

WEEK 1

SIN HAS CONSEQUENCES

SIN WILL ALWAYS BE EXPOSED

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

 THE FOUR KEYS . . .

KEY VERSE

Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. Luke 12:2

KEY IDEAS

1. God knows our hearts.
2. Sin cannot be hidden from God.
3. God forgives when we repent.

KEY PASSAGE

Genesis 3:7-19
2 Samuel 12:1-12

KEY PRINCIPLES



EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW . . .

God is the author of the world's story and knows everything that happens in the world and in our own hearts because He created us. We cannot hide our sin from God.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD FEEL . . .

convicted that sin should be confessed because God already knows it and holds us accountable to it.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO . . .

confess their sins to God and to others openly knowing that confession is the first step to repentance and obedience.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD WANT . . .

to repent of their sins and not try to hide them.

INTRODUCTION

All sin has consequences. The consequence of Adam and Eve's sin was that it broke the perfect order and fellowship God created between Himself and all creation. Part of that consequence was that their inner nature was transformed by their rebellion in such a way that all humanity after them inherited a sin nature. We are not sinners because we sin, but we sin because we are sinners. Our sin nature causes us to commit personal sins against God every day. We sometimes try to hide those sins because we are ashamed, just like Adam and Eve tried to hide from God. But God knows all things, even the depths of our hearts, and nothing is hidden from Him. God calls us to confess our sin before Him and before others so that nothing is kept secret. In hiding our sin, we multiply it. God wants us to confess and repent so we can be forgiven. His Word says that if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

OPENING ILLUSTRATION

Begin the lesson by gathering the kids around a table so they can all see the cup you will use for the following illustration. Explain that the cup represents each of us, the coke represents a place where we hide our sin, deep inside our hearts where we don't want anyone to know, and the buttons represent the sin. Tell them you will pour the coke into the cup and drop the buttons in. Watch closely what happens to the buttons. (Teacher note: drop the buttons in quickly before the fizz dissolves and the buttons will rise to the top quickly after. Make sure all kids can see before you pour.) Once the buttons rise, explain that sometimes we think we can get away with hiding our sin, but it will always be exposed eventually. God knows even the darkest places in our hearts where we hide sin, and though we might be able to fool others for a time, God promises that what is done in secret will always be revealed. God offers forgiveness when we confess it and repent.

KEY IDEAS

Read Genesis 3:7-19 and 2 Samuel 12:1-12. Then use the following points for guided discussion.

- God knows our hearts.
 - How is God capable of knowing our hearts? God is our Creator and knows everything about us.
- Sin cannot be hidden from God.
 - What is sin? What is the consequence of it? The Bible defines sin as lawlessness (1 John 3:4) and rebellion against God (Deut. 9:7). It is also described as anything we do that is not from faith (Rom. 14:23), meaning anything we do that is for ourselves and not for God. Romans 6:23 says the wages of sin is death.
 - Are there different types of sin? There is inherited sin, which is the sin nature we are born into because of the original sin committed by Adam and Eve that broke the perfect order of the world God created (Rom. 5:12-14). There is imputed sin which is sin that has been counted against us because of another (Adam). Adam's guilt is counted against us (Rom. 5:18) and makes us guilty before God. Inherited sin affects our character (morally ruined) and imputed sin affects our position before God (guilty). When Jesus took the sins of the world upon Himself on the cross, all sins were placed on Him instead, so sin was then imputed onto Him, but we have to accept His payment in order for it to be credited to us. If we don't, then our sin is still credited against us and we must pay for it. The third type is personal sin. These are the sins we commit every day because of the consequence of our sin nature. Because of all three types, we are guilty before God unless we have trusted in Jesus for payment of our sin debt. If we are in Christ, we have the Holy Spirit, and our position before God has been restored and we can choose whether to commit personal sins or not. The Spirit convicts us when we do, so that we can ask forgiveness, but our position before God remains forgiven because Jesus has paid for all the sins we commit, past, present, and future if we trust in Him.
- God forgives when we repent.
 - How do we repent of sin? Romans 10:9 says that if you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Once you are saved, you need only to ask for God's forgiveness when you sin so that you remain in good fellowship with Him, but you will never lose your salvation as long as you truly believe. (Eph. 1:13-14)

Activity

Explain when we keep sins hidden, we cause damage to our own hearts as well as those around us. Just like a bomb, when it goes off, there's a lot of damage where the bomb was, but there is still plenty of surrounding damage. When we try to hide our sin, we often have to tell more lies and commit more sins to keep the one secret. It makes our hearts cold, keeping us separated from God who forgives and restores us. On a sheet of paper, have the kids each write down unconfessed sins. Encourage them to confess those out loud either to their parents or to the class if they are willing. Explain that God calls us to confess our sins before Him and before others so that we can be held accountable and encouraged to do the right thing.

Prayer

Thank God that He knows the depths of our hearts and exposes sin so that we can confess it and be forgiven. Thank Him for sending us Jesus, who was the perfect payment for our sin. Thank Him for loving us enough to die for us and for offering us forgiveness when we do not deserve it. Ask God to help you confess your sins and not hide them.

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

ACTIVITY

Memorize the key verse Luke 12:2.

Pour some lemon juice into a small cup. Take a paintbrush and dip it into the lemon juice. With the wet paintbrush, write out a sin onto a piece of paper. Using a candle or lighter, apply heat until the paper is completely dry, being careful not to hold it too close that you burn the paper. This should reveal the sin that you wrote down. Explain that all sins we try to hide will eventually be revealed. Use the questions below for further discussion.

DISCUSSION

- **What are some ways you have tried to hide your sin? How was it discovered? If it hasn't yet been discovered, understand that it will be eventually. Use this as an opportunity to confess.**
- **Why is it important to confess our sins to others and not just to God?** It is important to confess our sins to God and repent so that we can be forgiven. But God calls us to go a step further and confess those sins before men (James 5:16). To confess means "to agree" or "to admit". Confessing sin means that we are agreeing with God, saying the same thing God does about that sin. It is to have the same heart as God towards it. If we have the same heart as God toward our sin, we should hate our sin and do all we can to avoid committing it repeatedly. By confessing it to our brothers and sisters, we are being completely honest and they can in turn help encourage us not to commit that sin again. By sharing our sins, we realize that we are not alone in them. Others struggle with sins, too. Sometimes the same ones as us. James is not suggesting that we carelessly confess our sins to just anyone, but to mature believers who will help us seek forgiveness and restoration. This is why the church is important!

PRAYER

Thank God that He forgives when we confess and repent of our sins. Ask Him to help you recognize your sins and be willing to confess them openly to others who can help you walk away from them. Ask God to convict you by the Holy Spirit to do the next right thing and walk in obedience.