

Who was David's King? Yes, the great God! And David had to stand before God, just as we stand before him. God saw all of David's thoughts and acts, just as he sees our thoughts and acts. He heard all the words David spoke, just as he hears all the words we speak. What word of God declares that God always sees us? [Print "Thou God seest me." Children recite after teacher.]

Little children, day or night
You are always in God's sight;
If one naughty thing you do,
God will see and know it too!

Call for title of lesson, and help the children to understand clearly what is meant by "penitent." Tell that this lesson is King David's prayer, and that he was the "penitent," or sorry one. Then God had seen David do something wrong, and David was sorry and wanted to make it right again with God. Shall we put some of the words which David used to describe his wrong-doing on the board?

[Print "Transgression," "Iniquity," "Sin," "Evil."]

These are hard words for little lips, but they all mean the same thing—forgetting God, and taking our own way.

Little children do this sometimes, and so David's prayer is meant for them. [Pin up a sheet of white paper. By its side put up another with ink-spots smeared upon it.] Tell that David had been loving and obeying God for a long time. When God looked into his heart, he saw it clean, like this sheet of paper. Do you think God likes to look into a clean heart? When you, Mary, and you, Willie, are loving and pleasing God, does he see a clean heart in you? Yes, and he likes to see it. But some day you want to have your own way, even if you know it is not God's way! You are cross, may be, or selfish, or disobedient. Then, how does your heart look to God? Like the clean sheet or like the spotted one?

David's heart, when he wrote the prayer of this lesson, looked like this spotted sheet, and God saw it!

[Teacher may tell, if thought best, the sin which David here deplores, dwelling upon the fact that the sin began in choosing his own way.]

[Make three steps on the board.] Was David sorry for his sin? Yes; we will print the big word which means this on the lowest step, "Repentance." Did he tell God that he was sorry? Yes; this is the word which means to "own up," "Confession." We will put this on the next step. Did David confess to any body but God? Yes; he was so truly sorry that he was willing others

should know it. He wrote this prayer to be used in the temple.

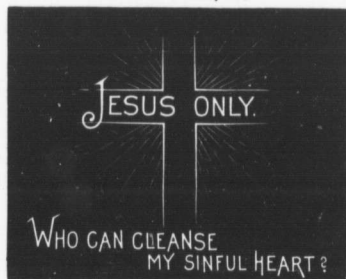


[Explain that repentance must come before confession, and that God himself has made the steps. Print "Forgiveness" on the highest step, and show that the first and second steps must be taken by the one who has sinned, and then God does the rest.]

Sing, "What can wash away my sin?" David prayed "Wash me," "Cleanse me." He wanted to be washed "thoroughly"—through and through. Shall I tell you why? Because he had to stand before God! We stand before him too, this very day! Are there any sin-spots on our hearts? What can we do? Just as David did; repent, confess, and be forgiven. Sing, "For my cleansing this I know, Nothing but the blood of Jesus."

Blackboard.

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DIRECTIONS.—Draw outline of cross in blue; the words "Jesus Only" in white; rays in light yellow; sentence at bottom of board in scarlet or bright red.

In reviewing the lesson the following line of thought is suggested: 1. The awful fact that God abhors all sin. 2. There are grades of sin, some being worse than others, but all sin should be repented of. 3. Feeling sorry for the bad effect of sin is not repentance. Notice the comments on verse 4 in the lesson exposition. David counts his crime against God as greater than all else. 4. If one is sorry for sin he should get at once on praying ground. Get away from evil places and the devil's territory; let go of sin and cling to the cross. 5. Don't wait; make no excuses; confess it all to One who will hear and pardon. Who is that one? "JESUS ONLY."*

* For additional blackboard illustrations and notes see page 277