

ETERNAL FOUNDATIONS  
FOR A NEW GENERATION



BEST  
FRIENDS  
FOREVER

S U S A N G A D D I S

# Best Friends Forever

Book 1 in the series  
*Eternal Foundations for a New Generation*

by **Susan Gaddis**

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Eternal Foundations Curriculum

<http://www.eternalfoundations.com>

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## Lesson 18 Repentance



**PREPARATION:** Read through the lesson to gain an overview of the material to be presented today. Prepare vocabulary cards for this lesson. (*Bold purple vocabulary words are described by the words in purple font.*) You will need a picture from a magazine or internet encyclopedia of the old Berlin Wall that separated the two Germanys after World War II. (If you can't find a picture of the Berlin Wall then look for a map of Germany to use for an illustration.) Each child will need a copy of **Activity Page 18**, a Bible, highlighter pens, his Memory Verse Poster, and a pencil.

**INTRODUCTION:** In our last lesson we discussed the importance of keeping our relationship with Jesus fresh and exciting. What were some of the things we talked about that are important in making Jesus our best friend. (*Answers will vary. Review some of the material discussed in Lesson 17, if necessary.*)

**LESSON:** Today we are going to talk about another condition of having Jesus as our best friend. It's called "repentance." (*Show the picture of the Berlin Wall as you discuss the following material.*)

After World War II, the country of Germany was divided into two parts. The border between the two Germanys was heavily guarded. East Germany was governed by a Communist government and West Germany was not. A great wall was erected in the capital city of Berlin to also divide the city into East and West. The Communists wanted to keep all East Germans out of West Berlin. The Communist's did not want any of their people to live anywhere other than in East Germany. This wall separated friends and families for many years. Finally, in 1989, the Berlin wall was torn down and Germany was again united as one country in 1990.

When we do things that displease the Lord Jesus, we cause Him unhappiness. We also begin to feel a distance in our friendship with Jesus. We no longer feel close to Him. If we allow wrong actions and wrong thoughts to continue, then we grow further and further apart from God and Jesus no longer is our best friend. Sin (wrong actions and thoughts) becomes a wall that blocks our view of Jesus. Just as the Berlin Wall separated family and friends for many years, so sin in our life can make us feel blocked in our relationship with Jesus.

God has provided forgiveness for our sins through His work on the Cross, but we have to take responsibility to acknowledge our wrong actions and thoughts as sin. Turn to 1 John 1:5–10 and read it aloud. These verses tell us a lot about God and His provision of forgiveness for our sins. They also give us warnings

and explain our responsibility to confess our sins. **Confess** means to acknowledge our wrongs as our own—to “own” our sins and to be specific about them in our prayer time with the Lord. We call this “repentance.” **Repentance** is a spiritual principle (or rule) that requires a person to accept personal responsibility for the wrong things he does. Repentance involves confession of a sin and a turning away from the sin.

*(Work through 1 John 1:5–10 sentence by sentence with your child and have him mark each sentence with the highlighter pen color that corresponds with the following: **Blue—God’s character and promises. Green—an action that is the responsibility of your child. Yellow—a warning for your child to heed. Red—something that relates to our salvation.** For example, verse 5 would be highlighted with the blue highlighter pen and verse 6 would be highlighted with the yellow pen. The first part of verse 7 would be highlighted in green because it is a responsibility. The last part of verse 7 would be highlighted in pink because it refers back to God’s work on the Cross—our salvation.)*

A wall is made up of many bricks stacked together. Whenever we sin, we add another brick to a wall that can be built between us and Jesus. When we confess our sin to Him, that brick is destroyed. It is important to daily confess our sins to Jesus and receive forgiveness for them so that there is never a wall between us and our best friend. *(Hand out **Activity Page 18** for your child to complete.)*

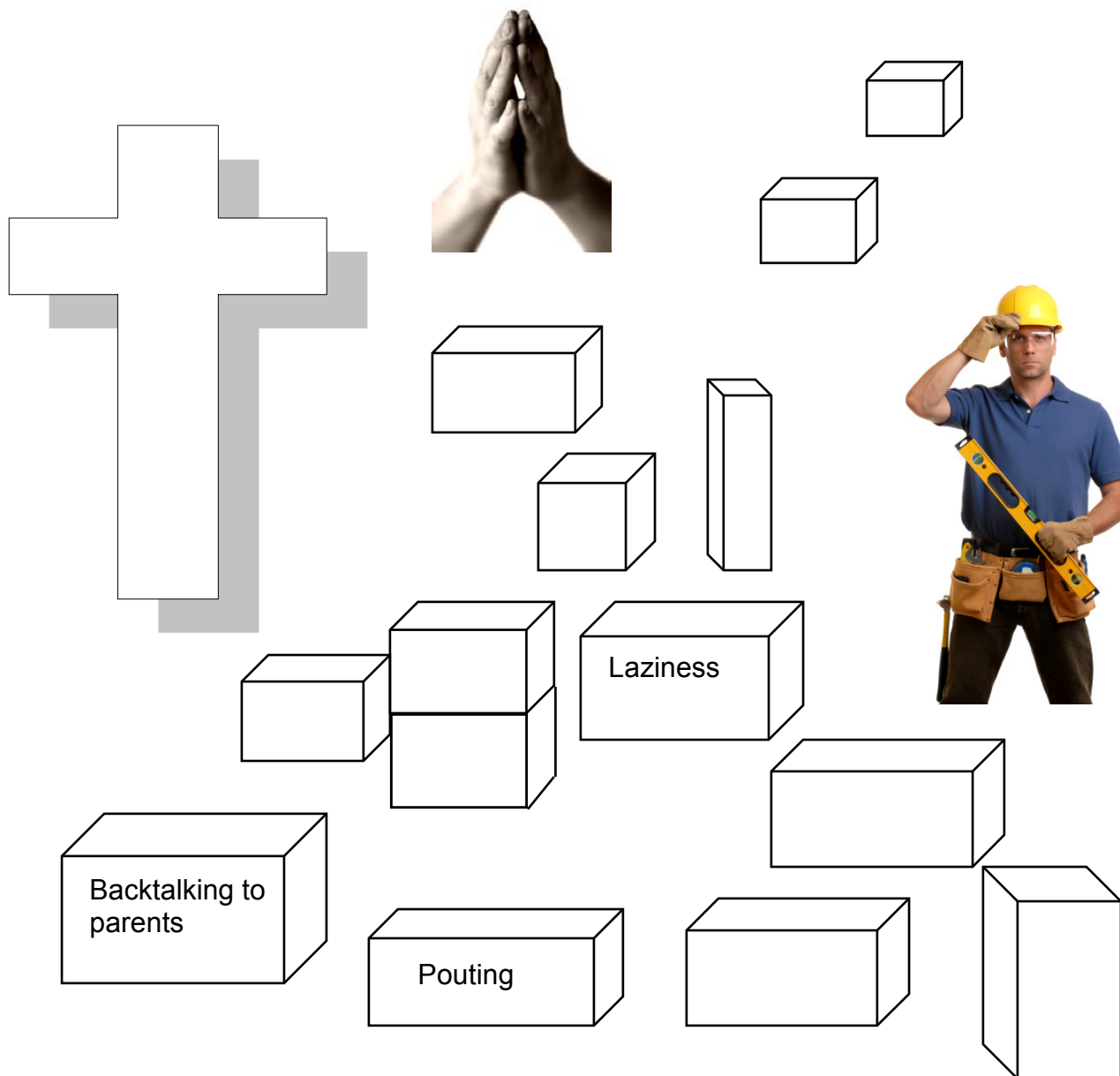
**IN YOUR BIBLE:** *Today’s work was completed during the lesson.*

**KID TALK:** *Listen as your child narrates 1 John 1:5–10 in his own words.*

**MEMORY WORK AND PRAYER:** *Work on any assigned memory work and give out any new work needed on the Memory Verse Poster. Close your time together in prayer as you encourage your child to confess any known sins to the Lord during prayer time. You might have something to confess also!*

# Repentance

Below is a wall of sin where construction has stopped because the owner of the wall is confessing his wrong thoughts and actions to the Lord Jesus. On each of the bricks write a sin that is common in the lives of people your age. Several have been done for you.



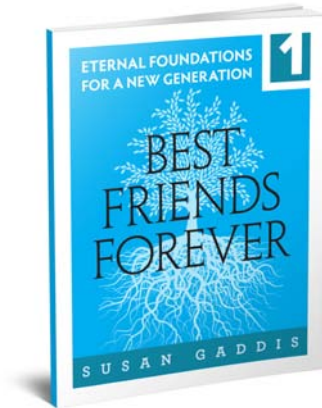
**IN YOUR BIBLE:** This was completed during your lesson today.

**KID TALK:** Explain to a parent or teacher in your own words what 1 John 1:5–10 means. Use the colors you worked with today to help you remember.

# To Purchase this Book

To read the full description of *Best Friends Forever* and to purchase this book, please visit the *Eternal Foundations for a New Generation* series website page.

<http://www.eternalfoundations.com/books/eternal-foundations-for-generation>



## About the Author

Susan Gaddis has been on staff at Father's House in Atascadero, California for over 35 years. She is the author of *Intercessors: God's End-time Vanguard—How to Pray Effectively for the Things That Matter Most, Help, I'm Stuck With These People for the Rest of Eternity!*, and the *Eternal Foundations for a New Generation* series.

Her blogs, "Holy in the Daily" and "Leaving a Spiritual Legacy," provide fresh new ideas for improving your faith walk both now and for future generations. Coffee is her drink of choice in the morning and tea fulfills her addictions in the afternoon. You'll find her hanging out at <http://www.susangaddis.net> and <http://www.eternalfoundations.com>

