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# MY GOD, WHAT DO YOU SEE? ☆

A fun activity that helps children understand that God sees everything.

by Kristy Thornton

### **TOPICS:**

Individuality, Self-Worth, Special

#### **MATERIALS:**

Activity page [PDF] Click here Cardstock, Scissors

### **DURATION:**



#### PREPARATION:

Print the picture of the mirror and then cut out the center of the mirror using the dotted lines as a guide, which will allow children to place their face in the center of the mirror.

#### WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

Did you know that God sees everything? He can see the hair on our head. He can see every freckle on our face. We are going to do a fun activity by asking God what He sees in us.

Together we will say, "My God, what do You see?" The mirror will get passed from person. When it is your turn, put your face through the pretend mirror so we can see your face. I will then say something that I think God might see in you. (Make sure all comments are positive and uplifting. Examples: nice hair, cute freckles, pretty eyes, cool hair, beautiful skin, nice smile, etc. Make sure each child has the chance to put his or her face through the mirror.)

#### **Example:**

Class: My God, what do You see? Teacher: I see Emma's pretty eyes. Class: My God, what do You see? Teacher: I see Justin's cool hair. Class: My God, what do You see? I see Ava's cute freckles. Teacher:

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## **NEHEMIAH**

# **LESSON 5: REPENT AND FOLLOW GOD ☆**

Lessons in this series: 1 2 3 4 5 Overview

In this lesson, the children will learn that God wants His people to follow Him with pure hearts.

by Kristy Thornton

#### **TOPICS**

Behavior, Confession, Forgiveness, Nehemiah, Repentance, Self-Worth, Sin

#### **AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 MINUTES)**

This Is Me (Craft) Click here

### **WORSHIP TIME (5 MINUTES)**

Further info? Click here

#### **BIBLE VERSE (7 MINUTES)**

"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord," Acts 3:19 NIV

Read this verse. Ask the children what repent means. (To turn from sin, confess our sin to God, and ask for forgiveness.) Teach the children the motions below to help them remember to repent and turn to God.

Repent, then - Bow down with your hands out to your sides.

And turn to God - Stand and look up with hands lifted up

So that your sins may be wiped out - Make a circle motion like you are erasing a chalkboard.

That times of refreshing may come from the Lord - Move fingers like sprinkling rain drops over yourself

#### **BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)**

#### Introduction:

This is our last lesson on the book of Nehemiah. Have you enjoyed learning about how God used Nehemiah? What are some ways God used Nehemiah? (He used Nehemiah to protect, build, and bring faith to the people. He used him to help restore the poor.) The Israelites had a lot of help. Everything looked good on the outside; however, their hearts were still not right with God. God wants the hearts of His people to be pure and right before Him. We are going to learn about a new character God uses to help restore the Israelites hearts back to Him.

## Read Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6

### **Discussion Questions:**

- 1. By which gate does everyone stand? (The Water Gate.)
- 2. Who do the Israelites ask to read the Book of the Law of Moses? (Ezra the scribe. A scribe is a religious leader.)
- 3. Who listens to Ezra read the Law? (Men and women, all of whom are able to understand what Ezra reads.)

# Read Nehemiah 9:1-3

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- 1. What causes the Israelites to fast and confess their sins? (They hear God's word, the Law, and they understand it. They feel bad about breaking God's law. They become aware that they have been sinning.)
- 2. What do they do to show their regret? (They confesse their sins and worship God.)
- 3. What do you do when you know you sinned against God? (When we know that we have committed a sin, we should confess and repent of our sin. Then, we should ask for God's forgiveness.)

### **FUN TIME (10 MINUTES)**

Reflections (Activity) Click here

#### **ALTERNATE FUN TIME (10 MINUTES)**

God's Forgiving Heart (Game) Click here

## PRAYER/SNACK (10 MINUTES)

Further info? Click here

Provide an Oreo with pretzel stick. Have the children make a hand held mirror using the pretzel stick as the handle and sticking it into the Oreo filling. Lead the children in a prayer thanking God for creating us and for wiping our sins away. Enjoy snack time.

## **CLOSING ACTIVITY (10 MINUTES)**

My God, What Do You See? (Activity) Click here

#### **NEXT WEEK**

Please select another lesson series from Kids Sunday School Place.

#### **TAKE HOME PAGE**

Give one copy to each child at the end of the class to take home [PDF]. Click here

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# **REFLECTIONS** ☆

The children will learn about repentance and turning to God.

by Kristy Thornton

#### TOPICS:

Behavior, Confession, Repentance, Self-Control

#### **MATERIALS:**

Signs [PDF] <u>Click here</u> One large mirror, masking tape

#### **DURATION:**

Approximately 10 minutes



#### PREPARATION:

Using the masking tape, make a line on the floor leading to the mirror. Print out the signs. Affix the word "sin" to the front of the mirror. Affix the other portion of the sign to the backside of the mirror. You should have a working sign now.

#### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Have the children find Acts 3:19 in their Bibles and then ask for several volunteers to read the passage.

Today's activity will help us learn about sin and repentance. Remember, everyone has sinned. Jesus is the only one who has not sinned. The Israelites sinned over and over. They had to repent and confess their sins before God repeatedly. What does it mean to repent? (To confess our sins or bad choices to God, be truly sorry, and ask God to forgive us.) God's Word says, "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out." That means that God really wants us to tell Him our sins so we know what we did wrong. The Lord wants us to turn away from our sins and towards Him so that our sin can be wiped out by the blood of Jesus. (Flip sign around so it now shows the blood of Jesus.) Only Jesus' blood has the power to remove sin.

(Flip sign back to sin.) Let me demonstrate by using this mirror. (Walk on the line toward the mirror.) I must look at myself and realize how I am guilty of sin. There is nothing special about this mirror, but God will tell me what sin I have done by putting it in my mind. Say, "Forgive me God for my sin and help me turn away from it and never do it again." (Flip sign to blood of Jesus. Then walk away from the mirror as walking away from that sin.) Can you say that with me? "God forgive me of my sin and help me walk away from it and never do it again."

(Flip the sign back to sin.) What are some sins that we may have committed? (Allow children to answer. Lying, stealing, cheating, getting mad, greed, being jealous or envious, etc.)

Ask for volunteers to come up and walk the line, they can look at themselves in the mirror and ask God what sin they have done. When they feel that God has shown them one, have them confess it to the Lord and then flip the sign to the other side. The confession is between them and God, they do not need to confess it aloud to the class. Have the volunteer and the class say, "God forgive me of my sin and help me walk away from it and never do it again." Have the volunteer return to his or her seat. Repeat the process until everyone who wishes to participate has had a chance to do so.

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# THIS IS ME ☆

The children will enjoy this exercise in self-reflection.

by Kristy Thornton

### **TOPICS:**

Self-Worth, Special

#### **MATERIALS:**

Oval Sheet <u>Click here</u> Mirrors (Best if Handheld) Scissors, paper, crayons, craft sticks, glue

#### **DURATION:**

Approximately 10 minutes

#### **PREPARATION:**

Print an oval shape for each child in class.

### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Today, we are going to do a lot of self-reflection. One form of self-reflection is looking at yourself in a mirror. (Hold up a mirror away from you.) Right now I can't see my reflection because I am not looking into the mirror. (Hold the mirror close to your face.) Now, when I look into the mirror, I can see my reflection.

I would like all of you to draw your reflection. If this paper was a mirror, what would you see? (Demonstrate a quick drawing of yourself.) You would probably draw your head, eyes, nose, mouth, and maybe the top of your shirt.

Once you are done you can glue the craft stick to the back and you have created a handheld mirror. This is you on the outside, but God cares about what is both on the outside and the inside. We can't see what our hearts look like, but God can.

Timesaving Option: Cut the oval shapes out for the children before class.

Increased-Difficulty Option: Let the children cut out the oval shape.

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