

When Children Believe “It’s Not My Fault”

Preparing Your Heart to Teach Part 3

How do you respond when you make a mistake? People do different things when they discover an error on their part. Some people get angry, others blame, and some people plague themselves with guilt.

One of the signs of maturity for children or adults is learning how to handle mistakes. We’ve all heard that we can learn from mistakes, and that’s certainly important, but how do we treat ourselves? If we spend a lot of time regretting or punishing ourselves then we end up robbing ourselves of joy in life.

Two responses tend to dominate most people as they face their own mistakes. First, some people do a lot of blaming. After all, my mistakes are often caused by a number of factors, and I can usually emphasize those factors that are other people’s fault. Blamers experience a lot of anger and feel like victims much of the time because everyone else is in control of their wellbeing.

A second response is to attack yourself with self-condemnation. “I’m stupid. I’ll never get it right.” These kinds of statements lead to feelings of inadequacy and unworthiness. People who engage in self-condemnation limit themselves, refuse to try new things lest they fail again, and generally have a weak view of their capabilities.

A better response is to learn to accept responsibility for one’s part of the problem, learn from the mistake, and go on to try again. In fact, a healthy form of self-correction goes through a process of admitting a mistake, understanding why it was a mistake, determining a better response, and giving yourself the freedom to try again.

What Children Learn in Part 3

Children must learn how to take responsibility for their mistakes and offenses. Two immature responses are targeted in this lesson. First, blaming is inappropriate and doesn’t move a person forward in life. Secondly, kids who punish themselves for mistakes limit their ability to move on. Instead, in this lesson, children are taught to admit what they did wrong, determine why it was wrong, identify a different response next time, and are encouraged to try again.

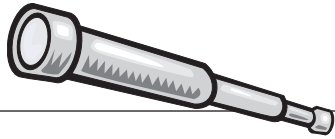
Theme: When I’m wrong, I’ll admit it.

Games, activities, and a Bible story contribute to this idea of responding well to mistakes. Being able to admit when you’ve done something wrong is a sign of maturity. But many children can’t do that. In this lesson children will learn how to be humble and then take responsibility for their own mistakes.

Read Along in the Book, “Parenting is Heart Work”

Chapters 1 and 2 define the heart in practical ways. Understanding how the word “heart” is used in the scriptures, enables one to target discipline toward the heart. Chapter 16 gives specific strategies for using a Positive Conclusion and discusses why it works as a heart tool. Confession and humility are key ingredients necessary for addressing offenses or mistakes completely. Not only does the Positive Conclusion help address the subject of repentance in children, but it also forms the basis for a mature apology. Instead of just having kids say “sorry” to one another, children learn how to apologize in a way that addresses the offense and moves on.

Part 3



Theme

When I'm wrong, I'll admit it.

Welcome Activity Create an Old Treasure Map

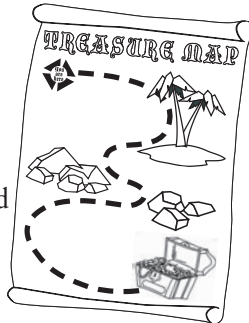
Preparation: In advance brew enough tea bags for each child to have one, eight tea bags per mug. Photocopy onto regular copy paper (20# bond) the first Treasure Map at the end of this lesson. Be prepared with a hair dryer and paper towels.

Have children write their name on the nameplate of the Treasure Chest toward the bottom. Show children a model of what they are creating. Have children wad up the paper and then open it back up and smooth it out. Wad it up again and open it up gently to smooth it out. Do this at least five times, being careful not to rip the paper.

Lay the paper out smooth on a plastic table or tablecloth. Pour some of the strong tea into a paper plate and give each child one of the tea bags. Caution the children to use the tea bags to dab, but not rub, the tea all over the paper. It's best to thoroughly soak the paper in tea both front and back. Be careful that the children don't work with the paper too long because it will begin to tear. Take pictures for your photo diary.

Take the soaked paper and place it on a paper towel. Use a hair dryer to thoroughly dry the paper. Set it aside for children to take home.

Take time to talk about the theme, "When I'm wrong, I'll admit it." In our lesson today we'll be learning about taking responsibility for our mistakes. That's an important part of correction. Instead of blaming others or looking for excuses, the best thing to do is to just admit when you've done something wrong. It's the fastest way to learn and grow.



Together Time

Use the ideas below along with your own thoughts and the Bible to dialogue with the children and help them see that it takes a mature person to admit when he's done the wrong thing.

Object Lesson Shadow Lessons

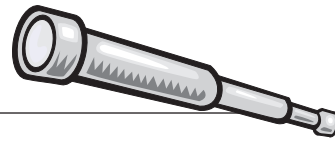
Preparation: Bring a flashlight and a six inch tall action figure.

Dim or turn off the lights in the room. Place a six inch tall action figure on the table. Hold a flashlight about two feet above the figure creating just a small shadow. Continue to shine the flashlight on the little figure as you move the flashlight to increase the shadow's length. Ask children, "What can we learn about a light from a shadow?" Yes, we can learn where the light is. "When is a shadow longer, in the middle of the day or at the end of the day? Why?" A very interesting thing is going to happen in our story today and it has to do with a shadow.

Bible Story Hezekiah and the Big Boo Boo

Hezekiah was a king—a good king. In fact, he was one of the best kings that Judah ever had, but he made a big mistake and needed to be corrected. Even good people need to experience correction sometimes, even kings. Let me tell you the story.

Hezekiah got very sick. He wasn't being punished. In fact, I don't think he did anything wrong that led to his sickness. It started with a boil that just got worse and worse. They didn't have doctors in those days and a small sore, if not treated, could get so bad that a person could die. Hezekiah knew that, and he didn't know what else to do. *Will I recover? I've got an idea! I'll call the prophet Isaiah. He'll tell me the truth. After all, I've served the Lord all my life. I don't think God is done with me yet.*



Hezekiah had done a lot of things for God. He was a man of action, reestablishing the priestly duties and getting the temple functioning again. The people were worshiping God just the way God wanted. Hezekiah worked hard to get rid of idolatry in Israel, and he accomplished a lot during his reign of only fifteen years. But he had so much yet to do. He wasn't ready to die. Was this the end of his life? He felt like it; he was so sick.

The king's officials sent a message to the prophet Isaiah, who paid a visit to the king. Hezekiah waited as Isaiah talked to the Lord to see what God would do. After a little while Isaiah turned to the king to give him the message. "God says you will not recover. You had better put your house in order. You're going to die."

Hezekiah couldn't believe what he heard. As Isaiah walked out his bedroom door, the king just stared. Could it be true? And then Hezekiah began to cry. As the tears came, he turned his face to the wall and prayed, "Lord, I've served you all these years with my whole heart. Please remember how I've walked with you and heal me. I don't want to die."

A knock on the door interrupted Hezekiah's prayer. "Come in." It was Isaiah.

"Yes?" the king said.

"Before I even left your palace, God gave me another message."

"Well, what is it?"

"He told me that he's heard your prayer and has seen your tears, and he will heal you. You'll get well in the next three days."

Oh, that is so great! Thank you, Lord. Hezekiah was so happy. One minute he was crying because he was so sad and the next minute he was happy. He would get well. He would be able to help his country more. Hezekiah was so grateful that God would let him live a little longer.

Hezekiah still felt sick though. He wanted to make sure that Isaiah was telling him the truth. "Isaiah, can you give me a sign that this will actually take place?"

Isaiah thought for a moment. "Yes. In fact, you can choose. See the shadow on the long staircase over there? The sun is setting and the shadow is going down the stairs one at a time. Would you like the shadow to jump ten stairs ahead or ten stairs back?"

Now boys and girls how could a shadow jump ten stairs one way or the other? The sun would have to move to a different place in the sky. Can the sun just jump from here to there? No, it can't. This was an amazing question because Isaiah was saying that God was about to do a miracle just for Hezekiah. Which would you choose, having the sun go ahead or back ten stairs on the staircase? Why?

Hezekiah thought for a moment. "Well, the normal thing is for the sun to go ahead, so I'd like to see the sun go back ten stairs."

"O God of heaven, please reveal yourself to King Hezekiah by moving the shadow back."

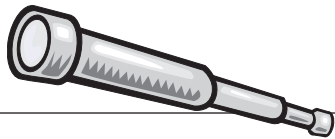
Hezekiah's eyes grew wide as he watched! The shadow went back. God did a special miracle just for Hezekiah. *Whoa! That's really something. I just choose and God does it. That is amazing power.*

During the next three days the king improved. The boil went down. He felt better, and could tell he was getting well. He kept thinking about that sign. I can't believe it. I got to tell God what to do, and he did it. Pride began to grow in Hezekiah's heart.

A short time later a group of men came to Jerusalem. Guards came to Hezekiah to report the good news. "The king of Babylon heard you were sick and wanted to wish you well, so he sent these messengers."

"Send them in! They can see that I'm well. In fact, I'll take them on a tour of the palace and show them around."

So Hezekiah gave the group from Babylon a personal tour. He showed them room after room of treasures. Hezekiah enjoyed watching their mouths drop open as he opened each door. In fact, the king showed his guests everything, even his armory and all the weapons he'd stored up.



Hezekiah didn't realize it, but his pride was getting him further and further into trouble. These men weren't really friends. They were the enemy. They would come someday and rob King Hezekiah. The king didn't realize it but his pride was causing him to give away secrets that no one should know.

The guests said, "You have done a great job as king. You have so much. Your God must be pleased with you. In fact, we even heard that a miraculous sign happened right here in Jerusalem. Can you tell us about it?"

"Oh yes, you're right. God is pleased with me." Hezekiah smiled. "The sign happened just the other day. I got to tell God what to do. He asked me whether I wanted to have the shadow go back or forward ten steps on that staircase over there. I said 'back,' and that's what he did."

Hezekiah enjoyed telling his guests about all his accomplishments and the miraculous sign. As they were leaving, Isaiah came back into the palace. Hezekiah was about to realize the danger he was in. "Who were those guys?"

"A special group of men from Babylon to wish me well."

"What did you tell them?"

"I showed them all around the palace."

"Oh no. You didn't."

"Yes I did. Why?"

"You didn't show them all the storehouses and the armory, did you?"

"Yes, but you don't have to worry, Isaiah. They're from hundreds of miles away."

"You are the one who doesn't understand, O King. A time will come when armies from Babylon will conquer Jerusalem and take away all these riches."

At that moment, Hezekiah realized the pride that was in his heart. *How could I have been so foolish? I was thinking how great I am when I should have been talking about how great God is. I can't believe I did that. I exposed my entire kingdom to danger.*

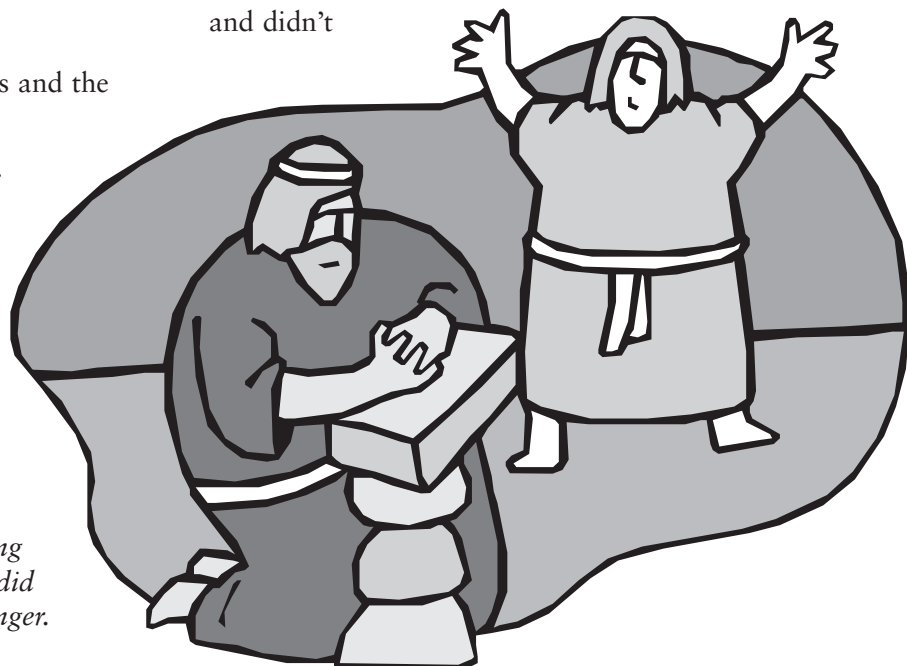
The king did a very important thing just then. He could have said, "It's not my fault. They tricked me." Or, "Why didn't someone warn me?" Hezekiah could have blamed his problem on someone else or complained that it wasn't his fault. He didn't do that. Instead, the Bible tells us what the king did. In fact, this one thing that Hezekiah did shows us that he was a pretty mature man. The Bible tells us that the king repented. He was sorry for boasting about himself instead of giving God the credit. He just apologized.

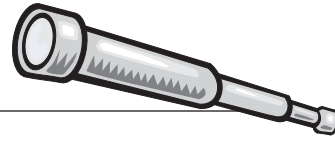
Isaiah said, "Because you have responded well to correction, God says he won't allow this judgment to come on Jerusalem during your lifetime."

Hezekiah realized he'd allowed his heart to grow proud. He was grateful for the prophet who corrected him so he could make a change in his heart before he did further damage. Hezekiah realized how valuable correction was because it prevented a terrible thing from happening. The king repented instead of arguing. Because he responded well, God didn't bring the judgment on him.

For Younger Children

This Bible story is rather complicated so for younger children you may want to emphasize the fact that King Hezekiah was proud, boasting about all he had and didn't





realize the danger he was in. When the prophet Isaiah corrected him he responded well. Children can also respond well to correction.

This story was taken from 2 Kings 20:1–21, Isaiah 39:1–8, and 2 Chronicles 32:26.

Bible Verse

Psalm 32:5

“I will confess my transgressions to the Lord and you forgave the guilt of my sin.”

For younger children: “I will confess my sin.”



Transition

One of the problems with blaming is that it divides people. Instead of everyone doing their part, people become selfish trying to protect something. Then the teamwork idea falls apart. People become more interested in blaming others than getting anything done. We’re going to play a game together that you’ll like.

Game

Cotton Ball Air Hockey

Preparation: You’ll need masking tape, three cotton balls for each child, and flexible drinking straws.

Using masking tape, divide a table into sections. With four people divide the table into four parts, with eight people, use the tape to make a grid with eight sections, one for each person sitting around the table.

Place three cotton balls in each section and a flexible drinking straw. “Please sit down at the table and don’t touch anything. In a moment I’m going to have you pick up the drinking straw. Instead of blowing in the short end of the drinking straw you will blow into the long end allowing you to aim the shorter end at the cotton balls.

Everyone has three cotton balls in front of them. When I say go, you will blow the cotton balls to other grids in the table trying to keep your square

empty. You may stand up but you may not get on the table. You may only use your hands to stop cotton balls from going off the table or to pick them up from the floor if they fall. Are you ready? Go.”

Typically, many cotton balls land on the floor and kids have fun trying to blow them back and forth. Stop the game after about a minute or so and say, “That was fun but we just had a lot of cotton balls falling on the ground and people blowing them at each other. Everyone was working against everyone else. Now, we’re going to change the game a bit.”

Put a placemat in the center of the table or tape down a piece of 11x17 paper. “The goal now is to have everyone work together to blow the cotton balls onto the placemat. The same rules apply. You can’t touch the cotton balls unless they fall off the table and you can use your hands to stop them from falling off. Are you ready? Go.”

Typically, children blow toward the placemat, sometimes blowing the cotton balls off the other side. It’s a challenge to get the cotton balls onto the placemat. Whether all the cotton balls make it on or not, you can say something like, “What’s the difference between the two games?” One focuses on trying to blow the cotton balls toward another person. That makes them opponents. The other has kids blowing together to accomplish a task. That makes them team members. Sometimes people were giving instructions or even correcting others. That’s part of working as a team. Every person is taking responsibility for his or her part.

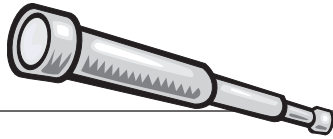
Today we’re talking about correcting. When you accept correction well you learn quickly and there’s a sense of cooperation instead of competition.



Transition

One of the ways that we all learn how to do things better is to stop and ask ourselves some questions. We have a craft that helps us know what questions to ask. Whenever anything goes wrong, whether you make a mistake, or you disobey, or you have

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a bad attitude, you can ask these questions: “What did I do wrong?” “Why was that wrong?” “What am I going to do differently next time?” And then say to yourself, “Okay, I’ll go ahead and try again.”

Craft Find the Treasures to Make a Map

Preparation: Photocopy onto cardstock the numbered boxes and the map at the end of this lesson. Cut out the boxes and place all clue #1 into one envelope, #2 into another, and so on. Before children arrive take the four envelopes and hide them in the room as instructed. Have glue and crayons or markers ready.



This is an activity and a craft. Have children color the road and decorate their page. Then say something like, “We have four things missing on the page. Each missing piece is marked by a dotted line and a number. The first missing square for everyone is in an envelope hidden in this room. You are all Treasure Hunters. I’m going to give you a clue and you are going to go find the envelope. When you find it, you may take one piece out of the envelope and bring it back to your table and glue that piece on your map.”

Have the four envelopes placed in strategic places around the room. The following ideas give you a way to play this in one classroom. However, if you have an extended play area you might use your imagination to increase the fun. You might have kids glue on their treasure after each clue or have them find all the treasures before gluing all four onto their paper. Keep the age of the child in mind as you develop the difficulty of the clues.

You might put one taped under a table with the clue, “This part of the treasure is in an envelope that you can only see when you are down very low.” A second envelope could be in a leader’s pocket with the clue, “This part of the treasure is

revealed when you say the magic words to the right person. The magic words are, ‘I really really like you. What do you think of me?’ Most leaders would reply, ‘I really really really like you but I don’t have the treasure.’ The right leader says, “I really really really like you and I have something for you.” A third envelope might be hidden under a box of tissues on a counter and the clue could read, “If you cry a lot you’ll discover this part of the treasure.” The last part of the treasure might be behind a curtain and the clue might be, “This envelope is hidden behind something.”

Take time to have children glue the right box onto their Treasure Map. Then talk about the map. This is a map that helps us know how to handle mistakes that we make in life. We ask three questions and then make a statement. Allow one of the children to pretend to be Hezekiah from the story. Ask the three questions and a statement and see if the child can respond.

For Younger Children

Place the clues in obvious places where a child can easily find them. Choose one child from the group and say, “The first clue is in an envelope on the counter.” Or “The second clue is in my pocket.”

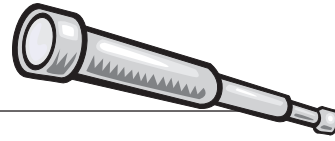
Transition

The three questions and a statement are very important. They help us know how to learn from mistakes. Some kids blame other people when they make mistakes or they blame themselves and say, “I’m never going to get it right.” In this next activity we’re going to practice asking these questions and you’re going to help me.

Role Play The Hovering Ping Pong Ball

Preparation: Bring a vacuum cleaner into class that has a hose and set the machine to blow air out. Also have a ping-pong ball ready.

When you place a ping-pong ball about 12 from the nozzle then hold the nozzle pointing straight

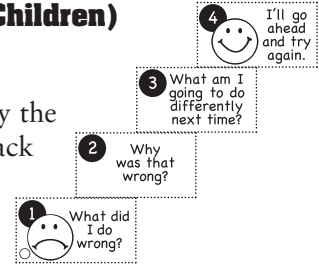


up, the blowing air keeps the ball in place instead of blowing it away.

Tell children that you know that a ping-pong ball will hover if you turn on the air. So here's how it works. Instead of putting the ball 12" away, put the ball right on the nozzle and let it go. Of course, it blows right into the room. "Oops I did something wrong. Help me with the three questions and a statement. What did I do wrong? etc." Some children will not go through the questions but instead will want to tell you what to do differently next time. Stop and force them to think of what you did wrong first. Try a couple of times unsuccessfully to hover the ball and ask children to help you answer the questions. This is an excellent way to model learning from mistakes using the three questions and a statement. Finally do it right and enjoy the children's response. Have a camera ready to take a picture for your photo diary.

Craft (For Older Children) Bookmark

Preparation: Photocopy the bookmark page at the back of this lesson providing one bookmark for every child. You'll also need a hole punch and yarn.



Using a hole-punch, create a hole where designated. Allow children to cut out their bookmark and put yarn through the hole. Three pieces of yarn allow children to braid it nicely. You may choose to teach children how to braid. Be sure to use the Positive Conclusion to model how we learn from mistakes.

Take time to talk about how valuable the three questions and a statement are for solving problems and learning from mistakes. You might even correct a child who makes a mistake in class and say, "I'm going to correct Billy. Let's see how he responds to the three questions and a statement."

Transition

Correction is an important part of life. We often learn by making mistakes. Unfortunately, some kids yell at themselves or put themselves down when they make a mistake. Others blame the people around them. The best way to handle a mistake is to admit it. You can ask the three questions and make the statement on your Treasure Map. We call that the Positive Conclusion.

Here's another way to look at the same three questions and a statement. Hold up the model of the bookmark you've created. These are in the shape of stairs to remind you of the story of Hezekiah and the shadow on the stairs. These three questions and a statement are so important we wanted to give you something to remind you about them. This is an example of a bookmark that you will be able to take home today. We're going to cut it out and put yarn in it now.

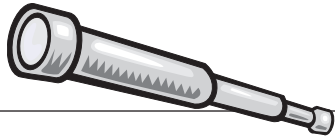
Transition

We all learn from making mistakes. At least I hope you do. I guess some people keep making the same mistakes over and over again. If we learn from mistakes we grow and get better. In this next game you'll have to fail in order to win. Let's see how you learn from your mistakes.

Game (For Younger Children) Find the Path to the Treasure

Preparation: Lay a bed sheet on the floor and create a grid with masking tape. Make 16 squares, four rows of four, as large as the bed sheet will allow. Take 20 pieces of opaque paper and put a large "X" on eight of them. (This gives you 12 blank and 8 with X's so you have some choices.)

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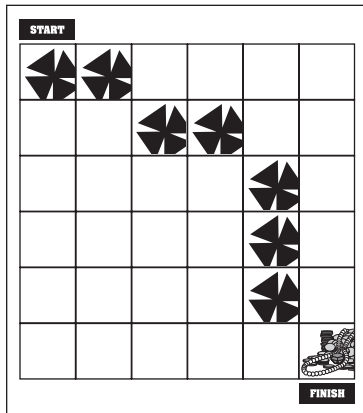
Start by placing the X's on the squares face up to form a path from one corner to the other. You don't have to use all eight. Talk to children about the path of X's that lead to the treasure. Then, as children watch, move the X's to a different pattern showing a different path to the treasure. When you think children have the general idea, turn the pages upside down and add the blank pages all around so that every square is filled with a page. Thus the path to the treasure is hidden.

Choose one Treasure Hunter to start at the beginning by standing at one corner where the first X is located. In order to take a step, the child must choose a square. Turn the paper over and if it contains an X, he can move forward. Each time he chooses a blank piece of paper, stop and see where the progress is already and then turn all the pieces upside down again. Allow the child to learn by first trying to remember where the X's were last time and then trying a new way to the finish.

Game (For Older Children) Find the Path to the Treasure

Preparation:

Photocopy onto heavy cardstock the 36-square game board at the end of this lesson. Also photocopy the playing piece page onto cardstock so that children can't see through the game pieces. You may want to cut out the playing pieces in advance for the children so that they can just play the game. Provide envelopes to keep the game pieces in.



Children pair up for this game. One is the player and the other is the coach. The player goes out of the room while the coach places the game pieces upside down on the board. First, the coach creates a path of "X" pieces from the start to the treasure. Squares are considered "touching" when they

share an edge or a corner. Then the coach places blank cards upside down on the remaining squares. When the player returns, all the game pieces look the same and the path is hidden.

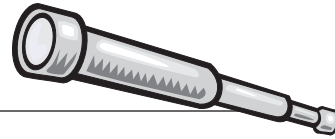
The player starts her turn by taking a first step, turning over one game piece in the starting corner. Then she has three choices. If she chooses the right one, an X, then she's on the right path and moves again. She continues to move forward toward the treasure until she accidentally turns up a blank square. When a blank appears, the coach asks, "What did you do wrong?" The player answers, "I went here." The coach asks, "Why was that wrong?" The player answers, "Because it was a blank." The coach asks, "What are you going to do differently?" The player says, "I'm going to go here." The coach says, "Okay, go ahead and try again." The player turns all the pieces back upside down and starts all over. The only way to win is to get through the whole path without hitting a blank square.

Some children take a while to learn and even make the same mistake over and over. The coach must be patient and just go through the questions and a statement, and not give any hints. When the first child is successful, if you have enough time, the player becomes the coach and sets the board up for the new player.

This game is excellent for children who tend to get angry with themselves for making a mistake. It teaches them a better way to respond to mistakes instead of self-condemnation.

Transition

Even the greatest scientists make mistakes. In fact, people learn from mistakes and often create some great things. Sometimes when we make mistakes, the error still turns out okay. In part, it has to do with the way we think about the mistakes we make. In our snack today I made some cookies. These cookies were a mistake when the very first person made them. Now many people like them. I'm interested to know what you think.



Snack Mistake Cookies

Preparation: Bake or buy chocolate chip cookies.

Serve children chocolate chip cookies. If you get ambitious or you want to be creative, bake your own cookies. Make one batch by melting the chocolate and mixing it into the other ingredients. This makes chocolate cookies. In the other batch, make regular chocolate chip cookies, or break up a chocolate bar so that the chips look obviously different. You can tell, or read to children the following story:

Ruth Wakefield was an innkeeper in the 1930's. She was baking a batch of her favorite cookies called Butter Drop Do cookies using a recipe that was quite old, back to the colonial times. She decided she wanted chocolate cookies this time so she cut up a Nestlé chocolate bar and put chunks into the batter. She expected that the chocolate would mix right into the batter as it all heated up. But she made a mistake. Her idea didn't work. Instead, she ended up with butter cookies with chunks of chocolate in them. Her mistake turned into one of the most favorite cookies of all time: chocolate chip cookies.

Craft Pointing Finger



Preparation:

Photocopy the hand at the end of this lesson onto heavy cardstock. Provide pieces of yarn for each child about 10" long.

Ask children, "If you have an important thing you want to remember and you think you might forget, what kind of things do you do to remind yourself?" Children might write it down, put up a note, ask Mom to help, or even set an alarm. Tell children, "One idea some people used to use is that they would tie a string around their finger until they did the job. So we're going to tie a string around this cardboard finger and then you can put this up on your wall or somewhere to remind you to be careful not to blame others, but instead, look at the three fingers pointing back at you. We all need to take responsibility for our part of the problem.

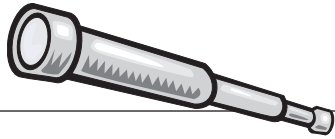
The kids will cut out the finger and tie a piece of yarn on it. The idea is to turn blaming (pointing the finger at someone else) to remembering (pointing the finger up with yarn on it) to remember to take responsibility for your own mistakes.

For Younger Children

You'll want to cut out the hands in advance and you'll have to tie the yarn on the finger for them as well.

Transition

Blaming means you point your finger at someone else instead of yourself. Everyone point at someone else for a moment. Now freeze. Look at your fingers. Usually when you point at someone else, three fingers are pointing back at you. That's a good reminder when we start blaming. We shouldn't be too quick to point our finger at other people. We should remember to look at ourselves first.



Review and Close

Who can tell me what someone should do if they make a mistake? Children may explore answers like, “Say you’re sorry,” “fix the problem,” “tell your mom what you did.” All of these are good answers and you can use this opportunity to talk about forgiveness, confession, and the negative effects of lying and hiding a mistake. Reinforce the ideas from this lesson: When I’m wrong, I’ll admit it.

Boys and girls, let me tell you a story. Dave was eight years old. He was being silly and he accidentally broke a light on the outside of his neighbor’s house. Later that day the broken light was discovered. Dave said that Richie, another neighbor, broke it. Dave lied. That night, Dave was in bed and he started feeling terrible. He knew that he had done two wrong things. Can anyone tell me what the two wrong things were? Yes, he was silly and accidentally broke the light, but then he did something else wrong: he lied. Dave felt bad in his heart. He knew that other people might not find out what he had done, but *he* knew and God also knew what really happened.

Dave decided to get up out of bed and tell his mom the truth. Mom listened to what Dave said and then said, “I’m so glad you have a conscience that won’t let you go to sleep if you do the wrong thing. That’s a sign of maturity and a sign that you

are strong on the inside. I’m so grateful. Let’s talk about what happened. What did you do wrong?”

“I broke the light and then lied about it.”

“Why was that wrong?”

“I shouldn’t have been silly like that and then telling a lie is not being honest.”

“What are you going to do differently next time?”

“Well first, I won’t be silly like that at the neighbors house. And if I do break something I’ll tell the truth and admit it instead of trying to cover it up.”

“That’s good, Dave. Okay, you can go now, but I think you have one more thing to do before you can have a clear conscience about this. Do you know what that is?”

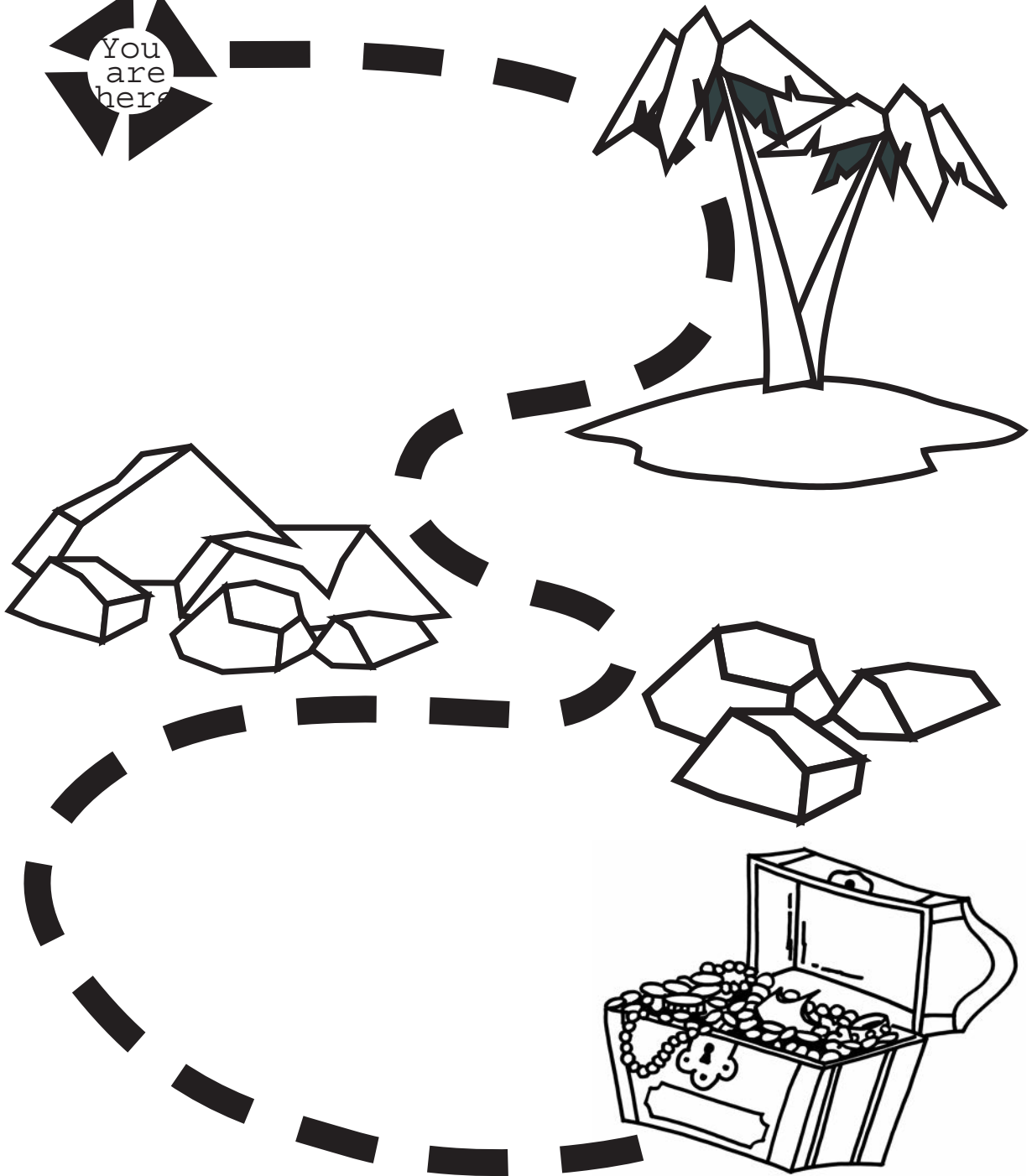
“Yes, I should pray and ask God to forgive me for lying and then I should tell our neighbor too.”

“Yes, you’re right. Tomorrow we’ll go talk to the neighbor and see how we can make it right, okay?”

Dave went back up to bed and he felt much better in his heart. Why do you think he felt better? Because he admitted what he did wrong. He went through the three questions and a statement and he determined to make it right with the neighbor.

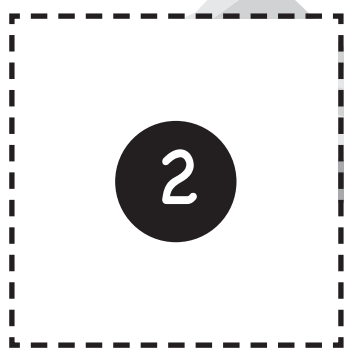
We all need to recognize that a Positive Conclusion like that is a treasure in our lives. It helps us gain a clear conscience and it helps us think rightly about the mistakes and offenses we have in life.

TREASURE MAP



Oh no! I made a mistake!

Oops!

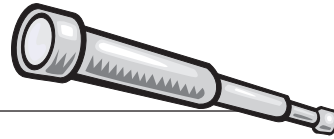


Freedom



“I will confess my transgressions to the Lord”— and you forgave the guilt of my sin.
Psalm 32:5

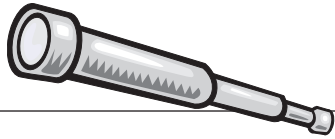
When I'm wrong, I'll admit it.



Find the Treasures to Make a Map Game Pieces

① What did I do wrong?	① What did I do wrong?	① What did I do wrong?	① What did I do wrong?
② Why was that wrong?	② Why was that wrong?	② Why was that wrong?	② Why was that wrong?
③ What am I going to do differently next time?	③ What am I going to do differently next time?	③ What am I going to do differently next time?	③ What am I going to do differently next time?
④ I'll go ahead and try again.	④ I'll go ahead and try again.	④ I'll go ahead and try again.	④ I'll go ahead and try again.

Part 3



Bookmark

4  I'll go ahead and try again.

3 What am I going to do differently next time?

2 Why was that wrong?

4  I'll go ahead and try again.


1  What did I do wrong?

3 What am I going to do differently next time?

4  I'll go ahead and try again.

2 Why was that wrong?

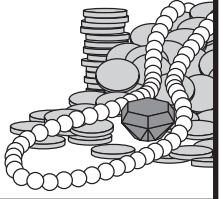
3 What am I going to do differently next time?

1  What did I do wrong?

2 Why was that wrong?

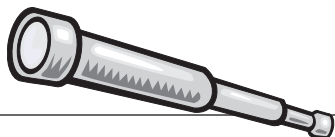
1  What did I do wrong?

START

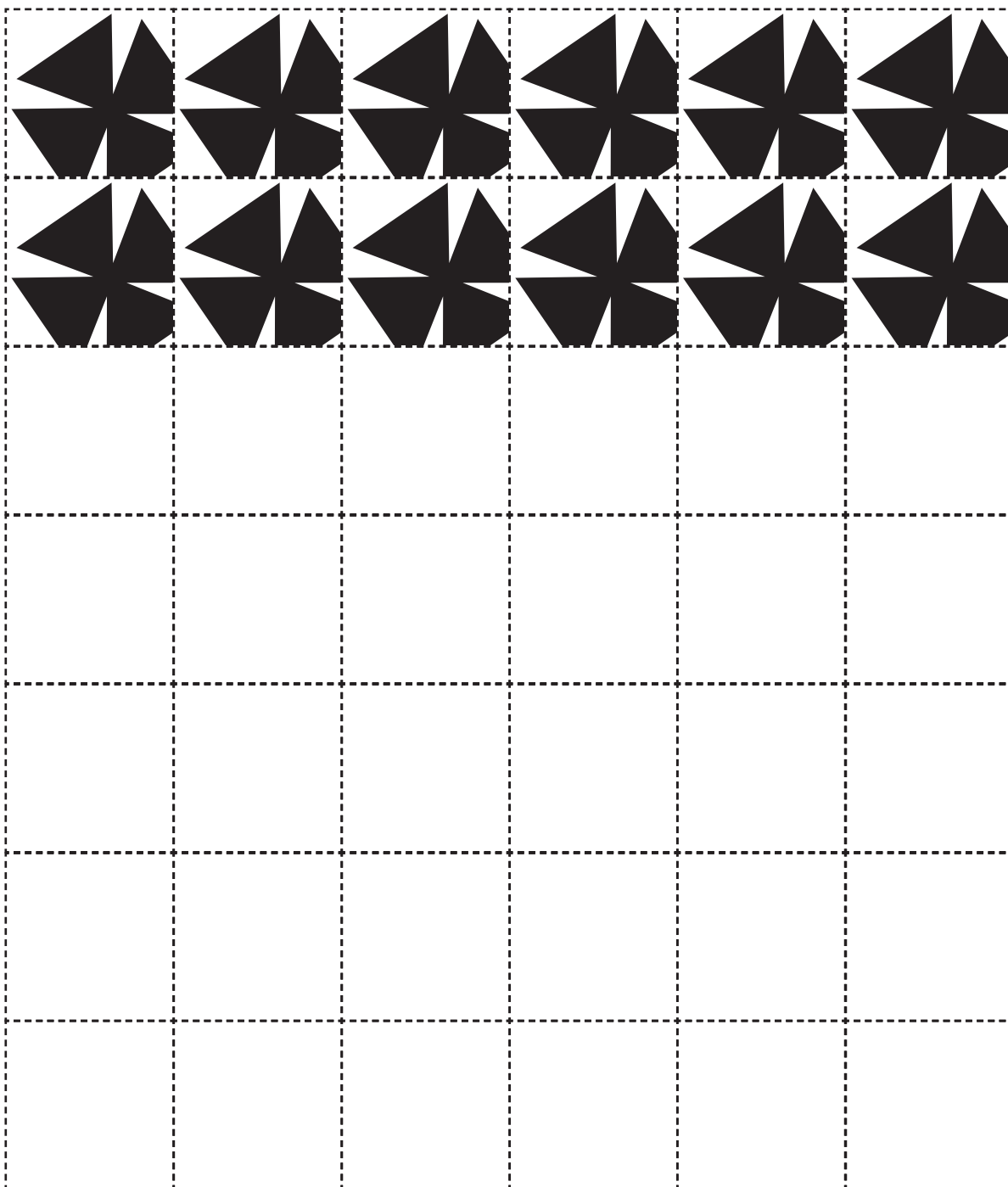
					

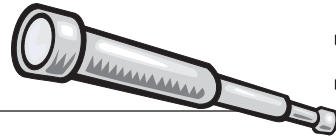
FINISH

Part 3



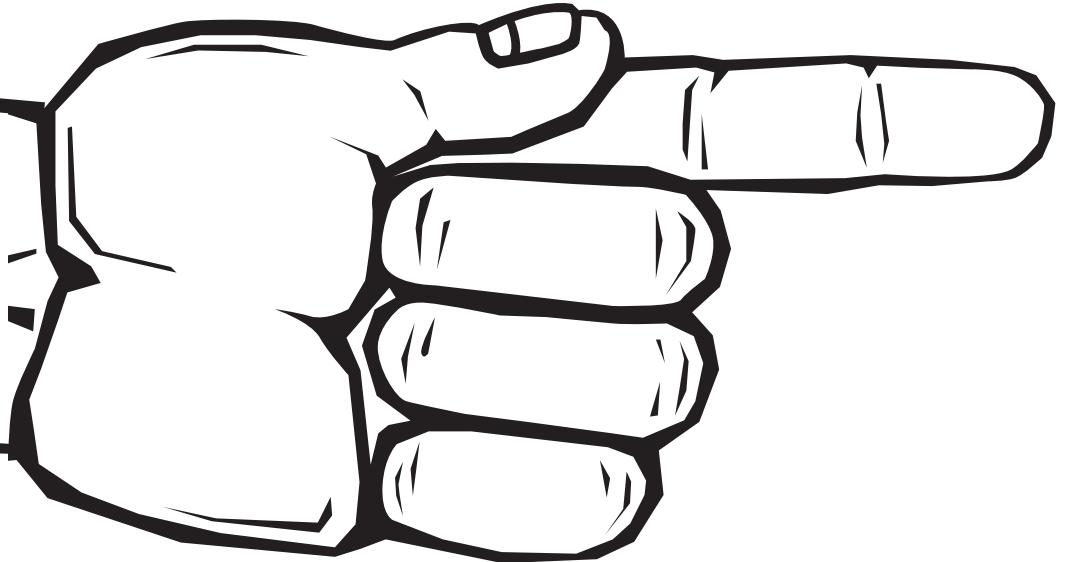
Find the Path to the Treasure Game Pieces





Part 3

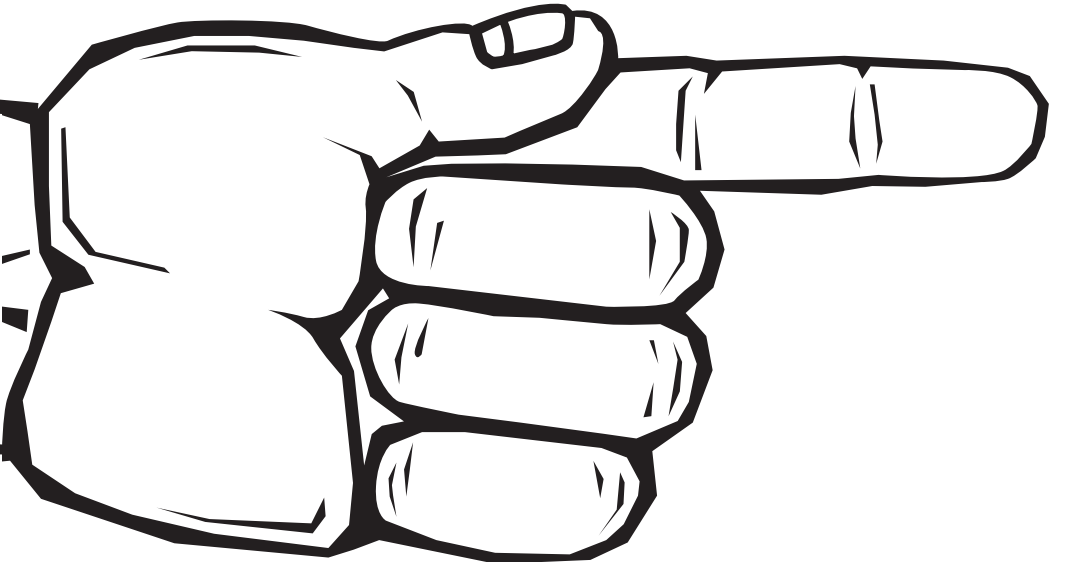
Instead of pointing at others, I'll admit when I've done something wrong.



Instead of pointing at others, I'll admit when I've done something wrong.



Instead of pointing at others, I'll admit when I've done something wrong.





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When You're Wrong, Admit It

Dear Parent,

Some children have quite a problem with blaming others when they're corrected. Other children blame themselves and beat themselves up over their mistakes. Both of these problems were addressed in this week's lesson. Children learned how to process mistakes and offenses by taking responsibility for their own part of the problem.

Theme: When I'm wrong, I'll admit it.

Children sometimes view admission of wrong-doing as a sign of weakness. In this lesson we emphasized the importance of taking personal responsibility and then moving on with some solutions. We encouraged children to ask themselves three questions and then make one statement. They are:

What did I do wrong?
Why was that wrong?
What am I going to do differently next time?
Go ahead and try again.

This isn't just a kid solution; it's also a healthy way for adults to think about mistakes. In this lesson we taught children that when they can follow these steps, they'll grow faster and become wiser. The Bible story was about Hezekiah, taken from 2 Kings 20:1-21, Isaiah 39:1-8, and 2 Chronicles 32:26. You might want to read that story to your child and discuss the way Hezekiah responded to his mistake.

Here are some questions you might ask your child about this lesson: What are *Mistake Cookies*? Why does that cardboard finger you brought home have a string tied on it? How should you respond when you make a mistake?

The Bible verse we talked about is "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord and you forgave the guilt of my sin." Psalm 32:5

Important lessons are often learned from mistakes but in order to grow and move forward you have to be able to respond well to those mistakes. If children can learn this truth early, they'll be much more successful as they get older.

Blessings,

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