

## WE ARE SINNERS

STORY: FALL

## BIG TRUTH: WE ARE SINNERS

*Psalms 51:5; 130:3; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Isaiah 53:6; 64:6; Romans 3:10-12; 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3; 1 John 1:8-10*

## BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 3:23

*"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*

## BIG IDEAS

- Sin is disobedience.
- Sin is rejection.
- I have disobeyed and rejected God.

## BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 3

God prepared a home for Adam and Eve. He placed them in the Garden of Eden and gave them everything they needed to live. Because of His love for them, He gave them boundaries. They could eat anything in the Garden except for one thing. The only thing they could not eat was the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. God set this boundary to protect Adam and Eve, but Adam and Eve disobeyed God. When they ate the fruit, they chose to break away from God's plan. Their disobedience was sin and their hearts became sinful. Every person born after them is born with a sinful heart. We are all disobedient.

## STORY: FALL

Everything was perfect in the world until we broke it. When humanity chose to sin, the world that was once perfect became messed up and broken. Sin is ultimately a rejection of God Himself. Because of sin bad things happen, we experience all types of pain, and death has come into the world. All of creation groans and wishes that the world could be perfect and good like it was before.

## BIG AIMS



## Every child should know that:

- Our sin is a rejection of God that separates us from Him



## Every child should feel:

- A need to have a right relationship with God



## Every child should:

- Trust what God tells us about the depth of our sin and brokenness



## Every child should want:

- A restored relationship with God

## FAMILY DEVOTION: DISOBEDIENCE IS SIN

We all understand that there is a right way and a wrong way, yet at times, if not often, we choose to do what is wrong instead of what is right. When we do this, we are sinning. Disobedience is sin.

**BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 3:23***"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."***No one is righteous.**

- To be righteous means to be good or moral.
- No one is really good.
- Every person has a sin nature passed down to them from Adam and Eve.
- Because Adam and Eve sinned, every person born after them has a sinful heart.
- This sin keeps people from being righteous or good.

**No one seeks God.**

- If people were good, they would seek God on their own, but they do not.
- Because of the sin nature we are born with, we seek to do what we want instead of what God says.
- Every person has a heart that seeks to please himself instead of God.

**No one does good.**

- No person truly does good without God.
- Every person has sinned because of his sin nature.
- Even the things people do that appear good aren't because they aren't done to glorify God.
- All people have sinned and no person is without sin.

**BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 3***Adam and Eve Sin***Opening Illustration:**

Give each child a white heart-shaped piece of paper and a marker. Ask the children a series of questions about their behavior and ask them to make a mark on their heart for every behavior they have done. Use the following behaviors and add to them as needed:

- Have you used a wrong tone with your parents ever?
- Have you thought mean thoughts about someone?
- Have you ever refused to share your toys or belongings with others?
- Have you ever ignored or disobeyed your parents when they asked you to do something?

Lead the children in a discussion about how we are all sinners. Every single person sins because we are born with a sin nature.

**BIG IDEA: SIN IS DISOBEDIENCE.**

*What is disobedience? (Disobedience is doing what you know not to do or not doing what you know to do.)*

**Sin is not doing what God says.**

- When God placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, He gave them instructions for how they were to live.
- He provided everything that they needed and told them to not eat the fruit from one tree.
- Adam and Eve didn't do what God said to do.
- They didn't follow His Word or listen to what He told them was best.
- Not doing what God says is sin.
- Adam and Eve sinned when they didn't listen.



Play a game of charades with the children. Have the children act out different disobedient behaviors. Remind the children that sin is disobedience.

**Sin is also knowing the right thing to do and not doing it.<sup>1</sup>**

- Adam and Eve knew the right thing to do.
- They knew the right way to live was the way God told them to live.
- They knew the boundaries that God set for them.
- They knew they weren't supposed to eat the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.
- When Satan lied to them, they chose to do the wrong thing.
- Sin is choosing to do what we know is wrong and choosing not to do what we know is right.

**Adam's disobedience caused all people to have a sin nature.**

- Sin entered the hearts of men through Adam.
- His disobedience caused all people after him to have a sin nature.
- He did the opposite of what God said to do which is disobedience.
- Adam and Eve's sin meant that sin entered the heart of every person.

*What caused sin to enter the hearts of men? (Adam and Eve's disobedience caused sin to enter the hearts of every person.)*

1. James 4:17: When we know the right thing to do and we don't do it, it is sin for us.

**BIG IDEA: SIN IS REJECTION.<sup>2</sup>**

*What does it mean to reject something? (It means that we don't accept it or we don't want it.)*

**God's way is the right way.**

- When God created Adam and Eve, He created a way of life for them.
- He gave them guidelines, or instructions on how to live.
- His way was and still is the right way.
- His way is the best way.
- Adam and Eve didn't follow God's way.
- They rejected His way.
- They did what they thought was best instead of following God's way.

**Disobedience is rejecting the created way.**

- When Adam and Eve disobeyed, their actions rejected God's way.
- He created the world to function and people to live a certain way.
- When Adam and Eve disobeyed, they showed they were rejecting His way.
- Sin is a rejection of God's instruction, of His created design.

**Sin is a rejection of God.**

- Adam and Eve had a perfect relationship with God before they disobeyed.
- Nothing separated them from Him.
- They could be with Him and not be ashamed.
- When they sinned, they rejected this relationship.
- Their sin broke the relationship and changed it.
- Their disobedience showed they had rejected God as their Lord.

*What are we rejecting when we sin? (We are rejecting a relationship with God and His created way.)*



Bring in two stuffed animals—a new one and an old one. Place one stuffed animal on one side of the room and the other one on the other side of the room. Ask the children to choose which animal they'd rather have by moving to the side of the room the animal is on. Remind them that when we move away from something, it's like we're rejecting it, or saying we don't want it. That's how sin is.

2. John 12:48: When we sin, we reject God's way and Him.

**BIG IDEA: I HAVE DISOBEYED AND REJECTED GOD.****No one is without sin.<sup>3</sup>**

- Because Adam and Eve were the first people, all people after them come from them.
- Eve is the mother of all people because she was the first mother.
- Because Adam and Eve disobeyed, sin entered their hearts.
- Because their hearts were sinful, every person after them is sinful.
- No one is born without a sin nature, or a heart that desires to sin.



Give each child a white piece of paper and a black marker. Ask them to make a mark on their paper for every time they have disobeyed today. Help them understand that we all have disobeyed or sinned today. Tell them that everyone is a sinner. We all have sinned.

**We all sin from a very young age.**

- No one has to be taught to lie or to disobey.
- Even as young children, our hearts want to do our own thing.
- We all disobey our parents, even as young children.
- We all disobey God.
- There is no one who hasn't sinned.

**Our disobedience is a rejection of God.**

- When we disobey God's way, we are rejecting Him.
- God's Word tells us how to live and how we can glorify Him.
- When we choose our own way of doing things, we are rejecting God's way.
- We all have chosen our own way.

*How have we disobeyed and rejected God? (We don't obey God's Word. We aren't kind and loving. We disobey our parents.)*

3. Romans 3:23: Every person is sinful. There is no one who has not sinned.

## HOOKS

**To Sin Is To Disobey**

Lead the children in a discussion about “Who’s The Boss?” Ask them to name the people who act as a “boss” in their life or who have the right to act as a boss. These people might be mom, dad, teachers, grandparents, babysitters, etc. Next, ask the children to name some of the things that their “bosses” ask them to do, such as pick up their toys, be quiet, go to bed, etc. After you’ve made the lists, read off each of the “bosses” that the children named and ask the children to stand up if they’ve ever disobeyed them. Remind the children that disobedience is sin. When we disobey the authority in our life, we are sinning.

**Sin Is Rejection**

Bring in pictures of different types of food, such as ice cream, green beans, broccoli, carrots, steak, chicken, cake, etc. Place the pictures on a table and ask the children to choose their perfect meal. Once they’ve finished, gather the pictures they didn’t choose and hold them up for the children to see. Tell them that these are the foods that they have rejected or not wanted. Lead them in a discussion about how our sin is a rejection of God.



- When we say we don’t want something, it is a rejection of it.
- When we choose to disobey God, we are saying with our actions that we don’t want to listen to Him.
- We are rejecting Him.

**We All Sin**

Give each child a folded piece of paper with a tiny black dot on it. Don’t tell the children that every piece of paper has a black dot on it. Tell the children to keep their papers folded until you tell them to open them. Show them your paper, unfolded to reveal the black dot, and tell them that the paper represents our hearts and the black dot represents sin and disobedience. Ask them to unfold their papers to see who has a black dot. Tell them that they all have a black dot because we are all sinners.