



KNOWING GOD SERIES



from **Godly Pearls**

Making Jesus Christ known, one story at a time.



A NOTE TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS:

Thank you for downloading this resource.

This first page contains different sections to help you when planning for your class, for example, Home-school, Sunday School, Bible Study, Bible Club, Mission class, etc.

We suggest that you print pages 2 - 6 and distribute them to your students.



Topic: God forgives.



Read the Bible References: The Bible references can be read by different children if possible. Or the teacher can read them.



Goal of Lesson:

- To explain to students that God forgives.



Lesson Takeaway:

God is the only One who can forgive us our sins. He is always ready and willing to forgive when we ask Him.



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Date:



Topic:

God forgives.



Bible References:

Psalm 103: 8 – 18; Isaiah 55:7;
Ephesians 1:7; 1 John 1:9 – 10.



What does it mean to forgive?

Forgiveness is necessary where there is an offence or wrongdoing.

To forgive is to overlook a fault, to let go of a wrong committed against us, or to let go of anger and desire for revenge.

Forgiveness involves showing grace and giving someone a second chance to make right what was wrong.

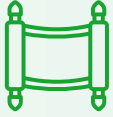
Forgiveness gives someone the ability to move forward from guilt; it sets someone free from pain and brings healing and restoration to a broken friendship or relationship.

When we sin against God, we have broken his commandments and thus, broken his trust and relationship with us.

For us to get back in good terms and fellowship with God, we need to ask God to forgive us of our sin.

When we do, God forgives us and restores us back into fellowship with Him.





How did God show His forgiveness in the Old Testament?

To forgive is God's nature. Let's see some examples of when God forgave people in the Old Testament.

1. Nineveh's repentance

The people in the city of Nineveh were very wicked and God was about to judge them for their sins and wickedness. But God wanted to give them a chance to turn away from their sins and turn to Him. So, He sent Prophet Jonah to them.

When Jonah told them about God's judgement, they were very sorry for their sins. They repented and asked God to forgive them and God forgave them (Jonah 3:5 – 10).

2. The people of Israel's cycle of sin and repentance

The people of Israel had a history and pattern of breaking God's commands for them, crying out to God for forgiveness, and after a short time, they went right back to the sin again. They asked for forgiveness again and the cycle continued (Psalm 106: 32 – 46). God was not happy with how the people of Israel responded to His love for them, but one thing was constant – whenever they cried out to God in repentance, asking for forgiveness, God forgave them.

3. King David returns to God

In Psalm 51:1 – 10, the bible records a beautiful prayer of repentance from King David. King David had committed a terrible sin by taking another man's wife for himself and then, organizing for the man to be killed to cover up his sin. God was not happy with David, and he sent Prophet Nathan to let him know. David was very sorry for what he did. He cried and prayed and asked God for forgiveness. God forgave David.





How did God show His forgiveness in the New Testament?

The forgiveness of God continues to shine through in the New Testament.

1. Saul of Tarsus was forgiven

In Acts 9:1 – 9, Saul of Tarsus, who persecuted followers of Jesus, was travelling to Damascus to do more harm to believers. On his way, Jesus showed himself to Saul through a bright light and a voice. After the encounter, Saul received forgiveness from God. He became a changed man.

2. An adulterous woman forgiven

In John 8:2 – 11, a woman was caught in adultery. Some teachers of the law wanted to stone her according to the law. But Jesus gave her a second chance. He forgave her and let her go free.

3. A paralysed man received forgiveness

When four friends brought their sick and paralysed friend to Jesus, the man was healed and forgiven (Mark 2:1 – 12).



How has God been showing His forgiveness to us today?

Just as God forgave in the Old and New Testament periods in the bible, God still forgives today. In 1 John 1:9, the bible says, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”.

This is true today.





How has God been showing His forgiveness to us today? (contd.)

When we sin against God and sincerely ask for forgiveness, God forgives us.

Unforgiveness of sin brings shame and guilt; it is like a heavy burden on our heart.

Forgiveness from God takes away the shame and guilt; the burden is taken away from our heart, and we feel peaceful and joyful again.

God is the only One who can forgive us of our sins. We are cleansed from our sin through the blood of Jesus (1 John 1:7).



How should you respond to the forgiveness of God?

God is the only One who can forgive you of your sin. Confess your sin to God and ask Him to forgive you. When you offend someone, ask for their forgiveness too.

When someone offends you, be quick to forgive them just as God forgives you. God forgives whenever we ask Him, so, don't forget to thank God for His forgiveness.

Don't take the forgiveness of God for granted. Ask Him for grace to live a life that brings glory to Him instead of deliberately saying yes to sin because you know that God will always forgive you (Romans 6:1,2).





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Memorize:

Psalm 86:5 – For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.



Questions:

1. Mention three examples where God forgave people of their sins in the bible.
2. How can you be sure that God has forgiven you of your sin when you ask Him?



Remember:

God is the only One who can forgive us our sins. He is always ready and willing to forgive when we ask Him.



Let us pray: Dear God, thank You because of Your love and mercy. Thank You because through the blood of Your Son, Jesus, I can be forgiven of my sin. I ask that you please forgive me of all my sins today in Jesus' name, amen.



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