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Dear Parent,

Christian parents want to talk about their faith with their children. But they often have difficulty getting started. Christ-Light will help! This year, when we study God's Word at school, your child will bring home a parent message containing a brief summary of the lesson and a suggested activity for you and your child to do together. In these lessons all Bible passages are from the New International Version and all hymnal references are to *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal* unless otherwise indicated.

Please use the parent messages to reinforce and apply what your child has learned about the Word of God.

May God bless you as you carry out the privilege and responsibility of Christian parenting!



Dear Parent,

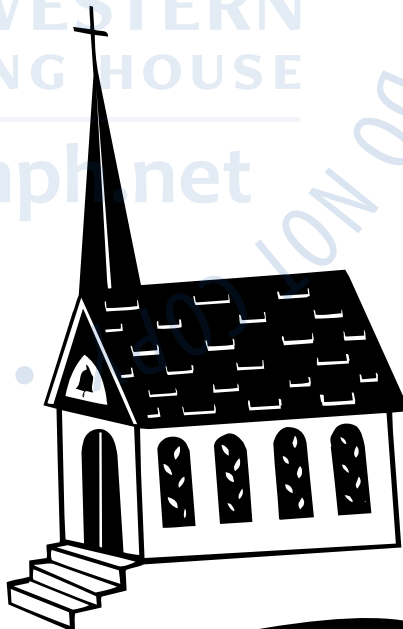
In our lesson today (Acts 9:1-22; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; 2 Corinthians 11:23-28), we learned how Paul responded to God's grace. Paul had been, by his own admission, a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a violent man. But in his unlimited grace, God miraculously converted Paul and chose him to preach the gospel to others. Paul responded with praise, as we see in all his letters, and worshiped God with his whole life.

We too have been miraculously converted. The Holy Spirit has worked through the gospel to make us his own dear children. Our response is the same as Paul's—we worship and praise God in church and with our whole lives.

Over the centuries, the church has designated different seasons that focus on different aspects of God's grace. Ask your child to explain the emphasis of each season and how each season points to God's grace in Jesus our Savior.

- Advent
- Christmas
- Lent
- Easter
- Pentecost

Although we may emphasize different aspects of God's grace at different times of the church year, our love and thanks to God do not change. We praise him for graciously forgiving and saving us.



# Mix and Match



Circle the letter of the correct ending for each phrase. Then put the circled letters in order at the bottom of the page to spell an important truth from this lesson.

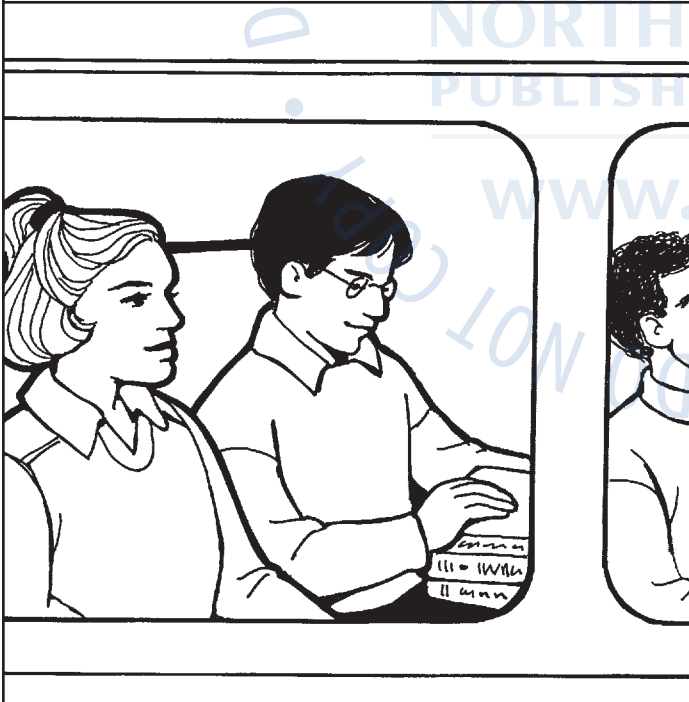
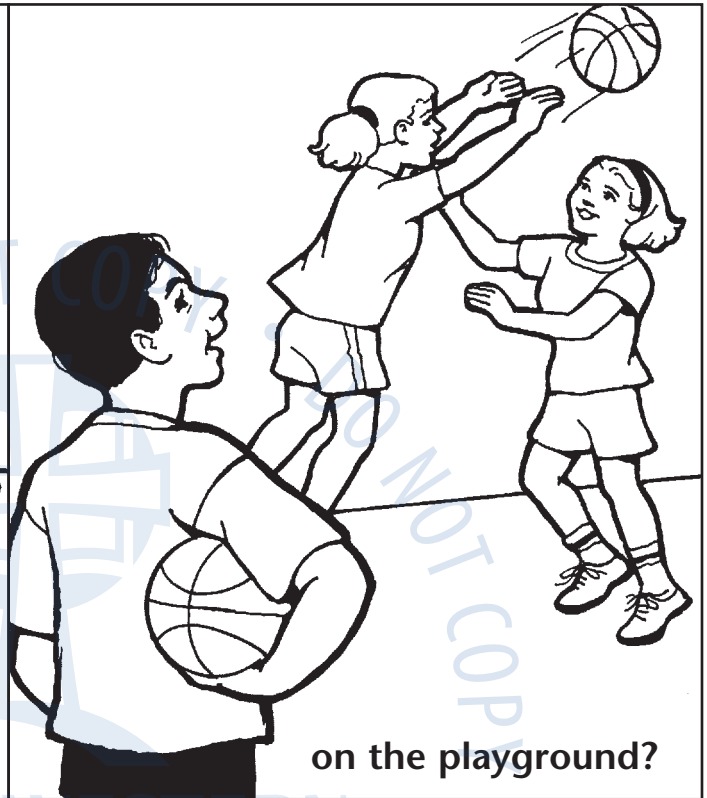
1. Paul went to arrest Christians in  
 U. Jerusalem.                      W. Damascus.                      V. Antioch.
2. A voice asked Paul why he was  
 O. persecuting him.                      P. reading Scripture.                      S. going to Damascus.
3. God brought Paul to  
 P. Jerusalem.                      F. heaven.                      R. faith.
4. After he was converted, Paul admitted that he  
 S. was a sinner.                      T. deserved God's grace.                      U. was not Christian.
5. Because God showed his grace to Paul, Paul  
 G. hated Christians.                      H. praised God.                      I. went to Damascus.
6. Paul showed his gratitude to God by  
 G. blaspheming.                      H. killing Christians.                      I. preaching the gospel.
7. For the sake of the gospel Paul  
 P. endured hardships.                      Q. had an easy life.                      R. gave up preaching.
8. Paul lived his whole life  
 E. for himself.                      F. for his family.                      G. for God.
9. God has  
 M. forgiven us.                      N. saved us.                      O. both M and N.
10. To thank God we  
 B. praise him.                      C. worship him.                      D. both B and C.

**An important truth from this lesson:**

\_\_\_\_\_

1   2   3   4   5   6   7                      8   9   10

# How Can You Worship God . . .



Dear Parent,

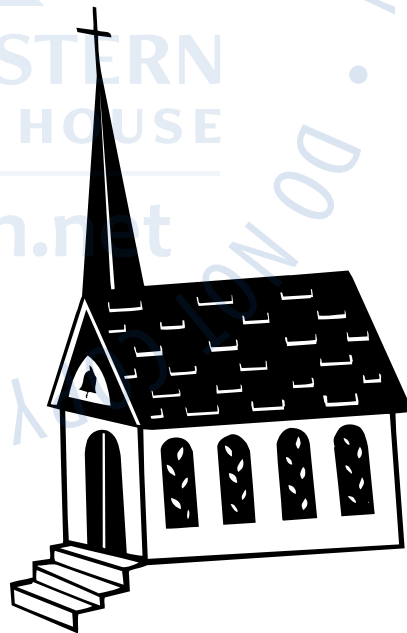
In our lesson today (Nehemiah 8), we learned how the Jews responded to Ezra's preaching of the Word. They listened attentively for five to six hours as Ezra read from the Book of the Law and the Levites made it clear to them. First, the Jews wept over their sins, as revealed by the law. Then they celebrated God's gracious forgiveness, given through the gospel.

In our church services, we have a unique opportunity to hear the law and gospel in the Old Testament, epistle, and gospel readings and as our pastor explains it to us in the sermon.

To help our children concentrate on these lessons and take them to heart, we can do a few things as a family:

- Make sure everyone gets enough sleep the night before.
- Read and discuss the lessons during the week before church. You can find them easily on pages 163-166 of the hymnal.
- Get up early enough so everyone can get ready for church in a relaxed way.
- Get to church early enough so everyone can pray privately, thanking God for the gift of his Word and asking him to open hearts and minds to the beautiful message of the Word.

From weeping to rejoicing—that's the powerful effect God's Word had on the hearts of the Jews who heard it. That powerful message has not changed, and, with the psalmist, we still say, "My heart trembles at your word" (Psalm 119:161).



# Scrbamled Wrds



Unscramble the words to fill in the blanks.

1. A E T R W      The returned exiles assembled before the \_\_\_\_\_ gate.
2. A E R Z      They asked \_\_\_\_\_ to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses.
3. A E I S R P D      Ezra opened the book and \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord.
4. A E N M      The people responded, " \_\_\_\_\_!" and bowed down to the ground.
5. O O N N      Ezra read from the Word from daybreak till \_\_\_\_\_.
6. E I E T V S L      The \_\_\_\_\_ helped the people understand the Word.
7. E I E N S L T D      The people \_\_\_\_\_ attentively all morning.
8. A W L      The people wept when they heard the \_\_\_\_\_.
9. O D L R      Nehemiah told them not to grieve, for the joy of the \_\_\_\_\_ was their strength.
10. O Y J      The people celebrated with \_\_\_\_\_ because they understood the Word.
11. O O H S T B      The people heard that they were to live in \_\_\_\_\_ during the seventh month.
12. E I L D V      They all built booths and \_\_\_\_\_ in them.
13. O O K B      Ezra read from the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Law of God every day.
14. U C C H H R      We hear the law and gospel as God's Word is preached in \_\_\_\_\_.
15. A I O V S R      The law shows us our sin, and the gospel shows us our \_\_\_\_\_.

# Make a Holy Day



When the Jews celebrated the Festival of Booths, they built booths to remind themselves of how God graciously rescued them from Egypt and brought them to the Promised Land. They also celebrated by hearing the Word, enjoying good food and family gatherings, and giving food and gifts to others. Do our holiday celebrations and traditions point us to God's grace? Answer the questions below to help you learn how to make a holiday truly a holy day.

Choose a holiday:

\_\_\_\_\_



What are some of the visual symbols that your family uses?

\_\_\_\_\_

How do these symbols point to God's grace?

\_\_\_\_\_

What are some of your family traditions?

\_\_\_\_\_

How do these traditions point to God's grace?

\_\_\_\_\_

Make up some new symbols and traditions that would point you to God's grace and the real meaning of the holiday.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Dear Parent,

In our lesson today (2 Samuel 11:1-5,14-17,26,27; 12:1-9,13; Psalm 51:1-5), we learned how God showed his grace to David by forgiving his sins of adultery and murder. Then we discussed how we confess our sins during every worship service. Look closely at the confession of sins in the hymnal on page 26. Discuss these questions as a family:

- Why do we call God our "holy and merciful Father"?
- What does it mean to "confess" our sins?
- What do we mean by "I am by nature sinful"?
- In what three ways do we disobey God?
- Not only do we do evil, in what other way do we sin?
- What do we deserve because of our sins?
- Whom do we trust as we beg for God's mercy?
- How can our pastor say we're forgiven?
- When our pastor forgives us, who also forgives us?

What a blessing it is every Sunday to confess all our sins and to hear once again that we're forgiven! And this blessing is not limited to worship services—we repent and receive forgiveness every day.



# Add 'Em Up!



Fill in the blanks below by choosing the correct answer from the list provided. Then place the number of each correct answer in the appropriate lettered blank at the bottom of the page. Finally, see if your answers are correct by adding up each column. The total of each column should be 39. The first one has been done for you.

1. Lord      2. lamb      3. dead      4. Bathsheba      5. David      6. adultery  
7. sinned      8. Nathan      9. son      10. wife      11. Uriah      12. forgiven

(A) 5 saw a beautiful woman named (B) \_\_\_\_\_ bathing. He committed (C) \_\_\_\_\_ with her.

Then he put her husband, (D) \_\_\_\_\_, in the front line of battle. As David had hoped, Uriah

was hit and fell down (E) \_\_\_\_\_. David then made Bathsheba his (F) \_\_\_\_\_, and she had a

(G) \_\_\_\_\_. But what David did displeased the (H) \_\_\_\_\_.

The prophet (I) \_\_\_\_\_ confronted David with his sin by telling him a story about a rich man

who stole a poor man's (J) \_\_\_\_\_. David said, "I have (K) \_\_\_\_\_." Nathan immediately said

that God had (L) \_\_\_\_\_ him.

A 5

G \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_

H \_\_\_\_\_

C \_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_\_\_

D \_\_\_\_\_

J \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_

K \_\_\_\_\_

F \_\_\_\_\_

F \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

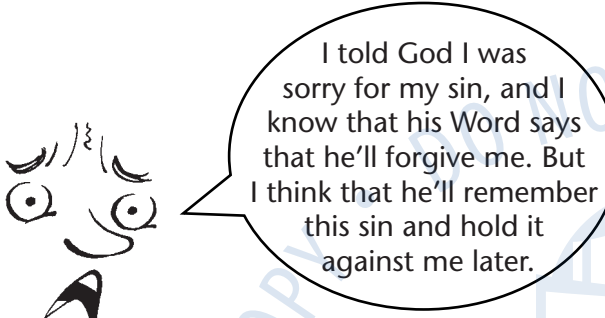
TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

# How Can I Be Sure?



Our pastor assures us that God forgives our sins, just as Nathan assured David. The people below doubt God's forgiveness. Put the suggested passages in your own words to reassure each of them that they are truly forgiven.

1




I told God I was sorry for my sin, and I know that his Word says that he'll forgive me. But I think that he'll remember this sin and hold it against me later.

Micah 7:19

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2



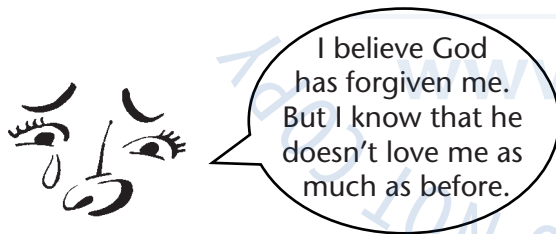
I've repented, but I'm not sure God will forgive all those sins. I was so bad for so long.

Isaiah 1:18

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3




I believe God has forgiven me. But I know that he doesn't love me as much as before.

Jeremiah 31:3

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4



I feel sorry, but I don't think God really cares if I repent or not. He's got a lot of other believers.

Matthew 18:14

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