

WE ARE SEPARATED

STORY: FALL

BIG TRUTH: WE ARE SEPARATED

Genesis 3:23-24; Deuteronomy 31:16-18; Micah 3:4; Romans 1:18-21; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 2:12; 4:18; Colossians 1:19-22

BIBLE VERSE: ISAIAH 59:2

"But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your god, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear."

BIG IDEAS

- Sin is lostness.
- Sin is brokenness.
- I am broken and lost.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 15:1-7

Jesus spent His time on this earth seeking out sinners that He might share the good news with them. The Pharisees and scribes grumbled against Jesus because He spent time with sinners, yet Jesus shared with them that even one lost person is of great value to God. Just like a shepherd will leave his herd to find one lost sheep, Jesus came to the earth to save the lost. We are the lost sheep in need of Jesus.

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: BROKEN AND LOST

God's creation was perfect and whole when He created it. Sin entered the world and the heart of man. The result was a broken creation, broken people. We are all lost and broken because of sin, but God sent Jesus to seek and save us.

BIBLE VERSE: ISAIAH 59:2

“But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your god, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.”

Everyone has a sin nature.

- No one is born innocent or without sin.
- We are all born with a sin nature, with a heart that desires our way over God’s way.
- Our hearts lead us to rebel against God, to sin against Him.
- No one can stand before God with a clean, pure heart.

Our sin separates us from God.

- Sin causes a barrier between man and God.
- Sin does not limit God’s forgiveness, but it separates man from God.
- Sin causes our hearts to turn away from God.
- God is holy and righteous.
- He is without sin.
- We are sinful and we do not seek God on our own.
- Our sin and rebellion break our relationship with God and separate us from Him.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 15:1-7

The Lost Sheep

Opening Illustration:

Before class hide an object, such as your Bible or another important object in the classroom somewhere. When the children enter the class, tell them that you have lost your object and you need their help to find it. After the children have found the object, lead them in a discussion about how we are all lost because our sin separates us from God.

- Every person has a sin nature and we are separated from God because of it.
- Even though we are lost and need to be found, like my object, God sent Jesus to find us and to pay our sin debt.

BIG IDEA: SIN IS LOSTNESS.**Lostness means not being on the right path.**

- Jesus shared a story, or parable, about a shepherd who had a hundred sheep.
- One of his sheep wandered away and was lost. It was separated from the rest of the herd.
- The sheep was away from the protection and guidance of the shepherd.
- Sin causes us to be lost like this.
- It causes us to be away from God, to be separated from Him.¹
- Sin causes us to be lost and not on the right path.



Hide a few objects around the room and have the children look for them. Remind the children that we are all lost because we are separated from God. We are all in need of being found by Jesus.

Lostness means we need to be found.

- The lost sheep needed to be found by the shepherd.
- It couldn't find its own way back.
- Because of our sin we are lost and need to be found.
- Sin keeps us from being able to find our own way back to God.
- Sin means we aren't on the right path.
- It means we've lost our way and are headed in the wrong direction.

What does it mean to be lost? (You aren't on the right path. You're not headed in the right direction.)

What causes us to be lost? (Our sin causes us to be lost and in need of God.)

1. Hebrews 7:26: Sin separates us from God. Jesus is holy and righteous and separated from sin.

BIG IDEA: SIN IS BROKENNESS.²**Sin breaks our relationship with God.**

- The sheep who lost its way was no longer with the shepherd.
- Our sin breaks our relationship with God.
- It separates us from Him and means we aren't being led by Him.
- Our sin leads us away from God, keeping us from knowing Him.

Sin breaks us.

- When God first created man and woman, they were perfect.
- They did not have to experience sorrow or know what it was like to be away from God.
- Our bodies are not perfect and eternal like they once were.
- They are broken now because of our sin nature.
- We experience death and sickness.
- Our hearts are not without sin and our sin breaks us and our relationship with God.



Bring in two small mirrors and a hammer. Show the children one of the mirrors. Have them pass the mirror around and look at themselves in it. Tell them that when God first created the world and mankind, it was all perfect, but sin broke it and us. Next, take the hammer and crack the glass in the other mirror. Ask the children to look at themselves in the broken mirror. We look fractured. We are all broken because of sin.

What breaks our relationship with God? (Sin breaks our relationship and separates us from God.)

2. Romans 8:19-22: Sin breaks everything. It broke creation causing death and decay to enter the perfect world God created. Sin breaks our relationship with God, separating us from our Creator.

BIG IDEA: I AM BROKEN AND LOST.**No one is on the right path without God's help.**

- We are all broken and lost before we know God.
- When we are born, our broken, sinful hearts lead us down the wrong path.
- Our lives are not what they should be without God.
- We are all like the one lost sheep.
- We are in need of being found by our Shepherd, God.



Bring in several puzzles with one piece in each puzzle removed. Divide the children into groups and ask them to put the puzzles together. Once they ask for the missing piece, talk with them about how the pieces are separated from the rest of the puzzle just like we are separated from God by our sin.

We all have broken and sinful hearts.³

- Every person has a sinful heart.
- We don't naturally seek after God.
- Our choices show that we are seeking our own way.
- We are like the one sheep who wandered away from the flock and got lost.
- We need Jesus to find us.
- Our lostness keeps us away from God.
- Our brokenness keeps us from knowing we need God.
- Yet, the shepherd left the flock to look for the one lost sheep just as God looks for us.
- God seeks us out and offers us salvation through His Son, Jesus.

What makes everyone broken and lost? (Sin causes us all to be broken and lost.)

3. Jeremiah 17:9: Our hearts cannot be trusted. They are sinful and deceitful and will lead us to rebel against God.

HOOKS

**The Heavenly Shepherd**

Give each child some construction paper and markers. Read Psalm 23 out loud to them and ask them to draw a picture that includes the things the shepherd does in the Psalm. Talk with them about how Jesus is our shepherd and He left Heaven to come to save us.



- We are like the little lost sheep that the shepherd left the ninety-nine for. We are lost and separated from God.
- Jesus came to earth to seek and to save us.
- Those who turn away from their sins and believe in Jesus can have their sin debt paid.

**We Are Separated From God**

Help the children understand that they are separated from God by having them think through their own behaviors and attitudes. Use a piece of tape to divide the room in half. One half is “Yes” and the other side is “No”. Next, ask the children a series of questions about their behavior, such as “Have you disobeyed your parents today?” or “Have you shared your toys today?” The children should answer the question by moving to the appropriate side of the room. Lead them in a discussion about how we are all separated from God because of our sin.

