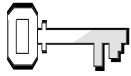


Forgiveness Fire



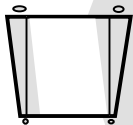
References

Isaiah 6; *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 303–310



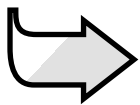
Memory Verse

“Your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for” (Isaiah 6:7, NIV).



Objectives

The children will:
Know that God promises to forgive us and change our lives.
Feel changed by God’s love and grace.
Respond by asking for God’s forgiveness.



The Message

I am touched by God’s grace when He forgives my sins.

Monthly Theme

God keeps His promises.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Isaiah has a vision in God’s temple of the Lord sitting on a throne surrounded by angels singing “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty.” The temple is filled with God’s glory and the doorposts shake. Then one seraphim flies to Isaiah and touches his lips with a live coal from the altar, an act that symbolizes purifying and cleansing from sin. Isaiah responds to this gift of grace by answering “Here am I! Send me!” to God’s call for a messenger.

This is a lesson about grace.

God promised to forgive and cleanse Isaiah of all his sins. He offers us the same promise of forgiveness and cleansing, a gift of grace to all who will receive it.

Teacher Enrichment

“The throne, the attending seraphs or angels, and the three-fold *holy* all stressed God’s holiness. . . . In a time when moral and spiritual decay had peaked, it was important for Isaiah to see God in his holiness. Holiness means morally perfect, pure, and set apart from all sin. We also need to discover God’s holiness. Our daily frustrations, society’s pressures, and our shortcomings reduce and narrow our view of God. We need the Bible’s view of God as high and lifted up to empower us to deal with our problems and concerns. God’s moral perfection, properly seen, will purify us from sin, cleanse our minds from our problems, and enable us to worship and to serve” (*Life Application Study Bible*, Notes and Bible Helps on Isa. 6:1-3 [NIV], [Wheaton, Ill., Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2005], p. 1086).

Room Decorations

Decorate with items from Isaiah’s vision—clouds, angels, an altar, tongs—under the caption: “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY IS THE LORD ALMIGHTY.” Or create a large pottery vase cutout. Have all the children sign their names on it. Accompany it with the captions: “YOU ARE THE POTTER” and “WE ARE THE CLAY!” Place various types of pottery throughout the room.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Did You Know?</i> B. <i>Jesus, the Eraser</i>	angel shapes (see p. 57), Bibles white board or chalkboard, eraser clearly marked with the word <i>Jesus</i> , Bibles
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> piece of pottery with a sign reading "Send me!" none
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	Bible-times costume for "Isaiah" and three angels, cardboard boxes for altar, red cellophane, fan, flashlight, classical religious music, black construction paper or blackened rocks, tongs tongs, rocks or black rock-shaped cutouts, altar from "Experiencing the Story," Bible Bibles, paper, pencils, markers, crayons
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Clean and Useful</i>	white cloth, food coloring, bleach in container of water
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Forgiven Book</i>	rectangles of 3-inch x 4-inch (8 x 10 cm.) red, black, and white construction paper for each child, pencils or markers, stapler and staples

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.

1

Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- angel shapes (see p. 57)
- Bibles

A. Did You Know?

Prepare angel shapes in advance. Fold the shapes in half lengthwise. On the outside write "Did You Know?" On the inside of each write one of the following:

1. God placed a type of angel called cherubim on the east side of the Garden of Eden to guard the way to the tree of life.
2. God instructed Moses to have an angel at each end of the cover of the ark of the covenant.
3. God chose angels to announce the birth of Jesus.
4. God chose angels to tell the disciples that Jesus was coming again in the same way they saw Him leave.

Add other facts according to how many angels you wish to use. Place the angels on the walls around the room. As the children arrive, direct them to the angels on the walls to discover facts about angels.

Debriefing

Ask: **After reading the "Did You Know?" angels, what did you learn that you didn't know before?** (Wait for responses.) **God often sends angels with messages of love and grace. We will learn about one such message today. Let's find Isaiah 6:7.** Read aloud together. **Today's message is another way of saying the same thing:**



I AM TOUCHED BY GOD'S GRACE WHEN HE FORGIVES MY SINS.

Say that with me.

(Alternate: Instead of angels you might use charcoal and charcoal facts, such as: charcoal tablets may be swallowed as a medication for indigestion or stomach virus; artists draw with small sticks of wood charcoal called charcoal pencils; charcoal briquettes are a source of heat and are used for outdoor cooking; powdered charcoal is used for treating bee stings and mosquito bites, and for dyeing leather and making inks and paints.)

B. Jesus, the Eraser

Ask the children to list on the board things people do for which they need Jesus to forgive them. As you talk about the pain or problems that each of those sins has caused, explain that as soon as we ask Him, Jesus immediately erases our sins. As you explain this, use the "Jesus" eraser and wipe the board clean.

Debriefing

Ask: **Have you ever thought of Jesus as an eraser before?** (Wait for responses.)
How do you feel about having your sins wiped away? (relieved, thankful, forgiven)
That is how the man in today's story felt when he was touched by God's grace.
Let's read our memory verse from Isaiah 6:7. Read together. **Today's message is:**

I AM TOUCHED BY GOD'S GRACE WHEN HE FORGIVES MY SINS.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- white board or chalkboard
- eraser clearly marked with the word *Jesus*
- Bibles

Prayer and Praise



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

- "God Is So Good" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 13)
- "For God So Loved the World" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 26)
- "O, How He Loves You and Me" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 28)
- "His Banner Over Me Is Love" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 25)



Mission

Share a story from *Children's Mission*. Ask: **Who in the story was touched by God's grace? How did God's grace touch them?**



Offering

Say: **Our offering today will be sent to help God's work.**

You Need:

- piece of pottery with a sign reading "Send me!"



Prayer

Form a circle. Give children opportunity to pray. Begin and end the prayer yourself.

2

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- Bible-times costumes for "Isaiah" and three angels
- cardboard boxes for altar
- red cellophane
- fan
- flashlight
- classical religious music
- black construction paper or blackened rocks
- tongs

Experiencing the Story

Characters: Isaiah, and three angels

In advance, build an altar from cardboard boxes. On top place red cellophane for the flames. Use a fan and flashlight to make the cellophane "flicker." As you describe the altar, take a "coal" (made of crumpled black construction paper or blackened rocks) from the altar with tongs. Let the children see the "hot" coals (you may put these back on the altar, or in a separate location).

Read or tell the story.

One day Isaiah was visiting the temple. *[Isaiah stands looking at the altar.]* Suddenly he seemed to be standing in heaven in a dazzling throne room, looking way, way up at God on His throne! *[Isaiah kneels down with hands raised.]* A sacred altar to one side had bright orange burning coals with a drift of smoke rising from it. *[Point to altar with "fire" and hot coals.]* And what were those bright and shining creatures flying above God's head, suspended in midair?

[Isaiah squints.] Isaiah studied the creatures. He soon realized they were seraphim with six wings.

The angels were singing. *[Start classical music.]* The whole room was filled with the beautiful music. It was so loud and powerful, the doorposts shook. Smoke from the altar filled the room, but Isaiah sensed it was not dangerous; it was holy. God's presence seemed to be a part of the smoke.

But what were the angels saying? Isaiah listened carefully. *[Isaiah listens intently.]* They were calling to one another,

saying " 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory' " (Isaiah 6:3, NIV). *[Angels pretend to sing.]*

Isaiah realized where he was. *[Isaiah looks surprised and fearful.]* "I don't belong here with God," he said. "Sometimes I do wrong things."

Isaiah saw one of the angels fly to the burning altar. *[Lift a piece of paper "coal" with the tongs.]* The angel took some tongs and lifted out a piece of burning coal. Then he flew with it toward Isaiah and touched his lips with it. *[One angel touches Isaiah's lips with the paper "coal" held by tongs.]* It didn't hurt, and it didn't burn. The angel said very gently, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away." *[Angel repeats these words.]*

Isaiah felt a wonderful sense of relief. *[Isaiah clasps his hands and smiles broadly.]* God spoke to Isaiah like a kind Father, concerned about His children. God said, "Who shall I send to take My messages to the people?"

Immediately, Isaiah said, "Here am I. Send me!" *[Isaiah says out loud, "Here am I. Send me!"]* He wanted to be God's messenger. God didn't force Isaiah to be a prophet; He first showed His love to Isaiah, and then He allowed Isaiah to volunteer.

God reached out to Isaiah. We call that "grace." And God is still reaching out to each one of us, just as your parents reached down to pick you up when you were a baby. God offers the same promise of forgiveness to you if you will believe Him. He is a Father who keeps His promises and will always love you.

Debriefing

Ask: **What would you think if you had a dream like Isaiah's vision in the**

temple? (It would be awesome! I would be overwhelmed! etc.)

How can Isaiah's vision affect your attitude during a worship service? (I feel loved, accepted, blessed that I can come into His presence. I will be reverent, respectful, and grateful.)

When God forgives your sins, what will you know? Let's answer with today's message:



I AM TOUCHED BY GOD'S GRACE WHEN HE FORGIVES MY SINS.

Memory Verse

In advance, write one word of the memory verse on each rock or rock-shaped cutout, using one for the text: **"Your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for"** (Isaiah 6:7, NIV).

Place them on the altar and let the children take turns removing them with the tongs. Have the children place the words in order on the floor and then repeat the memory verse, removing one word each time, until each "coal" has

You Need:

- tongs
- rocks or black rock-shaped cutouts
- altar from "Experiencing the Story"
- Bible

been removed, and the children can repeat the verse from memory.

Bible Study

Have the children read about the vision that Isaiah saw in the temple in Isaiah 6:1-8. Pause after every few verses and ask them to draw a picture of what they just read.

Debriefing

Say: **God talked with Isaiah in our Bible reading. What did He say to Isaiah?**

Does God ever talk with you?

(Wait for responses.) **How?** (He talks to me through the Bible, in my thoughts, through sermons and Sabbath School, through experiences, through advice from my parents, teachers, etc.)

How do you talk to God? (in prayer, in my thoughts)

God forgave Isaiah's sins. Does He forgive yours? How do you know?

When your sins have been forgiven, you have been touched by God in a special way. Let's say today's message again:



I AM TOUCHED BY GOD'S GRACE WHEN HE FORGIVES MY SINS.

You Need:

- Bibles
- paper
- pencils, markers, crayons

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- white cloth
- food coloring
- container of water with bleach

Clean and Useful

Let the children put a drop of food coloring on the cloth. Say: **Isaiah felt guilty and sinful. He felt as though he was of no use to God. God wanted Isaiah to know that He would cleanse Isaiah and forgive his sins, making him useful for His work.** (Drop the cloth into the bleach water.)

Debriefing

As you remove the cloth, ask: **What**

happened to the spot on the cloth? (It is gone. The cloth is clean.) **Can the cloth still be used?** (yes)

Just like this cloth, God can touch us with His grace, forgive us, make us clean, and use us for His work. How does that make you feel? (good, grateful, etc.)

Do you want God to forgive your sins? Do you want to serve Him too? What is today's message?



I AM TOUCHED BY GOD'S GRACE WHEN HE FORGIVES MY SINS.

4

Sharing the Lesson

You Need:

- rectangles of 3-inch x 4-inch (8 x 10 cm.) red, black, and white construction paper for each child
- pencils or markers
- stapler and staples

Forgiven Book

After giving every child one each of red, black, and white construction paper rectangles, create together a "forgiven book" as follows:

Place the black paper on the bottom, the red sheet on top of the black, and the white page on top of the red. Staple at the top. Have the children write the word "sin" on the black page, "blood of Jesus" on the red page, and "forgiven" on the top white page.

Debriefing

Say: **As you flip through your "forgiven book," remember that the blood of Jesus covers your sins and makes your life clean—white as snow.**

Can you think of someone who

is unhappy, who is burdened, who has bad habits, who needs to know that God loves them and will forgive them? (Wait for response.)

Show your forgiveness book to that person this week and tell them what it means. If God impresses you, ask them if they would like to accept God's forgiveness. Then pray with them to thank God. You are helping them to experience today's message. Let's say it one last time:

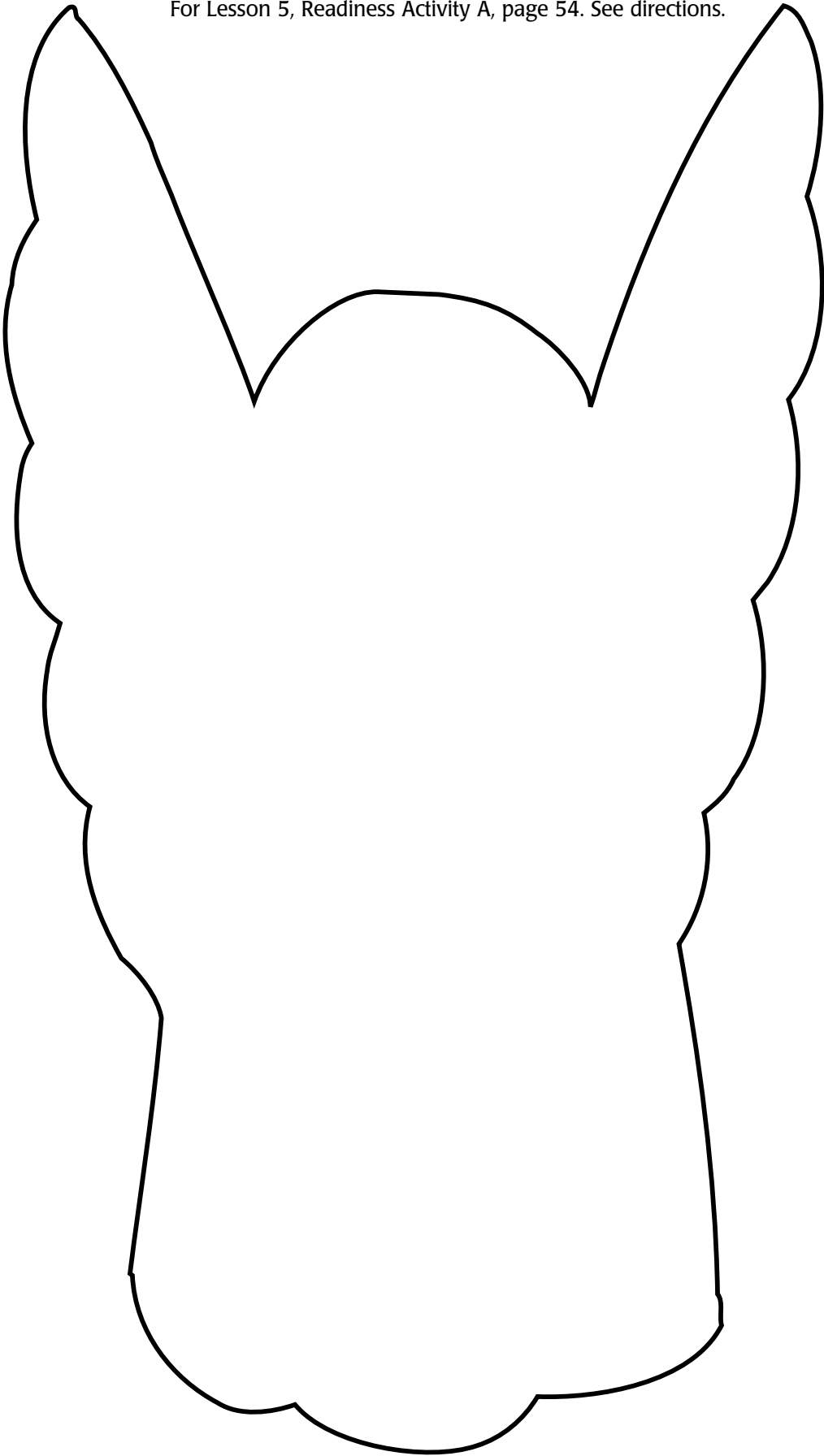


I AM TOUCHED BY GOD'S GRACE WHEN HE FORGIVES MY SINS.

Closing

Sing "The Family of God" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 139). Close with a prayer of thanks to God for His forgiveness and grace.

For Lesson 5, Readiness Activity A, page 54. See directions.



Forgiveness Fire

References

Isaiah 6; *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 303–310

Memory Verse

“Your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for” (Isaiah 6:7, NIV).

The Message

I am touched by God’s grace when He forgives my sins.

Have you ever had to tell someone something that you didn’t want to tell them? Isaiah didn’t think he was good enough to be God’s messenger. But God had an unusual way of encouraging him.

One day Isaiah was visiting the temple. Suddenly he seemed to be standing in heaven in a dazzling room, looking way, way up at God on His throne! Glittering rainbows, as though thrown from a gigantic diamond, danced across the space. God’s royal robe draped down the platform of His throne and

seemed to fill the room. A sacred altar to one side had bright orange, burning coals with a drift of smoke rising. And what were those bright and shining creatures flying above God’s head?

Isaiah studied the creatures. Angels! They were angels, called seraphim, with six wings! With two of their wings they covered their faces. They did not look at God because He was so holy. With two other wings they covered their feet—probably so they would not touch God. And with the remaining two wings, the angels were flying above God’s head.

The whole room rang with the angels’ beautiful music. It was so powerful, the doorposts shook. Isaiah’s

whole body tingled. Soon, smoke from the altar filled the room. But Isaiah sensed it was not dangerous; it was holy. God’s presence seemed to be a part of the smoke that surrounded Isaiah with warmth.

But what were the angels singing? Isaiah listened carefully. They were calling to one another, saying “‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory’” (Isaiah 6:3, NIV).

When Isaiah realized where he was, he began to cry. “I don’t belong here with God,” he said. “I have said things I shouldn’t have said. I live with people who aren’t kind to each other all the time. And

I’m not always good to them. I’m not good enough to be with God. And yet, here I am! What is God going to do to me?”

As he stood there with his face upturned, he saw one of the six-winged angels fly to the altar. The angel took some tongs and very carefully lifted

a burning coal. Then the angel flew to Isaiah and touched his lips with the glowing coal. It didn’t hurt, and it didn’t burn. The angel said very gently, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away.”

A wonderful sense of relief washed over Isaiah. His sins were gone! Before he could thank God for this blessing, God spoke to him. He spoke like a kind Father, concerned about His children because His children wouldn’t listen to Him. God said, “Whom shall I send to take My messages to the people?”



Immediately, Isaiah said, "Here am I, Lord. Send me!" With renewed love for God, he was ready to be God's messenger. God didn't force Isaiah to be a prophet. He first showed His love to Isaiah; then He allowed Isaiah to volunteer.

This was the beginning. For 60 years or more, Isaiah delivered God's messages to God's people.

God loved Isaiah just as he was. We call that love "grace." And God is still reaching out with love to each one of us. God offers us the same promise of forgiveness that He gave to Isaiah. If you confess your sins as Isaiah did, the present of forgiveness is yours. God keeps His promises. He will always love you.

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- With your family, look for creatures that have wings. Then read today's lesson story. What did you learn about winged creatures?
- Read and discuss Isaiah 6:7 together. What does "atone" mean? Who has atoned for your sins? How?
- Sing "For God So Loved the World" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 26). Thank God for sending Jesus to atone for your sins.

Sunday

- During family worship, read about the seraphim in Isaiah 6:2, 3. Each seraph had _____ wings. How many times did they call, "Holy"? _____
- Cut a paper shape of a piece of coal. Write the memory verse on it. Color it so it looks like a glowing coal. Teach the verse to your family.
- Share the "Forgiven" booklet you made in Sabbath School.

Monday

- Read and discuss Isaiah 6:1 with your family. Draw a picture of what you read.
- Isaiah's vision came while he was in God's house. Read Habakkuk 2:20 and tell what it means. How do you act in God's house? Is it a holy place? Ask God to help you remember that.
- Look at your "coal" memory verse reminder. Say the verse from memory.
- Sing "Holy, Holy, Holy" (*The SDA Hymnal*, No. 73) before prayer. Ask God to help you remember to be reverent in His church.

Tuesday

- Read and discuss Isaiah 6:5-7 with your family.
- Look in a book to learn three new things

about coal. Tell your family about them.

- Say your memory verse. Check it with your "coal" memory verse reminder.
- Ask an adult to light a candle for you. Hold your hand near the flame. Do you feel the heat? Thank God for warmth.

Wednesday

- For family worship, read and discuss 1 John 1:9. Say your memory verse in your own words. Tell what it means to you.
- Help with the laundry today. Ask your family: How is God like a washing machine? Thank God for washing away your sins.

Thursday

- For worship, read Isaiah 6:8 out loud together. Then look at the list of Old Testament books in the front of your Bible. Find names of other prophets who shared God's messages.
- When you think of Bible prophets, you might picture older people who were wise. Who is the oldest person you know? Are they wise? Do they remind you that God planned for your salvation long, long ago? Ask God to make you wise.
- Say your memory verse together. Ask your family what it means to them.

Friday

- Dress up like Isaiah and tell how he saw God in the temple. Start by reading Isaiah 6:1. End by showing your family your forgiveness book and telling what it means to you.
- Sing "God Is So Good" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 13). Ask each person to tell about God's grace to them. Add new verses. For example, "He healed my mom." (Repeat three times:) "He's so good to me."
- Say your memory verse together. Then thank God for His goodness to you and your family.