day this is! I love days like today! I'm so glad I decided to start my own message delivery service! Of course it helps a lot God chose me to be a prophet. I love delivering God's messages! I heard a saying that describes my messenger service. It was something like, “Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night will keep these brave workers from quickly delivering their messages”. I think I'll add it to my business cards, but have it say, “Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night will keep brave Jonah from quickly completing his appointed mission!” I like the ring of that!**

(Have Jonah's Message Service Workers walking and standing in the background and have them hold their signs for all to see)

Message Deliverer – **Jonah, I have a new . . .**

Jonah – **Oh, good morning! I’m so glad to see you! I have an important job for you. I would like you to put my new slogan on all my signs, business cards, maybe even sew it to my robe – my robes would look so cool with my slogan on them! What do you think of my new slogan? “Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night will keep brave Jonah from quickly completing his appointed mission!” Isn’t it perfect?!!!**

Message Deliverer – **Great slogan, sir. I have a message for you! It is a message from the Lord!**

Jonah – **A message from the Lord? Well, let’s have it! I love delivering messages from the Lord and nothing, neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom will keep me from bravely and swiftly delivering God’s message! Let’s see . . . it says God has noticed the sins of the people of Ninevah and has decided to destroy that wicked city. (Pause and look up at your Message Deliverer) Yes, the people of Nineveh are very wicked; it would be hard to not notice their sins. They definitely deserve to be destroyed. Oh, there is more to this message. God wants me to take this message to Nineveh. This can’t be right. You better go check your message receiving machines as this can not possibly be the correct message. God couldn’t possibly want me to go to Nineveh!**

Message Deliverer – **The message has been checked and verified, sir. It is the correct message and it is from the Lord. Do you want me to make your travel arrangements?**

Jonah – **Travel arrangements?!!! If I deliver this message to the wicked people of Nineveh they might repent. What do you think God would do if they repented?**

Message Deliverer – **He would likely forgive them, sir.**

Jonah – **Of course He would forgive them, but they don’t deserve to be forgiven. They are Ninevites. They are wicked, sinful Ninevites.**

Message Deliverer – **Yes, sir. Well, like your new slogan says, “Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night will keep brave Jonah from quickly completing his appointed mission! Now, about those travel arrangements . . .**

Jonah – **Forget the slogan! I don't know who ever came up with such a ridiculous slogan. I'll make my own travel arrangements!**  
(Stomp away from the "office") **I'll make my own travel arrangements to take me far, far away from Nineveh!**

(Have Jonah, Message Deliverer and Jonah's Message Service Workers return to their seats)

## Script for Small Group #2, second mini-drama –

### Cast –

- Jonah – any boy who can read
- Cruise Ship Director – any child who can read
- Cruise ship Sailors - have non-speaking Small Group Members act like sailors on the ship

Cruise Ship Director – **Hello Mr. Jonah! We are so happy to have you join us on our cruise to Tarshish! We have many events planned for your enjoyment on this cruise and hope you will find Fun-Time Cruises the best in the Mediterranean Sea!**

(Send in Cruise Ship Sailors and have them walk around and stand in the background holding their signs)

Jonah – **Ah, yes, thank you.**

Cruise Ship Director – **Are you traveling for business or pleasure?**

Jonah – **Business or pleasure?**

Cruise Ship Director – **What is your job? Are you meeting with clients on our ship or in Tarshish?**

Jonah – **My job? Ah, I uh, I'm traveling alone.**

Cruise Ship Director – **Well, we have many activities planned and even our guests who travel alone find them to be quite enjoyable. For example we have shuffleboard competitions and power walking around the ship! You are sure to find our menu to be quite delicious . . .**

Jonah – **It all sounds wonderful, but I will likely rest in my room on this cruise.** (Have Jonah walk to one side of the stage area and act like he is sleeping)

Cruise Ship Director – (Gaze at the “sky” and look concerned about the storm blowing up) **The sky is getting very, very dark and the wind is starting to blow. Look at those waves! We have a storm brewing!**

(Look around at the Cruise Ship Sailors and have them look very afraid and sea sick)

Cruise Ship Director – **I’ve sailed many years, but have never been in a storm like this! Maybe we should throw everything overboard we don’t have fastened down! Sailors! Hurry and get rid of everything we don’t have fastened down! Our ship is going to break apart if we don’t do something very, very fast!**

(Have Cruise Ship Sailors act like they are throwing things overboard)

Cruise Ship Director – (Panicky and extremely over-dramatic) **We’ve thrown everything off we didn’t have fastened down and yet the storm is even more fierce! Our ship will break apart! Sailors! Quickly pray to your gods for help! Everyone needs to try and pray for help or we are doomed for sure!**

(Look around and see the Sailors praying, but Jonah is missing. Have the Cruise Ship Director go find Jonah)

Cruise Ship Director – (Panicky and extremely over-dramatic) **Mr. Jonah! We are in a terrible storm. Our ship is sure to break. Pray to your God and ask for help! Maybe your God will have pity on us and save us from this storm.**

Jonah – **This storm is my fault. I serve the God of Heaven. He wanted me to deliver a message to the people in Nineveh, but instead I chose to run away and not deliver God’s message.**

Cruise Ship Director – (Panicky, shocked and extremely over-dramatic) **How could you choose to not obey God? What can we do to end this storm and be saved?**

Jonah – **Throw me into the sea and the storm will stop.**

Cruise Ship Director – **Well, I don’t really want to throw you into the sea, but we have thrown overboard everything else we didn’t have fastened down. Sailors, on the count of three let’s throw Jonah into the sea. Ready? One, two and three!**

(Have the Cruise Ship Director and Sailors “throw” Jonah into the sea)

Cruise Ship Director – **The storm has stopped! The wind has stopped blowing! The waves are calm! We are saved from the storm! Jonah’s God must be the real God to make a storm like this end and save us from the storm!**

(Have Jonah, Cruise Ship Director and Sailors return to their seats)

Script for Small Group #3, third mini-drama –

**Cast –**

- Jonah – any boy who can read
- The Belly of the Big Fish – non-speaking Small Group Members - have non-speaking Small Group Members hold the black table cloths to make a “cave/belly of the fish” for Jonah to sit in for his part of the lesson
- Inhabitants of the belly of the big fish – non-speaking Small Group Members – they will hold their seaweed, fish, other “inhabitants” in the belly of the big fish

Jonah – **I was a prophet for God. I took God’s messages to people. I even had a slogan, “Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night will keep brave Jonah from quickly completing his appointed mission!” But here I am, sinking to the bottom of the sea. I am not brave. I am not completing my appointed mission. Oh Lord, I’m sorry for not obeying You. Please forgive me! Please help me! Please save me!**

(Have the belly of the Big Fish and the Inhabitants of the belly of the Big Fish take their places in the middle of the stage area.)

Jonah – **I’m almost out of air . . . oh no! Not only will I drown in the depth of the sea, but there is a huge, giant fish and it is going to swallow me! Ahhhghhh!!!!**

(Have the “Big Fish” “swallow” Jonah – have Jonah enter the “belly” of the big fish)

Jonah – (Open your eyes, look all around and realize you can breathe in the belly of the big fish) **I’m still alive! I’m not dead! I’m inside the belly of a really big fish!** (Act like you are looking around and smelling a very strong, smelly, fish smell) **It’s wet and slimy and smelly in the belly of the big fish. I see lots of seaweed and fish and it looks like there is an octopus in here, too! What**

**difference does it make what it looks and smells like in this big fish's belly? I'm still alive! I need to talk with God.**

(Have Jonah get on his knees)

Jonah – **Oh Lord, I was drowning, but You heard my prayer and helped me! I was sinking to the bottom of the sea and You saved me! You are the Lord my God and from the bottom of the sea You heard my prayer! Some people worship useless, worthless, fake gods and do not know the Grace You want to give to them. I will thank You! I will sing songs of praise to You! I will keep my promises and serve You! You are the God Who saves!**

(Have Jonah begin to sing a praise song then look up surprised as the big fish “spits” Jonah out on dry land – have Jonah “jump” out of the “belly” of the big fish)

Jonah – **Something strange is happening! The big fish sounds like it isn't feeling too well. I know I'm not the best singer in the world, but I didn't think my voice would make the big fish literally sick! It – is – spitting me out!!!! I'm not in the belly of the big fish any longer! I'm on dry land! I'm alive! (Look at your hands and wrinkle your nose) I'm rather slimy and smelly, but I'm alive and on dry land!!!**

(Have Jonah, the belly of the Big Fish and the other Inhabitants of the Big Fish return to their seats)

#### Script for Small Group #4 – fourth mini-drama –

##### Cast –

- Jonah – any boy who can read
- Citizen of Nineveh – any child who can read
- End of the World Sign Bearers – non-speaking Small Group Members - have non-speaking Small Group Members wear their end of the world signs and have them stand and walk in the background.

Jonah – **God saved me from the big fish's belly! He forgave me! I talked with God, asked for forgiveness and He forgave me! Not only did He forgive me, but He has given me another chance to deliver His message to Nineveh! This time I'll live up to my slogan. “Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night**

**will keep brave Jonah from quickly completing his appointed mission!" Ah, there is Nineveh. It certainly is a very large city. It will probably take me three days just to deliver God's warning to the entire city. Well, I might as well get started. The "quicker" I deliver the message, the "quicker" I can go home and get away from Nineveh!**

(Send in the End of the World Sign Bearers and have them walk in an oval behind Jonah wearing their signs)

**Jonah – "In 40 days Nineveh will be destroyed!" "In 40 days Nineveh will be destroyed!" "In 40 days Nineveh will be destroyed!"**

**Citizen of Nineveh – Excuse me, sir, but what are you saying about Nineveh being destroyed in 40 days? What do you mean when you say, "destroyed"?**

**Jonah – I mean "destroyed"! Flattened! Leveled! Completely obliterated! In 40 days Nineveh will be destroyed!**

**Citizen of Nineveh – (Shocked, stunned, overly dramatic) Flattened?!!! Leveled?!!! Completely obliterated?!!!! Why? Why is this going to happen to my town? The place I live? Why is Nineveh going to be destroyed in 40 days? Who is going to destroy Nineveh? Are you going to destroy my home in 40 days? You don't look big enough to flatten, level and completely obliterate Nineveh.**

**Jonah – No, I'm not the one who will destroy Nineveh. God has seen how wicked, sinful and evil you Ninevites are and God has decided to destroy your city in 40 days. Excuse me, but I still have two more days to make it through all of Nineveh. God told me to deliver His message and deliver His message is exactly what I'm going to do! (Move on) "In 40 days Nineveh will be destroyed!" "In 40 days Nineveh will be destroyed!" "In 40 days Nineveh will be destroyed!"**

**Citizen of Nineveh – (Stunned) God is destroying Nineveh in 40 days? Nineveh will be flattened, leveled and completely obliterated because we are wicked, sinful and evil people? What will we do? What can we do?**

(Send Jonah, Citizen of Nineveh and End of the World Sign Bearers back to their seats)

## Script for Small Group #5 – fifth mini-drama –

### Cast –

- King of Nineveh – any boy who can read
- Citizen of Nineveh #1 – any child who can read
- Citizen of Nineveh #2 – any child who can read
- People of Nineveh – non-speaking Small Group Members - have non-speaking Small Group Members put cut pieces of black table cloth on themselves and their “animals”
- Animals of Nineveh – non-speaking Small Group Members – will stand still and allow People of Nineveh to put pieces of black table cloth on them

Citizen of Nineveh #1 – **God is going to destroy our city of Nineveh in 40 days!**

Citizen of Nineveh #2 – **Actually Jonah, has been telling us God’s message of destruction for several days now, so Nineveh will be destroyed in 35 days!**

Citizen of Nineveh #1 – **35 days?!!! Whatever will we do?**

Citizen of Nineveh #2 – **Jonah said God was going to destroy our city because He saw how wicked, sinful and evil we are.**

Citizen of Nineveh #1 – **We are wicked, sinful and evil. It probably wasn’t too difficult for God to see how bad we are. What will we do? We are wicked, sinful and evil. We deserve to be destroyed.**

Citizen of Nineveh #2 – **I wonder.**

Citizen of Nineveh #1 – **You wonder what? There isn’t much to wonder about because we are very wicked, sinful and evil and do deserve to be destroyed.**

Citizen of Nineveh #2 – **I don’t wonder about if we deserve to be destroyed, but I wonder if God would show us mercy and forgive us if we asked Him for forgiveness.**

Citizen of Nineveh #1 – **Ask for forgiveness? We would have to do more than just ask for forgiveness. We would have to show we really were sorry for being so wicked, sinful and evil.**

Citizen of Nineveh #2 – **Yes! I say you’ve got it! Spread the word! Tell every citizen of Nineveh to ask God for forgiveness, put on black clothes and not eat any food to show God we believe His message and are sorry for being so wicked, sinful and evil.**

Citizen of Nineveh #1 – **Yes, if we all do these things, maybe God will not destroy, flatten, level and completely obliterate us!**

(Send in People of Nineveh and Animals of Nineveh and have them “wear” black table cloth pieces)

King of Nineveh – **I’ve noticed something very odd today. Everywhere I look I see people wearing black clothes. Did I mess a memo about it being “Wear black clothing day”?**

Citizen of Nineveh #2 – **No, sir. God has noticed how wicked, sinful and evil the people of our city are and He sent His messenger, Jonah, to tell us He was going to destroy Nineveh.**

King of Nineveh – **Destroy Nineveh? What do you mean by, “destroy”?**

Citizen of Nineveh #1 – **Flatten! Level! Completely obliterate! You know, destroy!**

King of Nineveh – **Flatten, level, completely obliterate! I don’t think I like the sounds of that! What are we going to do?**

Citizen of Nineveh #2 – **We thought if we all wore black clothes, didn’t eat and told God we were sorry, maybe He would take pity on us and not destroy us.**

King of Nineveh – **Yes! Exactly! I say you’ve got it! Send out a message to all the people of Nineveh. Tell them they are not to let any person or animal eat or drink anything. Cover all people and animals with black cloth and everyone must call out to God with all their hearts. Tell them to stop harming others and doing evil things and who knows? Maybe God will show us mercy. Maybe God will take pity on us and forgive us instead of destroying our city of Nineveh with all of us in it.**

(Have Citizens of Nineveh #1 and #2, the King of Nineveh, People of Nineveh and Animals of Nineveh all return to their seats)

## Script for Small Group #6 – sixth mini-drama –

### Cast –

- Jonah – any boy who can read
- God – any boy who can read
- Vine, Worm and People – non-speaking Small Group Members - have non-speaking Small Group Members hold up their vines, worms and pictures of the people of Nineveh
- Sun – non-speaking Small Group Member will hold up their picture of a sun over Jonah

Jonah – **Just like I suspected. If the people of Nineveh knew God was going to destroy them, they would repent, stop doing evil and God would see and forgive them. I knew this would happen.**

God – **Jonah, why are you angry?**

Jonah – **I'm angry because I knew this would happen. This is why I didn't want to deliver Your message the first time You told me to do so. I knew You are full of Grace. I knew You are tender and kind. I knew You are slow to get angry. I knew You are full of love. I knew You would take pity on those wicked, evil and sinful people of Nineveh because You didn't really want to destroy them, even though they deserved to be destroyed, flattened, leveled and completely obliterated. I knew this would happen.**

God – **Jonah, you do not have any right to be angry.**

Jonah – **I don't have any right to be angry? I don't have any right to be angry?!!! I'd say I have a lot of right to be angry. First of all I was in a scary boat ride, got thrown into the sea, swallowed by a very big fish – which by the way I still smell like rotten fish and slimy seaweed! I had to travel over the desert to this wicked, evil town of Nineveh, it took three days to warn them all of their impending doom, only to have You decide to forgive them. I'd say I have a lot to be angry about! Well, maybe I'll just sit outside town for awhile, maybe You will decide to change Your mind again and send fire from Heaven to zap those Ninevites with complete obliteration! Which, by the way is exactly what they deserve!**

(Send in Sun Small Group Member and have them stand behind Jonah and hold their picture of the sun over Jonah)

Jonah – **That sun sure is hot!**

(Send in Vine Small Group Member and have them stand behind Jonah and hold their “vine” between Jonah and the “sun”)

Jonah – **Oh, look! A vine is growing nearby and it will give me shade from this hot sun! I’m much more comfortable waiting here to see what God will do with that nice vine for shade! How nice!**

(Send in Worm Small Group Member and have them sit next to the “vine” and then have the vine “wilt” and fall to the floor)

Jonah – **Oh! A worm ate my vine and now I am sitting here in the hot sun once again with no shade to keep me cool! It is so hot! My poor, poor vine!**

God – **Jonah, why are you so upset about a vine?**

Jonah – **I cared about my vine! It grew and gave me shade from the hot, hot sun. My poor vine has died.**

(Send in People Small Group Members and have them walk and stand in the background holding up their pictures of the people of Nineveh)

God – **Jonah, you didn’t make the vine grow and yet you cared about a simple vine. The great city of Nineveh has more than 120,000 people but you do not care about the people. You want me to destroy, flatten, level and completely obliterate all those people when they turned from their sin and asked for my Grace. Shouldn’t I care about all those people and give them forgiveness when they ask for forgiveness, just as I forgave you when you asked for forgiveness?**

(Have Jonah, God, Sun, Vine, Worm and People Small Group Members return to their seats)

Wrap-up by teacher –

Say – **The Bible doesn't tell us if Jonah realized he needed to rejoice when the people of Nineveh listened to his message, turned from their sin and asked God for forgiveness or if he chose to remain angry God forgave the Ninevites. Jonah knew he could turn to God and ask for forgiveness for his sin and he knew God would forgive him, but didn't want God to give His forgiveness to the people in Nineveh. The people in Nineveh learned about God and His forgiveness when they chose to turn from their sin and ask for forgiveness. They learned they could ask God for forgiveness and God would hear and forgive them.**

Thank children for participating and close in prayer – **Thank you all for helping with our Bible lesson today! We can all choose to talk with God and when we do our lives will change in amazing ways! One of those wonderful changes will be we will know we can choose to talk with God and ask Him for forgiveness when we sin just like Jonah and the people in Nineveh did! Thank You God we can choose to talk with You and really know You! Thank You for Your love for us, we love You, too! Amen!**

Dismiss children to their small groups for Small Group Time.

**Small group time - 25 minutes**

- Catch up/greet visitors/pray
- work through application flyer
- choose activity to do for coming week
- work on memory verse

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(Grace, Relationships, Obedience, Walk of  
Faithfulness, Talking with God, Heart for God and  
Others)

Talking with God - Elementary

Third quarter – Talking with God Changes Me!

Week 6 - Optional Second Service

Scripture – Psalm 66:16-20; 67

Lesson – When I choose to talk with God, I'll ask God  
for forgiveness and tell others how they can be  
forgiven, too!

Verse – Philippians 1:3-7a

## Opening

- Music
- Verse – Philippians 1:3-7a -/ **I thank my God every time I remember you./ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy./ I am happy because you have joined me in spreading the good news./ You have done so from the first day until now./ I am sure that the One who began a good work in you will carry it on until it is completed./ That will be on the day Christ Jesus returns./ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you./ I love you with all my heart.**
  
- Game – My Choice Relay
  - Supplies –
    - Sheets of paper – 10 sheets of the same color for one team, and another set of a different color for each other team
    - Buckets - one per team
    - Sets of, “My Choice Cards” - one per team
  - Set up –
    - Write verse, following breaks above, on 10 sheets of paper - one per team (plan to make teams with 10 children on each team, if you have a small group of children, make teams of three or five to a team.)
    - Mix verse sheets and place each team’s verse in a bucket
    - print and cut apart, “My Choice Cards” - one set per team
      - My Choice Cards –
        - skip or take giant steps
        - run while spinning or move like a robot
        - move like a robot or skip
        - take slow motion steps or take baby steps
        - take baby steps or crawl
        - crawl or run backward
        - run backward or walk on tiptoes
        - walk on tiptoe's or hop on one leg
        - hop on one leg or crabwalk
        - crab walk or take slow motion steps
  - Directions –
    - Each team will line up opposite of their bucket
    - Each team needs an adult leader to hand choice cards to racers and read the card for the child if necessary
    - First players will look at card number one and choose a way they will race to their bucket, retrieve one verse paper and race back to their team the same way so the next player can receive their card and choose how they will race. This

continues until all players have run and all verse papers have been collected

- When a team has all their verse papers, they may assemble their verse in correct order
- Play again if you have time.

## Bible lesson

- Supplies –
  - VeggieTales DVD – Jonah
    - Start time – 36:37 – Jonah admits the storm is his fault
    - End time – 53:44 – Jonah gets a second chance

Greet children and gather them in sharing circles (sitting knee to knee with the others in their small group).

Say – **This morning we got to see how choosing to talk with God changes our lives by making us people who know asking God for forgiveness brings us forgiveness and a second chance. Let's watch a clip about someone who learned this very thing!**

(Show video clip)

Say – **When Jonah asked God for forgiveness, God forgave him and gave him a second chance. God hears our prayers for forgiveness and gives us second chances, too! David knew this when he wrote Psalm 66 and Psalm 67! What an amazing blessing it is to know God will hear our prayers for forgiveness and give us second chances, too! I want to know what God's Word says! (Read Psalm 66:16-20; 67)**

Say – **David spent a lot of time talking with God and this changed his life in many ways! One way it changed his life was by helping him know God would hear his prayers for forgiveness and forgive him! David wanted people everywhere to know God would forgive, them, too! When we make the choice to be people who talk with God, we will know He will forgive us when we ask for forgiveness! This will change our lives! We will want to let others know how God forgave us and how they can be forgiven by God, too! David wanted to tell others what God did for him by forgiving him. Let's be like David! In your small group, beginning with your Small Group Leader, tell about a time when you know God forgave you! (Allow a few moments for groups to do this)**

Say – **David knew if he didn't ask for forgiveness for his sin, God wouldn't hear his prayers and forgive him. David knew he had to ask God for**

forgiveness and he knew when he did God would forgive him. David wanted to praise God for forgiving him! Let's praise God like David did! **"Thank You Lord for listening to and hearing my prayers!"** (Pause and allow children to repeat prayer) **"Thank You Lord for forgiving me!"** (Pause and allow children to repeat prayer) **"Thank You Lord for so freely giving me Your love!"** (Pause and allow children to repeat prayer)

Say – **David knew God blessed him and all people with His love and he knew this would show all the people in the world God had the power to save! David knew he could ask for forgiveness and he also wanted all people everywhere to know God would forgive them, too! When we talk with God and our lives change because we know He will forgive us, we will want others to be forgiven by God, too! Let's pray for others, people we know who have not chosen to ask God for forgiveness yet. Let's also pray for the people who will receive clean water through our project with Samaritan's Purse and pray they will learn about God's love and forgiveness and choose to ask God for forgiveness!** (Give groups time to spend in praying for others to know God's forgiveness and love.)

Say – **David said knowing God would forgive everyone brought him so much joy that he wanted to sing praises to God! Let's be like David and sing praises to God for His amazing love and forgiveness He has for everyone! In your small groups, pick a song of praise you will lead the rest of us in singing.** (Allow a moment for groups to pick a song they want to lead the rest of the class in singing one verse of to praise God – it is okay if more than one group picks the same song.)

Ask – **What difference does it make when you choose to talk with God it will change your life so you become a person who knows God will hear and forgive you and hear and forgive others as well? Talk about this in your small group for a moment.** (Give groups a few moments to do this)

Ask – **Who will tell me what your group talked about?** (Allow a few children to share)

Ask – **How does it change your everyday life to know God wants to forgive you and others? Talk about this in your small group.** (Allow groups a moment to do this)

Ask – **Who will tell me what your group talked about?** (Allow a few children to share)

Say – **David said we need to choose to ask God for forgiveness and we will be blessed when we do because God will forgive us! When we spend time talking with God we will want to ask Him for forgiveness for us when we sin and forgiveness for others as well and our lives will be changed! Small Group Leaders, go around your circle and pray the following from Psalm 66 for each child in your group, by name, “Dear LORD, please help \_\_\_\_\_ know You hear his/her prayers and will always love him/her!”** (Allow groups a few moments to do this, and then when they have all finished, close in prayer.)

### Extra time craft –

- supplies –
  - Posters – collect the posters children made to let the church know of their service project
  - Stickers
  - Markers
  - Paper
  - Two-sided tape
  - Scissors
- directions –
  - Have children update their posters to let people know how things are coming along with raising money to help provide safe, clean drinking water for families in Africa

Say – **We absolutely can know God will hear our prayers for forgiveness and forgive us as well as He will hear other’s prayers and forgive them, too! Knowing this changes our lives! Update your poster to let people in church know how things are coming along with raising money to help provide safe, clean drinking water for families in Africa. Remember to pray this week for these families so they will learn about God’s love for them and choose to ask Him for forgiveness!**

If you have extra time play your memory verse game again.