

Sunday Monthly Review
Quarter Theme: Enduring Beliefs of the Church
Unit 2: Grace and Reconciliation

Lesson 5
Sins and Forgiveness
1 John 1:5-10; 2:1-6
January 4, 2026

How does this lesson connect with the quarter's theme?

The word "enduring" has a simple definition: long-lasting. God has long-suffered with some of us because of sin. We must believe that sin, in a sense, separates us from God, and we cannot be in fellowship with Him and one another without forgiveness. Our theme for May and June touches on fellowship with the saints.

Who are the recipients of 1 John?

Key words in the lesson Scriptures?

Sin – Contrast between darkness and light - cleanse

Fellowship – propitiation – Advocate – perfected

What do you hope for your students to come away with from this lesson?

Walking with God, who is the light, faithfully through sinless fellowship with both God and others by confessing and understanding Jesus' sacrifice and propitiation for our sins, as well as walking the way our Savior Jesus did.

What is Sin?

Sin is literary, "a missing of the mark," and in the NT, meaning to have largely lost sight of.

What is forgiveness?

Forgiveness - primarily, "to send forth, send away" (*compound word* "from" and "to send") or to "send from." Also, "to remit or forgive" (a) debts, see Matt. 6:12

Look for Divine Principle(s)

Constantly speaking with the Father and obeying His Son, Jesus' words to be in fellowship with them and our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ as we walk in the light.

Only God can forgive sin, while others may not.

Key verse(s)

⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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Lesson 6
Repentance and Faith
Luke 15:11-24; Acts 2:38-39
January 11, 2026

How does this lesson connect with the quarter's theme?

Both repentance and faith are continuing beliefs of the church. They are individual beliefs that start within each believer. The second half of the lesson touches on our annual theme for 2026, "The Personal Christian Growth."

Why did Luke write each Book?

Luke is the author of both Books. Read Luke 1:1-4 and Acts 1:1-3

Key words or phrases in the lesson Scriptures?

Portion – riotous living - worthy

"Sinned against heaven." - remission

What do you hope for your students to come away with from this lesson?

Jewish tradition is vital to understanding this parable. The key verses in the parable are 17 and 24. When the Father celebrated his son's repentance and return home, this is a picture of how the Lord reacts when we repent and change our lives to match His will. The second part of the lesson is based on repentance and faith in the Father's salvific plan for mankind.

What is Repentance?

Literally means, "to perceive afterwards." The compound word in Greek means "after," implying "change," and "to perceive."

What is Faith?

Faith means to believe in and has the secondary meaning of "an assurance or guarantee."

Look for Divine Principle(s)

Repentance and faith are essential to both being saved and to our daily lives, so that we can live in harmony with God and man. Both of these principles should be evident in the body of Christ so that unity will support and foster the church's spiritual growth.

Key Verse: for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry (Luke 11:24).

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Lesson 7
Prayer and Humility
Genesis 18:25-27; Luke 18:9-14; 1 John 5:14-15
January 18, 2026

How does this lesson connect with the quarter's theme?

We must believe that prayer is a persistent part of our lives. The July and August theme focuses on a deeper prayer life.

Know something about each Book?

Genesis is the Book of beginnings – Abram intercedes for Sodom

Luke – expressing the gospel more excellently

1 John – fellowship with God

Key words or phrases in the lesson Scriptures?

“Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?” – righteous – “but dust and ashes.”

Pharisee and Publican – confidence - petitions

What do you hope for your students to come away with from this lesson?

The Lord welcomes prayer and humility, and the Lord does not receive pride. Remain humble and be confident that the Lord hears and responds to your prayers that are within His will.

Scriptures that will encourage students to pray?

1 Thes 5:17; Eph 6:18; Col 1:3; 4:2

Why should we be humble?

James 4:5; Job 22:29; Ps 138:6; Prov 3:34; Matt 23:12; 1 Pet 5:5

The Lord cares deeply for the humble and extends favor to them.

Look for Divine Principle(s)

Remain humble and pray as Jesus says in Luke 18:1.

Key Verse: I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted (Luke 18:14)."

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Lesson 4
Call and Growth

Matthew 4:18-20; 16:16-18; John 21:15-18; 2 Peter 3:14-15, 18
January 25, 2026

How does this lesson connect with the quarter's theme?

We must believe that we are called by God, with the expectation of Christianity, which is a constant belief among the church. The entire year of 2026 focuses on personal growth. It also connects with the church's vision statement because Ephesians 4:12-13 are in the devotional reading.

Know about whom Matthew, John, and Peter wrote to?

Matthew from a Jewish point of view, John from a Gentile point of view, and Peter from both points of view.

Key words or phrases in the lesson Scriptures?

Called – “Son of the living God,” “build my church” – uses love (in verses John 21:15-8)

Diligent – grow – “grace and knowledge.”

What do you hope for your students to come away with from this lesson?

Peter matured in Christ from when Jesus called him from fishing to fishing for men, and ultimately wrote words to the church to love their calling and constantly grow in grace.

What is Calling?

Call - “to call by a name, to name”; “to be called by a name, to bear a name.” Thus, it suggests either vocation or destination.

What is Growth?

Used in several ways, “to grow or increase,” of the growth of that which lives, naturally or spiritually, is used signifying to make to increase, said of giving the increase, the effect of the work of God, according to the analogy of His operations in nature; “to grow, become greater,” e.g. of plants and fruit, of the body, and of Christ.

Look for Divine Principle(s)

Growing in grace through our relationship with Christ, and remember, we are continually growing toward God's purpose for our lives. Know your calling and fulfill your calling.