

Grandma's Broken Vase

A 20-minute lesson for Sunday school, VBS or midweek kids · 1 John 1:9

Questions or a church request: hello@ljandfamily.com · ljandfamily.com

AGES	4–10 (adaptations for 3–5 and 10–12 at the end)
YOU NEED	A screen for the episode · an old cracked mug or plate (or a paper cut-out of a vase cut into four pieces) · tape · a gold marker or yellow crayon · the coloring page
EPISODE	Ep 6, Grandma's Broken Vase (4:45) · youtu.be/qFXpTO_dOSE
MEMORY VERSE	"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us." 1 John 1:9
BIBLE STORY	The son who came home, Luke 15:11–32
THE ONE THING THEY TAKE HOME	Hiding makes things heavier. Telling the truth makes them lighter, and the people who love us, and God most of all, run to meet us when we do.

The class plan

MIN		WHAT HAPPENS
0–2	Welcome	Hold up a cracked mug. Ask: "If you broke something special, what would you want to do?"
2–7	Watch	Show Ep 6, Grandma's Broken Vase (4:45).
7–11	Talk	Three questions below. Let them answer before you do.
11–14	Bible	Tell the son who came home from Luke 15:11–32.
14–18	Activity	The gold seam (below).
18–20	Pray	Close with the episode prayer.

Talk about it (5 minutes)

1. What did LJ break, and what did he say when Mom and Dad came running?

Listen for "the window" and "he lied". Name it simply: he was scared, so he hid the truth.

2. Why did the lie feel heavier and heavier, even though everyone believed him?

Help them notice that being believed made it worse, not better. Hiding has a weight even when nobody finds out.

3. Grandma hugged him before she said one word about the vase. Why does that matter so much?

Listen for "she still loved him". Connect it to the father running to his son: love goes first.

Open the Bible (4 minutes)

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us the sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9 (WEB)

How to tell it

A younger son asked his father for his share of everything, went far away and spent it all. When the money ran out, so did his friends, and he ended up feeding pigs, so hungry he wanted their food. He remembered his father's house and walked home to say sorry. Pause there. Then read Luke 15:20: “while he was still far off, his father saw him, and was moved with compassion, and ran.” Ask: who ran first?

Going deeper with older kids

With older kids, read 1 John 1:9 together and ask what “confess” means in their own words. Then read Luke 15:20–24 and ask what the father did before the son finished his speech. Ask how LJ's story and Jesus' story are alike.

Activity: The gold seam (4 minutes)

- Show the paper vase cut into four pieces. Give one piece to each of four children.
- As each child brings their piece to tape it back, they name one hard true thing kids sometimes hide (no personal confessions needed).
- When the vase is whole, trace every seam with the gold marker. Say: “The mends show, and that is beautiful.”
- Finish by saying 1 John 1:9 together, one phrase at a time.

A WORD OF CARE

Never ask a child to confess something in front of the group. Keep the “hard true things” general. If a child does share something personal or serious, thank them for telling the truth, move on gently, and follow up privately with a parent.

Close in prayer (2 minutes)

Have the children fold their hands and repeat after you, one line at a time:

God, when I do something wrong, help me tell the truth right away instead of hiding it, even when I'm scared. Thank You that You forgive me and make me clean. Thank You for the people who love me before they hear the end of the sentence. Amen.

Adaptations

Ages 3–5

Skip question 2. Let each child tape on a piece and say “God forgives me.” Color the gold seams together.

Ages 10–12

Do the Going Deeper section. Ask them to write the son's speech and then the father's answer.

Large group

Make several paper vases in small groups. Take three answers to each question.

Short on time (10 minutes)

Watch the last two minutes (2), one question (2), tell the son who came home (3), say the verse and pray (3).

A note for teachers

The lesson is not “don’t break things.” LJ’s accident was forgivable from the start; the lie was the heavy part. Keep the tone warm: in this episode nobody is angry, and Grandma forgives before she knows the details.

Send the family guide home with every child so families can watch and talk about it together. It is free to print and share at ljandfamily.com.