



Date: _____
Series: Signs on Believers Hwy
Winter Year 4, Lesson 39

God Fixes Broken Hearts

Primary Scripture: Psalm 51:1-4,10-12,17

Key Verse: Psalm 51:17, “The sacrifice pleasing to God is a broken spirit. O, God, you do not despise a broken and sorrowful heart.”

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

We know our heart is broken when we hurt on the inside because of disappointment or pain. Children, as well as adults, are familiar with life situations that can bruise our spirits. However, the good news is that God says he mends those broken hearts. In order for that to happen, those hearts must first be given to him. God is especially interested in mending hearts that have been bruised by sin. It is our human instinct to conceal sin and keep it from God. When that is the case, we keep ourselves from the healing power of his forgiveness. We need to give him our broken hearts, especially our hearts that have been broken by the disobedience of our sin. God can heal us, just as he healed David who was brokenhearted because of his own sin with Bathsheba. In return for our broken hearts, God then gives us a new and pure heart.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus was literally broken for us on the cross when he took the punishment of our sin.

Jesus in us: The spirit of Christ dwells in us giving us a heart that is restored to God and open to his will.

Jesus through us: The witness of Christ can be extended to others so that they, too, are invited to take their broken spirits and broken hearts to God.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbol, such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Supplies: a tube of crescent roll dough, cookie sheet and a heart-shaped cookie cutter

Show kids the biscuit or crescent roll package, remove the label, and prepare to pop it open. Ask kids what they think is inside and take guesses. Then say:

In a moment, we will see if you are right. But first, I want you to think about your heart. I'm not talking about your physical heart inside your chest that pumps blood through your body. Today we will talk about our spiritual hearts. A spiritual heart is a place deep inside us where we make and keep our deep feelings and our desires. The Bible refers to that as the innermost part of our soul that connects us to God.

The Bible says that God can look and see into our hearts. But the Bible also describes some people who had hard hearts. These were people who refused to love God or obey him. Their hearts became hard by refusing to ask God for forgiveness.

God sees people who have hearts that want to be open to him—who want to tell him about any way they are hurting inside. They especially want to tell him about any way they have disobeyed him. They want to let out what is stuffed inside.

Slam the dough container on the edge of a table and it pops open.

Psalm 51:17 says,

“O, God, you do not despise a broken and sorrowful heart.”

How do you think God views a broken heart? God wants our hearts open or broken to him. When we are sad over any sin or wrong that we have done, God wants to take that out of our hearts and change us so we have clean hearts inside.

So let's think about opening our hearts to him. Let's break them open so that we can willingly show him, admit to him, and recognize any of our sins or faults. We can share any sadness with him. God wants to repair our hearts with his love. Let's all worship while we give him our hearts.

“Oh Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will tell about your praise.” (Psalm 51:15)

Let's sing his praise now.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Supplies: cookie sheets, heart-shaped cookie cutters, biscuit dough sold in a break-open tube from Attention Grabber, clean dry surface, rolling pin, access to oven for baking biscuit dough

Sometimes the sadness, hurt or pain that breaks our hearts is caused by our own disobedience. God wants to take these things away and warm our hearts with his love. He is able to take what's inside of us and make it wonderful because he can fill us with his presence.

Roll the dough out. As you speak, use heart-shaped cookie cutters to cut hearts out of the biscuit dough. Show kids the hearts.

What do you think we should do with these? Why don't we put them in the oven and bake them to remember that God warms us with his love. This will remind us of giving God our broken hearts and watching him change them with his love.

Prayer

Dear God, we break open our hearts to you. We admit that there are ways that we have not shown love to you or to others. We admit that sometimes we try to push you away and do not listen to what you have to say. Sometimes we are mean to others because we forget that we are supposed to love them the way you loved us. Our hearts are broken over our sin. Please forgive us because of Jesus' death on the cross. His heart was broken for us. Give us new hearts instead. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

God gives us new hearts and, in a little bit, we will have a chance to see and taste what happened to these biscuits that were warmed in an oven. It reminds us of what God is doing to change our hearts.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Supplies needed: large paper heart and offering plate

Tear the paper heart in half and place it in the bottom of the offering plate. Say:

In the Old Testament, sometimes people gave their offerings to God by giving sacrifices. They would take some of their animals to the temple as a sacrifice to remind them that sin needed to be paid for. King David says this in Psalm 51:16-17,

"You are not happy with any sacrifice... You are not pleased with burnt offerings. The sacrifice pleasing to God is a broken spirit. O, God, you do not despise a broken and sorrowful heart."

When we bring our offerings today, let them remind us that the best offering we can give God is our heart that is open to him. Remember that we are sorry for any disobedience and we are open to how God will mend our hearts.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Supplies: twenty two-liter bottles and balls

These balls can be large like volleyballs or basketballs. Or, they can be small like tennis balls, ping-pong balls and wiffle balls. The more balls you use, the better the game will go. Additionally, varied sizes of balls make the game more interesting.

Bowling Alley Bop

In advance, create two bowling alleys separated with a line through the middle of the room. Within each alley, randomly set up ten empty two-liter bottles throughout the spaces. (See appendix for diagram.)

Divide the group into two teams.

Explain that to start the game, you will divide the balls between the teams and let as many kids as there are balls hold a ball until it is time to start. Once the game starts, kids will toss the balls at the other team's pins while trying not to knock their own pins over.

Appoint a captain for each team. Have the captains come forward, then announce the rules to everyone:

Rules:

- 1) You will have two minutes to discuss strategy with your team.**
- 2) You must stay on your own side of the line.**
- 3) If you accidentally kick down a pin on your own side, it counts against your team.**
- 4) Every time a pin is knocked down, no student can set it up. Only an adult can do this.**
- 5) When the balls are handed out, students are not to toss them until the official "start" is announced.**

You may give the captains some strategy hints before sending them back to their groups.

Once they leave you for their strategy discussion with their teams, try to hold one of the captains back without the other. Tell that captain that if he really wants his team to win, he ought to ASK YOU to assist in setting up his team's bottles once they start to get knocked down. Confused about why you would want to help his/her team by cheating, the captain will accept the offer, ask you to cheat for him and return to discuss strategy as if no discussion had taken place with the leader.

Once the game has gone on for a brief while, act sneaky and creep into the team's alley (whose captain "asked" for help in setting up the pins) and set theirs up as much as possible. The kids on the other team will get upset and cry "foul!" After the game is over, it will be evident that you helped the winning team because more pins were set up on their side.

Teaching Point

When kids are vocal about the game not being fair, say:

We didn't break any rules. It's just that this captain asked me to set up his "pins" if they got knocked down, so I gladly did that. I know that he didn't want his pins knocked down and I thought I could help his team by setting them up. You want to know why I didn't do it for your team? Because you didn't ask me!

Let's figure out how this is like today's lesson. Imagine that all of these pins together are like a person's heart. A heart gets broken when someone gets hurt on the inside or when someone does something bad called sin. God says that he won't turn away from a broken heart but that he will come and help.

The difference here is that we must invite God to come and mend our broken heart. If we don't trust him as Savior, then God can't come and help us. We remain with a broken heart.

However, there are two kinds of broken hearts. One is when we hurt on the inside because something sad happened to us. For example, our well-loved puppy died. Or perhaps someone said hurtful words to us, or our family is having problems. God says that he can help if we give him our broken hearts. But if we keep them to ourselves, he can't fix them.

There is another kind of broken heart that God wants us to give him. This is when we have a broken heart over sin—when we have disobeyed God, or we have shut him out of our lives, or maybe we even tried to hide our sin so he couldn't see. He says, "I want you to have a broken heart because then I can give you forgiveness."

So, just like the adult who helped a team put their bowling pins back together when asked, we have God who wants to help us in the same way.

Bible Presentation:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Supplies: heart mold (empty); heart-shaped ice that has been previously frozen in the mold with dark food coloring added for the effect of a dark, cold and hardened heart; a supply of small chocolate heart candies; a rock; a chair; a hammer; shepherds staff or string instrument; binoculars; headpiece for David; crown

God Fixes Broken Hearts

Interactive Drama

David becomes king – a man after God’s heart

Props: headpiece for David, heart-shaped plastic or pan mold

The Bible describes David as a man after God’s own heart. Perhaps that is why God chose him to lead his people. Just as he had once shepherded his father’s sheep, now he shepherds his heavenly Father’s people.

You may have heard of David, the shepherd boy who defeated a giant and became a king. He was also someone with a very special heart. Today we will tell you the story of David’s heart and how God fixes broken hearts.

Select a child from the audience who will help act out the story as you tell it. Place the headpiece on him once he comes forward and hand him the heart mold.

I’d like to introduce to you, David.

The Bible says in Acts 13:22 that David was a man after God’s own heart. That means that he loved God and had a very special friendship with him. God used him in very wonderful ways. But God also had to break his heart so that he could fix it. This is what happened.

David has a shepherd's heart

Props: shepherd's staff or stringed instrument

Hand volunteer David a shepherd's staff or a stringed instrument.

When David was a little boy, he watched his father's sheep. While doing this, he often played his stringed instrument and thought of a wonderful God who created all that was around him. He sang to God and worshipped him. God was delighted in him. He had a heart that was open to God and a love for God that was expressed in the songs he sang.

David has a courageous heart – He defends against lions and bears

Prop: rock

But as a shepherd, David also learned to use the sling. He would use it to defend his sheep against attacks by lions or bears. To do this, he loaded a rock in his sling, twirled it around over his head to build momentum, and hurled it to drive away the wild animals threatening his herd. He could use this sling with such skill that sometimes he even killed an attacker. He had a strong and courageous heart and, because of that, he could defend his father's sheep.

David has a courageous heart – he defeats Goliath

Prop: rock, adult standing on a chair

One time David's people, called the Israelites, were at war against the Philistines. The Philistines had a fearsome giant on their side whose name was Goliath. Let's see that giant now.

Bring an adult onstage and have him/her stand on a chair.

Look at the mean and ugly face on the giant.

Have the adult respond with a growl.

When David's warriors saw the mighty giant they were expected to fight. They all said, "Ahhh! Run away!"

Have the audience repeat.

Let me hear you, audience! "Ahhhh, run away!"

But the shepherd boy David didn't say this. Instead, he said, "I will fight Goliath because the Lord will give ME the victory!"

He didn't use swords, spears, or armor. Instead, what did he use? Yes, his sling shot! He took the rock, loaded it, swung it over his head and let it go.

Take the rock and in slow motion, bring it up to Goliath's head and simulate the defeat of Goliath.

It looks to me like Goliath is wavering, he's falling, look out below, TIMBER! Crash, down came Goliath! David defeated him with his strong and courageous heart and he learned that he could count on the Lord because the Lord would bring him victory.

David Becomes King – A Man After God's heart

Prop: crown

Replace the headpiece on David with a crown.

The Bible describes David as a man after God's own heart. Perhaps that is why God chose him to lead his people. Just as he had once been a shepherd to his earthly father's sheep, he now shepherded his heavenly father's sheep – the people of Israel. His heart was devoted to God. His heart was strong and courageous.

David had a wandering heart

Props: binoculars, crown.

Even though David was a man after God's own heart, he made some bad choices. One time when he was on top of his palace, he looked down from the roof and saw a beautiful lady.

Give the child binoculars.

This lady was so beautiful that his heart began wanting something that he shouldn't want. This lady, Bathsheba, was married to one of David's captains, named Uriah. But David wanted her to be his own wife, so he had her brought to him. His heart was filled with his own desires and he took her as his own wife even though she was married. To cover up what he did, David sent his captain, Uriah, into battle where he was killed. David then publicly took Bathsheba to be his wife. He may have even thought that people would think he was a hero for rescuing Bathsheba from her sadness.

David has a hard heart

Prop: ice shaped into a heart, hammer

When we hide sin in our heart, we may pretend that God doesn't know or see, but he does. Holding that sin inside makes us have a hard heart. We become cold toward God and others. That happened

to David, who once had a heart after God's own heart—a courageous and strong heart. Now his heart had become hard and cold. Now David's heart was going to break.

God sent a prophet to David to tell David that he was hiding sin in his heart. He stole something that wasn't his. He stole another man's wife and even tried to cover that sin by having the man killed. David admitted his sin and was sad. David wrote Psalm 51 when he was turning his heart over to God. This is what he said.

*"Have pity on me, O God, in keeping with your mercy.
In keeping with your unlimited compassion, wipe
out my rebellious acts.
Wash me thoroughly from my guilt,
and cleanse me from my sin.
I admit that I am rebellious.
My sin is always in front of me.
I have sinned against you, especially you.
I have done what you consider evil.
So you hand down justice when you speak,
and you are blameless when you judge."
(Psalm 51:1-4)*

When David opened his heart to God and admitted his sin, this is what happened...

Smash the ice heart with a hammer.

God smashed his cold, hard heart and forgave David of his sin. Even though there were bad consequences for what he did wrong, David still had a friendship with God. He still could have a heart after God's own heart. He could still love and worship God.

God fills David with his love

Prop: chocolate hearts

Once David knew he was forgiven, he said this prayer:

*"Create a clean heart in me, O God,
and renew a faithful spirit within me.
Do not force me away from your presence,
and do not take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore the joy of your salvation to me,
and provide me with a spirit of willing obedience." (Psalm 51:10-12)*

When David prayed these words, God answered this prayer and filled David with a clean heart and gave him his presence.

Put the chocolate hearts in the heart-shaped mold pan and pass them around to the kids. Or tell them you will pass this around so that each can take a heart, but only after they listen carefully to the next point.

Give your broken hearts to God

So God asks us that if our hearts ever become hard, to turn to him and admit our sin. When we do this, our hearts will become broken. But he is able to fill us with his love and give us new hearts, and his Holy Spirit will dwell in our hearts. So let's share these chocolate hearts as a sweet way to remember God's Holy Spirit coming into our hearts.



Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Let kids tell about a time when they were sad and God helped to heal their broken hearts.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- a tube of crescent roll dough
- cookie sheet
- heart-shaped cookie cutter

Power of the Cross:

- cookie sheets
- heart-shaped cookie cutters
- biscuit dough sold in a break-open tube
- clean dry surface
- rolling pin
- access to oven for baking biscuit dough

Offering:

- large paper heart
- offering plate

Learning Game:

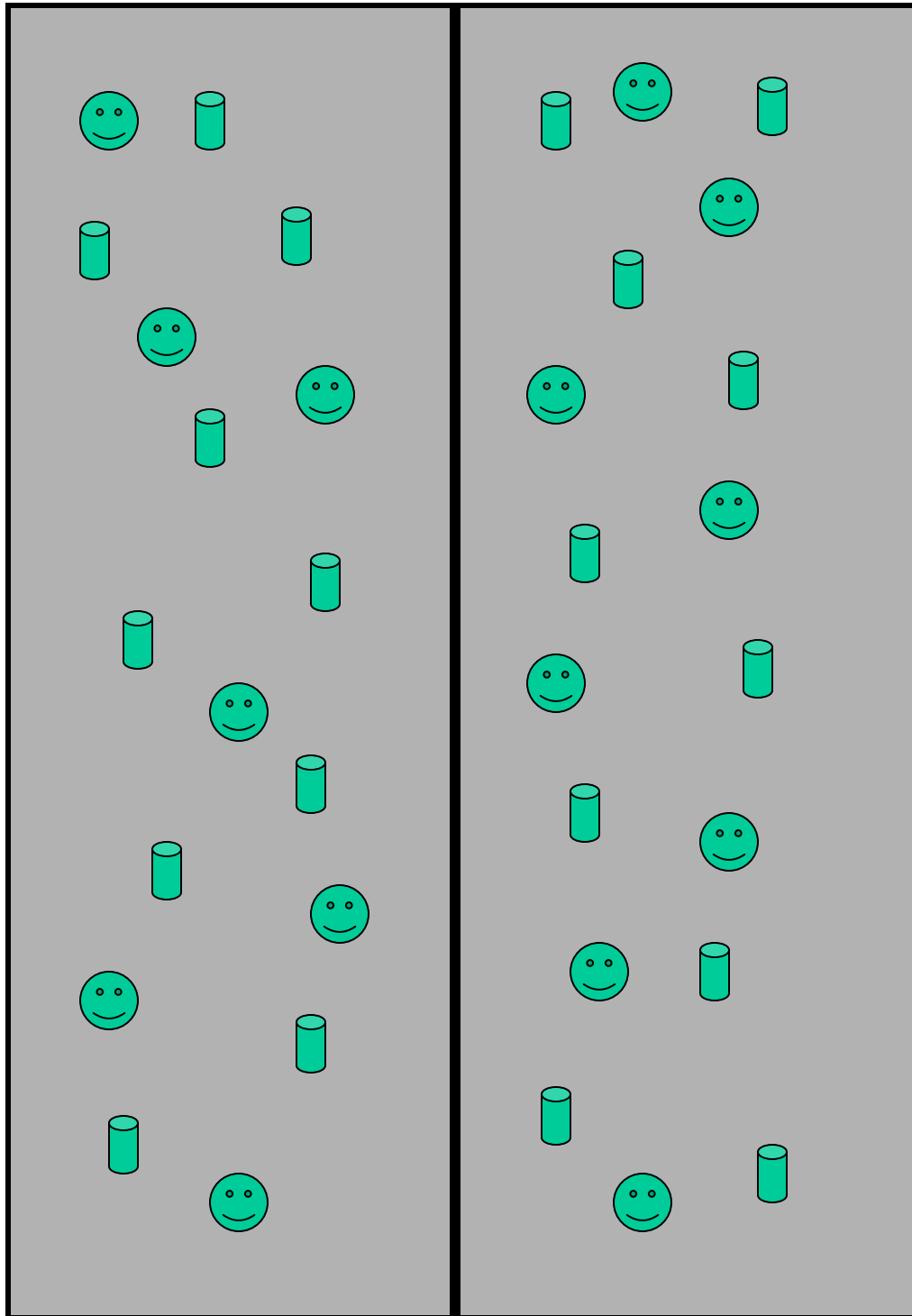
- twenty, two-liter bottles
- balls (These balls can be large like volleyballs, basketballs, or playground balls. Or, they can be small like tennis balls, ping pong balls and wiffle balls.)

Bible Presentation:

- headpiece for David
- heart-shaped plastic or pan mold
- shepherd's staff or stringed instrument
- rock
- chair
- crown
- binoculars
- ice frozen in heart-shaped mold and removed from mold beforehand
- hammer
- chocolate candy hearts (enough for audience)

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

Appendix -Learning Game Set-Up



= pins



= kid with ball