

2 Corinthians 7:10 NIV

Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

Unit 18: The People Prepare

Unit Description: God had made good on His promise to bring the people back into the land, but they were still waiting on another promise: for God to send the ultimate Rescuer. God's people began to prepare for the Messiah's arrival, but even so, as always, they couldn't escape the allure of sin.

Big Picture Question: How should we feel when we sin? When we sin, we should feel sorry that we have disobeyed God and want to turn from our sin because we love Him.



SESSION 1: Esther Saved Her People Esther



SESSION 2: Nehemiah Rebuilt the Walls Nehemiah 1–7



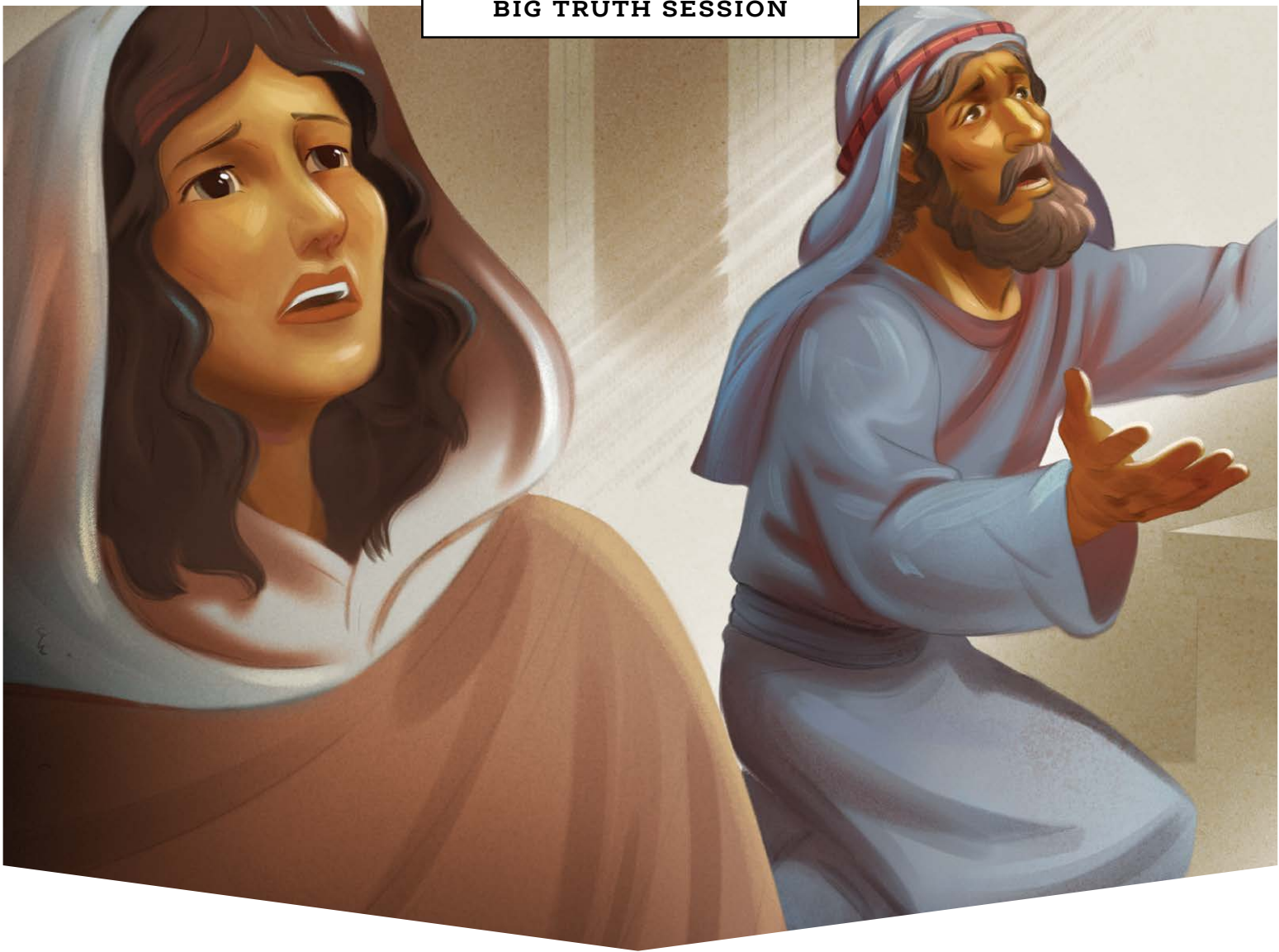
SESSION 3: Ezra Read the Law Ezra 7–10; Nehemiah 8



SESSION 4: The People Promised to Be Faithful Nehemiah 9–10



SESSION 5: We Should Be Sorry for Sin Romans 8



UNIT 18 | SESSION 5

WE SHOULD BE SORRY FOR SIN

ROMANS 8

KEY PASSAGE:

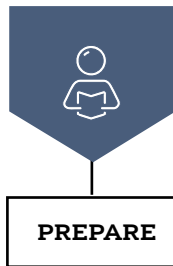
2 Corinthians 7:10

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

How should we feel when we sin? When we sin, we should feel sorry that we have disobeyed God and want to turn from our sin because we love Him.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

God sent Jesus to take the punishment our sin deserves. Because of Jesus, we have forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Through God's Spirit, we have the power to turn away from sin and live to bring glory to God.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

Coming face-to-face with sin in our lives often leads to one of two responses: It may lead to feelings of guilt and shame that cause us to either run and hide or to simply stop trying and give ourselves over to a particular pattern of sin. Or it may lead to a place of genuine confession and repentance followed by a deep trust in the power of God to help us walk in freedom.

Romans 8 provides for us a warning against living according to the flesh, but it also declares a promise that we can cling to in our battle against sin.

Romans 8:8-9 says, “Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to him.”

These verses give surprising hope to the believer battling sin in his or her own life. The hope comes in the form of the Spirit of God, alive and present in the follower of Christ.

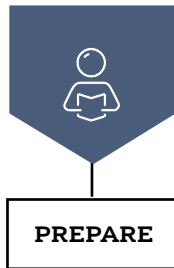
What help is this in our battle against sin? It is everything! The promise of the Spirit of God living in a believer offers hope by way of the power of God—powerful enough to defeat the devil and raise Jesus from the dead—is alive and working to fight sin in our lives.

Paul goes a step further, too. Not only is the Spirit of God at work in the heart of the believer allowing us to battle against sin, but the Spirit works in such a way that we can actually please God.

We can have hope in our battle against sin because the Lord has given us Himself in such a way that by His power at work in us, we can battle against sin and live a life pleasing to Him. “And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then he who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through his Spirit who lives in you” (Romans 8:11).

DOCTRINE TO KNOW

Guilt and shame: All humans are guilty because of sin, but those who feel the shame of their sin and repent will receive the Lord’s compassion.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- “We Need a Savior” activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)

- 8- to 12-foot rope
- masking tape or bandana

Session Starter (Option 2)

- old T-shirts, 1 per kid
- new T-shirts, 1 per kid



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- countdown video

Big Picture Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- “We Should Be Sorry for Sin” video
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- wrapped gift (optional)

Questions from Kids

- “Unit 18, Session 5” questions from kids video

Key Passage Activity

- Key Passage Poster
- “Lead Us To Salvation (2 Corinthians 7:10)” song
- worship song of your choice (optional)
- dry erase board
- dry erase marker



LOVE

Review & Bible skills

- Small Group Timeline and Map Set
- world map



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- hole punch
- yarn

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- Big Picture Question Poster
- index cards, 12

Journal and Prayer

- Journal Page
- “Crossword Challenge” activity page



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “ Have you ever felt sorry for doing something wrong, but then did the same thing again? How did you feel when you did it again? ”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “We Need a Savior” on the activity page.

SAY “ Today, we will hear a story from the Bible that reminds us that even though we struggle with sin, we can have new life in Jesus. ”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: TUG OF WAR



Before the session, use masking tape or a bandana to label the center of the rope. Form kids into two equal teams. For a large group, create several equal sized teams and play multiple rounds of tug of war.

Place a team on each side of the rope. Place an adult leader by the center of the rope. At the signal, direct teams to work together and pull as hard as they can to try to get the bandana to cross where the adult leader is standing. The team that does this first, wins.

(Safety tip: Play this game on a soft surface.)

SAY “ The struggle with sin can be a lot like this game of tug of war. But the good news is that because of Jesus, we no longer have to be controlled by sin. In today’s Bible story, we will learn how Jesus sets us free from the power of sin. ”

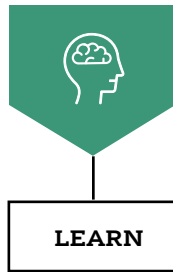
OPTION 2: PUT OFF, PUT ON

Place two piles of new T-shirts on one side of the room and place two piles of old shirts on the other side. Form kids into two or more equal sized teams and direct them to line up one behind the other.

Challenge kids to race to put on the old T-shirt, run across the room, take off the old T-shirt, put on the new T-shirt, and race back to their team to tag the next kid. Continue playing until one team is the first to have all kids complete the race.

SAY “ When we feel sorry for our sin, we recognize that we need forgiveness. But we also need to be made new and be given a heart that wants to live for God. In today’s Bible story, we will learn how new life in Jesus gives us the power to put off our old sinful desires and walk in new desires that help us live for God. ”





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “ Welcome kids! I’m so glad you’re here today! My name is [your name], and today we are going to study a story from the Bible together. If you brought your Bibles today, will you hold them up? [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.]

Have you ever had to apologize for something you did? How did it make you feel to apologize? [Allow kids to respond.] Sometimes saying ‘I’m sorry’ is hard, but it’s important that we recognize how we have sinned against God and against others. God’s Word tells us that we should be sorry when we sin, that we should confess our sin, and then turn away from sin. God is faithful to forgive us when we confess sin and place faith in Jesus.

Today’s Bible story takes us to the New Testament as we read from the Book of Romans. Romans was a letter written by the apostle Paul to the church in Rome. God used Paul to share important truths about how Christians are to live because of what Jesus has done for us. ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

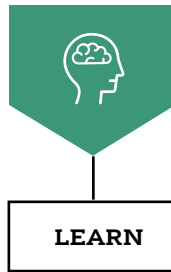
SAY “ Let’s recite our big truth question and answer together. **How should we feel when we sin? When we sin, we should feel sorry that we have disobeyed God and want to turn from our sin because we love Him.**

Today, our Bible story will help us learn that those who follow Jesus want to live differently. Because of God’s great mercy shown to us through Jesus, we have new hearts that want to obey God and not let sin rule over us. This doesn’t mean we won’t sin, but it does mean we ask God to help us turn from our sin because we love Him. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “ The Bible reminds us over and over again that people are not able to perfectly obey God and remain faithful to Him. But God remained faithful. He kept His promises and sent Jesus to obey the law perfectly for us. We cannot earn salvation, but if we believe in Jesus and all He has done for us, we can be saved from our sin. Today’s Bible story teaches us that Jesus not only saves us from the death sin brings, but also saves us to live rightly for God now. ”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Romans 8. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “We Should Be Sorry for Sin.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

WE SHOULD BE SORRY FOR SIN

“Over and over in the Old Testament, God’s people promised to be faithful. God gave His law to show what He requires, but again and again, the people failed to obey perfectly. They rebelled and turned against God. Even when they wanted to obey God, they could never be good enough—no matter how hard they tried! Their sin made them guilty before God. They needed help. They needed a Savior.

At just the right time, God kept His promise to send a Savior. Jesus came to rescue sinners. Sin is powerful, but Jesus is more powerful. A believer named Paul wrote about sin in a letter to Christians in Rome. Paul said that Jesus was the Savior the people had been waiting for.

This is what Paul said: “Now there is no condemnation—no judgment or punishment—for those who have been saved by faith in Jesus. Why? Because the new law—the law of the Spirit—has set you free from the old law. The old law was written down, and it helped you understand that you are a sinner. The old law brought sin and death. God sent Jesus to defeat sin and death so that we could be made righteous by faith in Him and live through the Spirit. God has put the new law in our hearts. The new law brings life and peace.”

So Paul talked about two ways of living: living by doing what our sinful self wants or living by doing what God wants. Since Jesus frees us from the power of sin, we can say no to sin. God gives us His Spirit and power to live in a way that honors God.

Paul wanted to be clear: Being not guilty before God doesn’t mean we should keep on sinning. God’s Spirit in us gives us power to turn away from sin and obey God. When we let the Spirit lead us, we prove to be children of God.

God doesn’t just change something in us; He changes us. God gives us a new heart—new desires and a new way of thinking. This is a miraculous gift from God. We still struggle with sin, but now what is most true about us is not that we are sinners but that we belong to Jesus.

Christ Connection: God sent Jesus to take the punishment our sin deserves. Because of Jesus, we have forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Through God’s Spirit, we have the power to turn away from sin and live to bring glory to God. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Display a gift: Display a beautifully wrapped gift. Tell kids that you are going to share about the greatest gift anyone could ever receive.

Contrast the two laws: Create a chart to show the differences in the old law and the law of the Spirit.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Paul begins Romans 8 with some amazing news! There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. What does it mean that we no longer have condemnation? [Allow responses.] It means that those who have trusted in Jesus no longer face the punishment sin deserves but instead have been found innocent. Jesus perfectly obeyed God’s law and took our punishment for us when He died on the cross.

What does Romans 8:11 say? [Ask a volunteer to read Romans 8:11 and allow responses.] Paul reminds us that by faith in Jesus, His Spirit now lives in us and brings us new life. This is an important truth in the life of the believer because now we have the power to say no to sin. Because of what Jesus has done for us, the Spirit not only gives us new life but also helps us fight against sin.

What are the two ways of living Paul wrote about? [Ask a volunteer to read Romans 8: 13.] We can either live by following our sinful desires or live by the Spirit. If we live by obeying our sinful desires, then we will die. But if we live by the Spirit, and fight against sin by obeying God’s Word, we will live. Only Jesus can set us free from the law of sin and death. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ God sent Jesus to take the punishment our sin deserves. Because of Jesus, we have forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Through God’s Spirit, we have the power to turn away from sin and live to bring glory to God. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 18, Session 5” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. How does the Holy Spirit give us power?
2. Can you think of a time that the Spirit helped you turn away from sin? What happened?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Point out that missionaries David and Lark Washington were able to get out of the quarantine and follow up with some of the individuals David met while sitting on his ladder reading his Bible. Tell kids that Stephen and Erin Spencer continue to check on the elderly lady from the Southeast Asia village. Remind kids that many people believed in Jesus when they saw miracles happen as the elderly lady prayed.

SAY “ We can thank God and praise Him for the way He has led people to believe in Jesus through the sharing of His Word and the prayers said. But there are still many people who need to know the hope of Jesus. Many people are without hope because of government unrest and they believe in



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

| many gods instead of the one true God. ”

Lead the kids in prayer, asking that God will continue to help the Washingtons and Spencers as they work in Southeast Asia. Pray for the elderly lady and other believers as they continue to tell other people in the village about Jesus.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud 2 Corinthians 7:10 together.

| **SAY** “ This is our final time practicing this key passage. Let’s complete this key passage challenge and see if you can remember all of it! ”

Write out the key passage on a dry erase board. Say the verse together as a group one time. Erase one word and say the key passage again, then erase another word and say the key passage again. Continue erasing words and saying the key passage until the group says the key passage completely, without any words on the board.

Lead kids to sing “Lead Us To Salvation (2 Corinthians 7:10).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

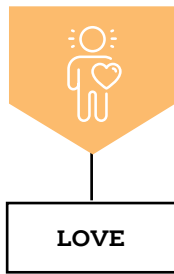
7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

| **SAY** “ Thank You, Lord, for Your love, mercy, and grace in our lives. Thank You for giving us sorrow for our sin that leads to repentance. Help us live by the Spirit and honor You. Amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the New Testament Mediterranean Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Romans 8. Explain that the Book of Romans was a letter written by Paul to the church in Rome. Remind kids that Paul was a missionary who wrote many of the New Testament books.

Consider comparing the New Testament Mediterranean Map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where these stories took place. (Tip: Locate the areas in and around modern-day Rome [B1].)

Choose a volunteer to read aloud Romans 8:9.

SAY “ God spoke through Paul to teach us that if we have accepted Jesus as Savior, we no longer live under the power and control of sin. Rather, we live under the power of the Spirit. We have the power, through the Spirit, to say no to sin and choose to live according to what God says is right.

When we experience true grief over our sin and turn to God in repentance, we get to experience the freedom and joy of living for the Lord. The old law no longer condemns us because Jesus fulfilled the law for us and died to save us from sin’s punishment. ”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

| **SAY** “ Can we ever do enough good things to earn salvation? Why not? ”

Remind kids that no one can keep God’s law perfectly and no one can do enough good things to earn salvation. Lead kids to understand that Jesus obeyed God perfectly for us and died on the cross for our sins.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Eph. 2:8-9.)

| **SAY** “ When God gives us new life in Jesus, does that mean we will never sin again? Why not? ”

Help kids understand that until Jesus returns, we will continue to fight against sin. Remind kids that life in the Spirit means that sin no longer rules over us and that in Christ we now have the power to turn away from sin and obey God.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 6:11-14.)

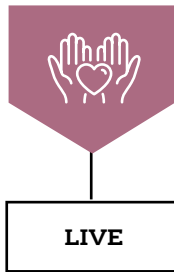
| **SAY** “ How do we walk according to the Spirit? ”

Lead kids to understand that Romans 8:5 teaches us that we must have our minds set on the things of the Spirit so that we can walk by the Spirit. Help kids understand that when we place faith in Jesus, the Spirit gives us new life and helps our minds love the things of God. Encourage kids to walk by the Spirit by confessing sin, relying on Him for truth, allowing Him to be their Helper, and obeying God’s Word.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Gal. 5:16-18.)

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: MISSIONS BANNER



Form groups of three kids. Provide each group with paper, markers, scissors, and a hole punch. Lead each group to designate a kid to trace his hand, another to trace her foot, and the third kid to draw a heart. Ask kids who drew a hand to write *Serve One Another* on the hand. Lead kids who traced their feet to write *Share the Gospel* on the feet. Finally, tell the kids who drew hearts to write *Believe In Jesus* on the hearts.

Direct kids to cut out their drawings and then to punch a hole on each hand, foot, and heart. Invite the groups to work together to string the yarn through the holes to create one banner. Provide help as needed. Hang the banner somewhere in the room using tape.

SAY “ Missionaries serve others, share the gospel, and pray for others to believe in Jesus. Every time we see this banner we should be reminded to pray for mission work and to also ask God to help us tell others about Jesus. ”

OPTION 2: LIFE THROUGH THE SPIRIT



Create a set of index cards and write the following on different cards: arguing, 2 Corinthians 13:11, jealousy, James 3:14-15, anger, Ephesians 4:31-32, idolatry, Colossians 3:5, lying, Colossians 3:9-10, unforgiveness, Colossians 3:12-13. Form six groups and distribute the cards with a Bible reference to each group.

Tape the remaining cards to a wall or display them on a table. Lead groups to look up their verses and find the card that describes the opposite way of living through the Spirit that corresponds to their card. Once all group have located the correct card, invite each group to share the contrasting natures of living in the flesh or living through the Spirit.

SAY “ The amazing gift of the gospel not only saves us from the consequences of sin, but the grace of the gospel also helps us live through the Spirit. Because Jesus lives in us, we have the power to turn from sin and live for Him. ”

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, thanking God for the Spirit dwelling in believers. As time allows, lead kids to complete “Crossword Challenge” on the activity page.



JOURNAL PAGE

1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
2. What does this story teach me about myself?
3. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
4. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
5. How does this story help me to live on mission better?



Unit 18 • Session 5

WE SHOULD BE SORRY FOR SIN

Romans 8

**HOW SHOULD WE FEEL WHEN WE SIN?
WHEN WE SIN, WE SHOULD FEEL SORRY THAT WE HAVE DISOBEYED GOD AND
WANT TO TURN FROM OUR SIN BECAUSE WE LOVE HIM.**

Over and over in the Old Testament, God's people promised to be faithful. God gave His law to show what He requires, but the people failed to obey perfectly. Even when they wanted to obey God, they could never be good enough. Their sin made them guilty before God. They needed a Savior.

God kept His promise to send a Savior. Jesus came to rescue sinners. A believer named Paul wrote about sin in a letter to Christians in Rome. Paul said that Jesus was the Savior the people had been waiting for.

Paul said: "Now there is no condemnation—no judgment or punishment—for those who have been saved by faith in Jesus. Why? Because the new law—the law of the Spirit—has set you free from the old law. The old law was written down, and it helped you understand that you are a sinner. God sent Jesus to defeat sin and death so that we could be made righteous by faith in Him and live through the Spirit. God has put the new law in our hearts. The new law brings life and peace."

So Paul talked about two ways of living: by doing what our sinful self wants or by doing what God wants. God gives us His Spirit and power to live in a way that honors God.

God's Spirit in us gives us power to turn away from sin and obey God. God gives us a new heart—new desires and a new way of thinking. We still struggle with sin, but now what is most true about us is not that we are sinners but that we belong to Jesus.

Christ Connection: God sent Jesus to take the punishment our sin deserves. Because of Jesus, we have forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Through God's Spirit, we have the power to turn away from sin and live to bring glory to God.

FOLD

We Need a Savior | Match each Bible verse to the correct description.

Romans 3:23

Isaiah 59:2

Ephesians 2:1-2

Galatians 2:16

Ephesians 2:8

Acts 4:11-12

Works of the law cannot save us.

We cannot save ourselves.

We were dead in our sins before.

Only Jesus can save people from sin and death.

Everyone has sinned.

Sin separates us from God.

Crossword Challenge | Complete the puzzle using the clues below and these words: eternal, faithful, new, power, punishment, rebelled, Savior, sin, Spirit, sorry.

ACROSS

3. We should be _____ for our sin.
5. God promised to send a _____ to save us from sin and death.
6. God gives us a _____ heart.
8. God's people _____ and turned away from Him.
9. God's people promised to be _____.

DOWN

1. Jesus frees us from the _____ of sin.
2. There is no _____ for those in Christ.
3. Jesus gives us His _____ so we can live to honor Him.
4. _____ makes us guilty before God.
7. Jesus gives us _____ life.



NAME:



theGOSPELPROJECT.

We Should Be Sorry for Sin

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- All people sin and need a Savior. God sent Jesus to rescue sinners.
- Paul wrote a letter to Christians in Rome and told them that Jesus gives us the power to say no to sin.
- God's Spirit gives us power to obey God and live in a way that honors Him.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

God sent Jesus to take the punishment our sin deserves. Because of Jesus, we have forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Through God's Spirit, we have the power to turn away from sin and live to bring glory to God.

KEY PASSAGE:

2 Corinthians 7:10

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

How should we feel when we sin? When we sin, we should feel sorry that we have disobeyed God and want to turn from our sin because we love Him.

