

Unit 33: The Church Goes

Unit Description: Paul had been one of the leaders persecuting the church, but when he met Jesus on the road to Damascus, all of that changed. Paul became a follower of Jesus and would spend the rest of his life on mission, telling others about the One he used to persecute. Jesus can truly save anyone.

Big Picture Question: Who can be saved? Anyone who trusts in Jesus can be forgiven of their sins and be right with God.



SESSION 1: Paul Became a Christian

Acts 9



SESSION 2: Paul Became a Missionary

Acts 13-14



SESSION 3: Jesus Can Forgive Anyone

2 Corinthians 5



UNIT 33 | SESSION 3

JESUS CAN FORGIVE ANYONE

2 CORINTHIANS 5

KEY PASSAGE: For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. John 3:17 NIV

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who can be saved? Anyone who trusts in Jesus can be forgiven of their sins and be right with God.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Jesus can forgive anyone. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and invites us into His family. He calls us to tell others about Him so they might believe in Jesus and be saved.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

One theme Paul wrote about in the book of 2 Corinthians is the forgiveness of God through Jesus Christ. He shared of his own need for reconciliation with God and how he—like us—had been tasked with taking part in the Lord’s ministry of reconciliation. Being a part of God’s family means bringing others into His kingdom, too.

How can anyone be forgiven of their sins? What does it look like to live as one forgiven by God?

Like Paul, we are all in need of the Lord’s forgiveness because we have all sinned against Him. Paul reminded the Corinthian church that forgiveness of sins has been made possible through Christ’s perfect sacrifice. It is faith in Jesus alone that reconciles us to God, and it is faith in Jesus by which our sins are not counted against us. Through Jesus’ willing sacrifice on our behalf, He was made sin so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. Thus, forgiveness is given to anyone who turns to Christ as Savior and Lord.

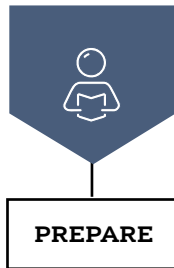
Paul continued to encourage the Corinthians to live as forgiven people who are compelled by the love of Christ to share the gospel with others. No longer should we live for ourselves, seeking after the ways of the world. Rather, we live as new creations,

set on making much of Jesus and declaring how only He can reconcile us to God. The hearts of forgiven people saved by grace have a deep desire for others to know the love of Jesus and be saved.

As you prepare for this session, consider the forgiveness you’ve received from God. How has repentance played a role in your life as a believer? What is your testimony of being brought from death to life, and how can you share it with the kids in your class? Ask God to make the reality of His power to save and forgive real in the hearts and minds of your class today.

DOCTRINE TO KNOW

Christ as Reconciliation: Through Christ’s death, God provides the means whereby the broken relationship between God and humanity is restored and renewed.



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

- ☐ “New Life” activity page

Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ index cards, 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

- ☐ “Jesus Can Forgive Anyone” video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

Questions from Kids

- ☐ “Unit 33, Session 3” questions from kids video

Missions Moment

- ☐ “Betsey Stockton Photo” printable

Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ “Through Him (John 3:17)” song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)
- ☐ envelopes, 1 per kid



LOVE

Review & Bible skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set
- ☐ world map



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ hula hoops, 5 or 6
- ☐ music

Journal and Prayer

- ☐ Journal Page
- ☐ “Send Good News” 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 “Do you remember a time when someone forgave you or you forgave someone? How did you feel?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “New Life” on the activity page.

SAY “Today, we will learn that anyone who receives forgiveness of sins through faith in Jesus is also given new life in Him.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: MADE ACCEPTABLE



Invite kids to brainstorm behaviors or attitudes that are not acceptable in their home, school, activities, or church. For example, kids may discuss how talking back to an adult is not acceptable or throwing a bat is not acceptable at a baseball game. Lead kids to share why these behaviors and attitudes are not acceptable. Then discuss opposite behaviors and attitudes that are acceptable. For example, instead of throwing a bat, a kid could take a moment to “cool off” in the dugout and choose to display an attitude that would honor Jesus.

SAY “We all have moments when we display unacceptable behaviors and attitudes. Why? [Allow responses.] We are all sinners, and we fail to perfectly love God and others. Today, we will learn that even though we are sinful, God has made a way for us to be made acceptable to Him. It’s not something we can do, but what Jesus has done for us. Let’s learn how God makes us acceptable and how we are changed to live in ways that honor Him.”

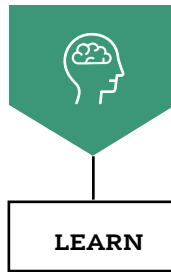
☐ OPTION 2: REUNITED

Before the session, write items that go together on individual index cards. For example, you could write peanut butter, jelly, dog, puppy, bicycle, helmet, baseball bat, baseball, pen, paper, etc. Make enough cards for each kid. Be sure that each item only has one match.

Lead kids to spread out around the room. Provide each kid with an index card. Instruct kids to read their card and when you say “Go,” lead kids to find the other card that pairs with theirs. Swap cards and play again as time allows.

SAY “Each card had a perfect match. Peanut butter goes with jelly, and a baseball bat goes with a baseball. Finding your match reunited the lost pairs back together. Today, we will learn that only Jesus can reunite us with God. We were created to live with God forever, yet sin separated us from Him. Let’s get ready to hear how Jesus forgives us so we can be reunited to 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 “Hello! It is so great to see you! My name is [your name]. I am so excited to share a story from God’s Word with you from the book of 2 Corinthians. Did you bring your Bible with you? If so, please take it out. [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.]

The book of 2 Corinthians was written by Paul. Last week, we learned that God called Paul to be a missionary and Corinth was one of the cities where Paul preached the gospel. Later, he wrote the church letters to help them in their faith. Let’s get ready to learn how Paul told them that Jesus can forgive anyone. ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

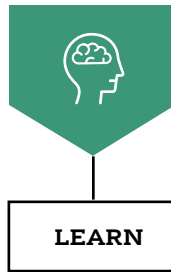
SAY “Who can answer our big picture question: **Who can be saved?** [Allow responses.] Our answer is, **Anyone who trusts in Jesus can be forgiven of their sins and be right with God.**

Our story today helps us understand why trusting in Jesus is the only way to be forgiven and saved from our sins. We can’t do good deeds or go to church enough to have our sins forgiven. Only faith in Jesus forgives us of our sins and makes us right with God. Anyone who trusts in Jesus is made acceptable or made right with God. As we’ll learn, God sees us as righteous because of our faith in Jesus. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

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

SAY “Over the past couple of weeks, we have learned how God changed Paul’s life. He went from a persecutor of the church to one who was now planting churches in new cities beyond Judea and Samaria. Paul’s life had changed so much that he was willing to risk losing his life for the sake of the gospel. Today, we will learn how Paul wrote to the Corinthian church to remind them of Jesus’ forgiveness and encourage them to make the gospel known to others. ”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

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

Open your Bible to 2 Corinthians 5. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus Can Forgive Anyone.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

JESUS CAN FORGIVE ANYONE

“ In his second letter to the church at Corinth, Paul wrote to encourage the believers. Paul reminded them that because of Jesus, God forgives our sin and invites us into His family forever. He loves us, and He calls all of us to tell people about Jesus so they might believe and become part of God’s family too.

Paul wrote, “We know what it is like to fear God because we will have to answer for our sins.” **Paul used to be an enemy of God, but Jesus saved him! Apart from Jesus, all sinners are enemies of God. Paul wanted to share the good news that Jesus came into the world to rescue sinners.**

Paul wrote, “We are compelled to obey God and to share Christ because He loves us, and we love Him. **We know this truth: Jesus died for all, and therefore all died. And He died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for the one who died for them and was raised.**” Paul wanted others to hear the gospel so they might hear and believe in Jesus.

Jesus changes everything. To some people, Paul seemed like he was out of his mind. Why would anyone be content with a difficult life? But Paul believed any suffering was worth it if it brought glory to God. **Paul wrote, “Once we follow Jesus, we see the world differently. If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!”**

Then Paul wrote, “Everything is from God, who has brought us to Himself through Christ.” Something amazing happened when Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead. **Jesus gave up His life to rescue sinners, and God was pleased with Jesus’ sacrifice.**

Paul said that Christ has made us acceptable to God, and He gives us the mission of bringing others to Him through Christ. “So we are ambassadors for Christ. **God can use us to reach other people. We can tell others, ‘Be made right with God. He made Jesus—who never sinned—to be sin for us, so that in Jesus we might become the righteousness of God.’”**

Christ Connection: Jesus can forgive anyone. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and invites us into His family. He calls us to tell others about Him so they might believe in Jesus and be saved. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Use movement: Walk from one side of the room to the other when you teach how Jesus makes us acceptable to God and gives us the mission of bringing others to Him.

Invite kids: Present an invitation to trust in Jesus after you tell the Bible story. Remind kids that anyone can be saved and that Jesus loves them so much He died for their sins.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Paul had experienced the extraordinary love of God and he wanted others to experience it too. He wrote that he was compelled by God’s love to share Jesus with others. When we come to know the love God has for us through Jesus, we want to tell others about Him too. How did God show His love for us through Jesus? Look at 2 Corinthians 5:14-15. **[Choose a volunteer to read aloud 2 Corinthians 5:14-15.]** God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to die for our sin.

When we trust in Jesus and believe He died for our sin, we are forgiven and our lives are never the same. How do our lives change? Look at 2 Corinthians 5:15-17. **[Choose a volunteer to read aloud 2 Corinthians 5:15-17.]** Jesus died for us so that sin no longer rules our lives. We have a different desire now: to follow Jesus and live for Him. He makes us into a new creation with new desires. Now, we want our lives to show others what He is like and that He is better than anything the world has to offer.

Paul also told the Corinthian church that once we have experienced forgiveness and new life in Jesus, we become His ambassadors. This means we represent Jesus to the world and live to tell others about Him. What did Paul say we should tell others? Look at 2 Corinthians 5:20. **[Choose a volunteer to read aloud 2 Corinthians 5:20.]** We should tell others how they can be reconciled to God. This means we tell other people how Jesus forgives us of our sin so that our relationship with God can be restored or made right.

Jesus died on the cross for our sin. He was sinless but took our punishment for sin. When we trust in Jesus, we are forgiven and God no longer counts our sin against us. Now, God looks at us and doesn’t see our sin, but Jesus’ righteousness. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ Jesus can forgive anyone. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and invites us into His family. He calls us to tell others about Him so they might believe in Jesus and be saved. ”

(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 33, Session 3” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. How do we become new creations in Christ?
2. Why is Jesus worth giving our lives to?



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Display the “Betsey Stockton Photo” as you tell the kids about the missionary.

SAY “When Betsey Stockton became a Christian she wanted to be a missionary in Africa. However, God ended up leading Betsey to serve as a missionary in Hawaii. While traveling to Hawaii, Betsey became friends with Charles Samuel Stewart and his wife, Harriet. Betsey taught at the school she helped start until Harriet became sick and needed to return home. Even though Betsey had to leave Hawaii, her work helped train other teachers and more than 8,000 Hawaiians were taught in the school by 1826.”

Tell kids that later Betsey became a teacher to preschoolers in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Share that Betsey went on to teach in other schools, but she eventually moved back to Princeton. Explain that at Princeton, Betsey served as founder, director, and active teacher in schools for the African American community. Tell kids that she also helped start the first African American Presbyterian Church in Princeton, which is now known as the Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church. Close in prayer, asking God to send more missionaries into the world who will teach others the good news of Jesus Christ.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Before the session, write one word from the key passage on a sheet of paper, fold it, and put it in an envelope. Address the envelopes to each kid in your group. Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud John 3:17 together.

SAY “Paul wrote the letter to the Corinthian church to remind them of Jesus’ forgiveness and to encourage them to share the gospel with others, knowing only Jesus can save us from sin.”

Scatter the envelopes addressed to each kid on the floor. Explain that kids must open each envelope one at a time and put them in order of the key passage.

Lead kids to sing “Through Him (John 3:17).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

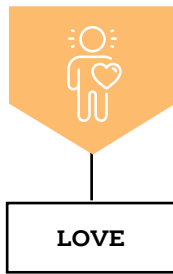
7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “God, thank You for loving us and sending Jesus to die for our sin. Show us who we can share the good news with this week. In Jesus’ name, 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 2 Corinthians 5. Tell kids that Paul preached and lived in Corinth (D5) for a year and a half. Explain that during his time there, he worked as a tentmaker to earn money. Share that the church in Corinth was made of Jewish and Gentile believers.

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 Corinth, Greece.) Choose a volunteer to read aloud 2 Corinthians 5:20-21.

SAY “Paul told the Corinthian believers that God uses Christians to make known His salvation. What a privilege! We who have experienced the forgiveness of God want others to be forgiven as well. We plead with people to be made right with God by trusting in Jesus. Through Jesus’ death, He became like one who had sinned, even though He was sinless. When we trust in Jesus, we become like one who is not guilty of sin.”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “Who did Paul say Jesus died for?”

Remind kids that Jesus died for all people. Discuss how every person is sinful and needs to have their sins forgiven. Tell kids that Jesus took our punishment for sin in our place so that we can be forgiven.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 2 Cor. 5:14.)

SAY “Who or what does your life reveal as important? How are you representing Jesus?”

Answers will vary. Discuss how Paul taught that we are no longer to live for ourselves but for Christ who died for us. Tell kids that we are also His ambassadors or representatives to carry the gospel message to others. Encourage kids to think about how their lives reflect the importance of the gospel and the glory of God.

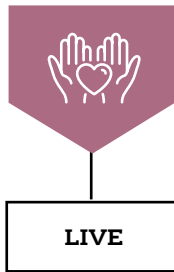
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 2 Cor. 5:20.)

SAY “Have you experienced Jesus’ forgiveness? Why or why not?”

Encourage kids to share how they have trusted in Christ and asked Him for forgiveness. Allow for opportunities to speak with kids who may want to learn more or who have a desire to trust in Christ. Pray with kids and ask the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts, opening their eyes to their need of Jesus.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Acts 10:42-43.)





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ **OPTION 1: MUSICAL ISLANDS**



Remind kids that Betsey Stockton served as a missionary to an island of Hawaii called Maui. Place five or six hula hoops on the floor in a large circle. Explain that kids will play “Musical Islands.” Share that when the music starts, everyone must begin walking around the hula hoops. Tell kids that when the music stops, all kids must jump into an “island” hoop. Explain that if a kid doesn’t fit in a hoop, he is out. Play a few rounds and remove “islands” until kids who remain after each round are trying to squeeze into just one or two islands.

SAY “As the game progressed some of you were left out of an island. It became harder and harder to fit everyone inside the hula hoops. Thankfully, God never leaves us out of the opportunity to find forgiveness through Jesus. Just as Betsey Stockton shared the gospel with the people of Hawaii, we have the opportunity to tell others how Jesus can forgive anyone of their sins.”

☐ **OPTION 2: TESTIMONY TIME**



Before the session, speak to two or three adults in your church who would be willing to share their testimony of coming to faith in Jesus. Invite the guests to share how they heard the gospel message and why they believed it. Challenge kids to listen closely. Encourage kids to ask questions after the adult has shared his or her testimony.

SAY “Every person who has trusted in Jesus heard the gospel from someone. It might have been a family member or a friend or even a stranger. Everyone who hears the gospel and believes in Jesus is forgiven of their sins and given new life in Him. When someone trusts in Jesus, they are now called to share the gospel with others. Pray about who you can share the gospel with this week.”

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, praising God for the forgiveness of our sins and asking Him to give us courage to live for Him. As time allows, lead kids to complete “Send Good News” 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?

FOLD



Unit 33 • Session 3

JESUS CAN FORGIVE ANYONE

2 Corinthians 5

WHO CAN BE SAVED?

**ANYONE WHO TRUSTS IN JESUS CAN BE FORGIVEN OF THEIR SINS
AND BE RIGHT WITH GOD.**

In his second letter to the church at Corinth, Paul wrote to encourage the believers. Paul reminded them that because of Jesus, God forgives our sin and invites us into His family forever. He loves us, and He calls all of us to tell people about Jesus so they might believe and become part of God's family too.

Paul used to be an enemy of God, but Jesus saved him! Apart from Jesus, all sinners are enemies of God. Paul wanted to share the good news that Jesus came into the world to rescue sinners.

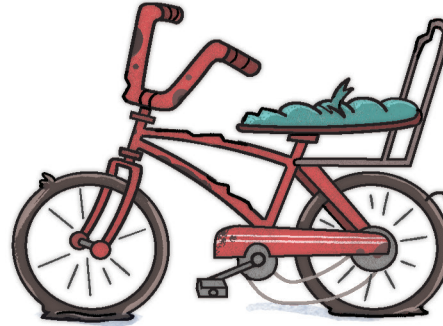
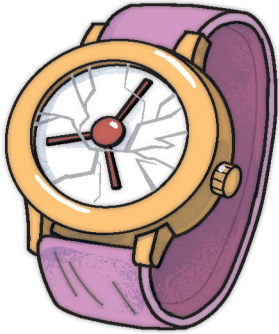
Paul wrote, "We know this truth: Jesus died for all, and therefore all died. And He died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for the one who died for them and was raised."

Jesus changes everything. Paul wrote, "Once we follow Jesus, we see the world differently. If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!"

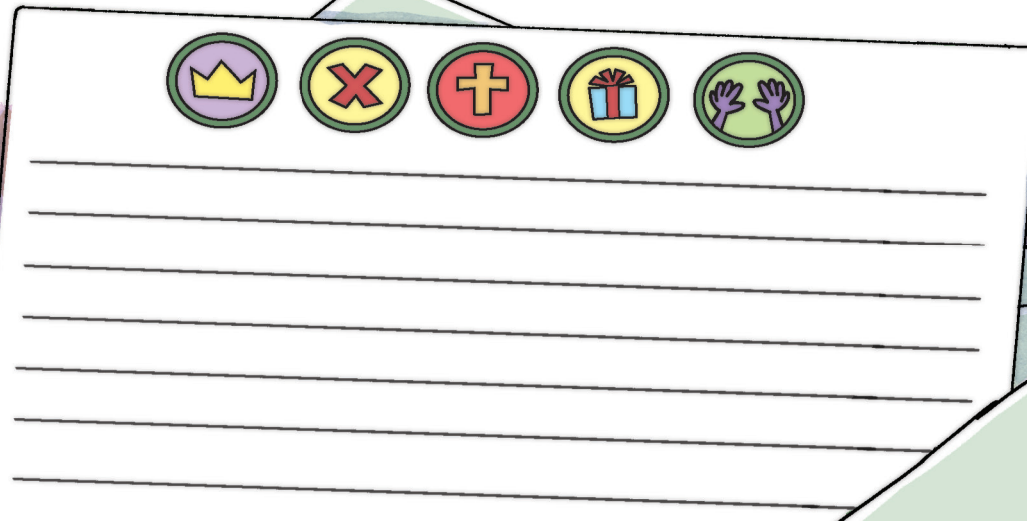
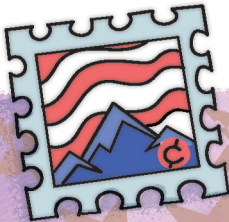
Jesus gave up His life to rescue sinners, and God was pleased with Jesus' sacrifice. Paul said that Christ has made us acceptable to God, and He gives us the mission of bringing others to Him through Christ. God can use us to reach other people. We can tell others, "Be made right with God. He made Jesus—who never sinned—to be sin for us, so that in Jesus we might become the righteousness of God."

Christ Connection: Jesus can forgive anyone. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and invites us into His family. He calls us to tell others about Him so they might believe in Jesus and be saved.

New Life | In Christ, we have forgiveness of sins and new life. Draw how each object would look if it were made new.



Send Good News | Jesus calls us to share the gospel with others. On the space below, write a letter sharing the good news of Jesus with a friend using the icons on the letter as a guide.



NAME: _____



theGOSPELPROJECT

Jesus Can Forgive Anyone

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- Paul sent a letter to remind the church in Corinth that through Jesus, God forgives sin and invites everyone to be a part of His family.
- Paul said that trusting in Jesus changes everything and makes us right with God. Jesus changes our hearts. We become new creations who want to live for God.
- Paul said that God made Jesus sin so we can be made righteous. God gives believers the mission of bringing others to Him through Christ.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Jesus can forgive anyone. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and invites us into His family. He calls us to tell others about Him so they might believe in Jesus and be saved.

KEY PASSAGE: John 3:17

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who can be saved? Anyone who trusts in Jesus can be forgiven of their sins and be right with God.