

muddy water and show how it has been stained.] Can the handkerchief ever be clean again? [Rub the soiled place in pure water and show how the stain has been washed away.]

What we have done with the handkerchief makes me think of what is true of everyone, even a good person; if you tell me of anything that spoils goodness? Sin is like the muddy water that soiled the handkerchief, it soils the life and heart of even a good person. Can the stain be taken away? The Bible tells us the way it can be washed away; David knew the way, and we must learn it too, for all our hearts often become stained with sin, and we want to know how they can be cleansed.

I said David knew the way; why do you think this was so? Because though he was a good man and loved God, Satan tempted him one day and, listening to the tempter, he sinned. We have the story of it in the Bible. [Tell as much of the story as is best for the little children to know (2 Sam. 11).] The Bible says, "The thing that David had done displeased the Lord;" his heart, his life, had been stained with sin. [Make a heart under the word "David."] He knew he had sinned, but I don't think he felt what a dreadful thing it was till a prophet named Nathan was sent by God with a message for him. [Give an account of Nathan's interview with David.]

As David listened to Nathan he felt how wicked he had been and was truly sorry; and now he took the first step to be made clean again; he confessed his sin; instead of saying, "What have I done?" he said, "I have sinned against the Lord." It was David's confession—that is, owning his sin—that made it possible for God to put away the sin and cleanse him from the stain. [Print "Confession" around the upper part of the heart.] Nathan said (2 Sam. 12, 13); that means that David received forgiveness from the Lord. [Print "Forgiveness" around the lower side of the heart.] Forgiveness means that the sin was pardoned, the heart and life made clean again; so David's confession and forgiveness made his heart what? [Print inside the heart, "Made a clean."]

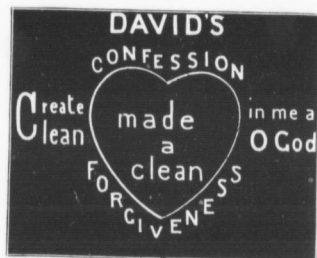
David suffered for his sin long afterward (2 Sam. 12, 10, 15-23); but even in his sorrow there was joy. Why? Because God had forgiven him. He shows his gladness for forgiveness in one of his psalms. [Repeat Psalm 32, 1, 2-5.] He says some beautiful things in that same psalm about God and what he will do for those who trust him. There is another psalm that David wrote just after Nathan brought him God's message; it is his prayer for forgiveness. See how it shows his sorrow for sin! [Repeat Psalm 51, 1-4, 7-10.] This last verse is a good one for us to pray every day. [Print and recite the Golden Text.]

Would you be sure God would forgive your sins? Listen to his promise. [Repeat 1 John 1, 9.] If

we confess and leave our sin, God will forgive us and will make our hearts clean, even as he made the heart of David.

Sing, "Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."

SUGGESTIONS FOR BLACKBOARD COLORING. Heart, white; Confession and Forgiveness, blue; part of the Golden Text, white.



### Kindergarten Hints.

KINDERGARTEN DEPARTMENT. "David's confession and forgiveness." Psalm 32, 1, 7, 9-11.

GOLDEN TEXT. "Create in me a clean heart, O God!" (Psalm 51, 10).

AIDS TO THE KINDERGARTNER. Holy Bible, Psalm 34, Psalm 51; *Treasury of David* (Spurgeon); *The Penitent's Prayer* (Alexander); *Story of the Psalms* (Dr. Henry Van Dyke); *Contralto Solo*, "With Thee There is Forgiveness." *Oratorio*, *Woman of Samaria*, "O Lord, thou hast searched me and known me."

### ATTENTION STORY.

Sometimes David found it hard to be good. Even though he was a king there were some days when naughty thoughts came hurrying to him, and when naughty deeds followed. Whenever he did do any naughty thing he was sorry, just as boys and girls are to-day, and before he could be really happy again, he wanted to say that he was sorry, and to ask God to forgive him. In our lesson to-day he says that the one whose naughtiness is forgiven is happy. He thought that people could help being naughty too, for they do not have to go where they do not want to go, nor to do those things which they do not choose to do. People are not like horses having bits in their mouths for others to steer them; their thoughts and their hearts steer the hands, and their feet, and their lips. When we do good and walk in the paths where we ought to go, we will be glad enough to "shout for joy." [Let us read Psalm 32, 1, 7, 9-11.]

Explain unusual words: "Transgression," "preserve," "understanding," "bridle," "trusteth," "compass," "righteous," "upright."

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