

**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

**BROKEN AND LOST**

Gather together a cracked mirror and a broken flashlight. Ask your child to use the broken mirror to look at his or her reflection. Next, ask your child to turn the flashlight on. When he or she can't do either, talk with him or her about how we are all broken and lost because of our sin, but God sent Jesus to seek and to save us.

**DISCOVER IT:** *(Use the passage to illustrate the Big Truth.)*

Luke 15:1-7

**THINK ABOUT IT:** *(Use the commentary to reinforce the Big Truth.)*

Jesus was confronted by some of the most important men in His day, the Pharisees and the scribes. These men questioned Him about the way He ministered to sinners. They didn't like that He was allowing sinners and tax collectors to listen to Him. They didn't understand that we are all sinners. They didn't understand that every person is separated from God. They didn't think of themselves as sinners in need of Jesus. To help them understand, Jesus told them a story about a shepherd who had a flock of a hundred sheep. One sheep got lost because it wandered off the path and away from the flock. The shepherd could have left the sheep to wander and take care of itself. The shepherd could have chosen to take care of the ninety-nine sheep left in his fold. The shepherd didn't do that. He chose to leave the ninety-nine who were safe and to go look for the lost sheep. Jesus told this story to show the people listening that He had left His heavenly home to come to earth to seek us out. We are the lost sheep. We need our heavenly Shepherd to find us. We are all separated from God because of our sinful hearts. Jesus came to earth to seek and save the lost. We are the lost.

**TALK ABOUT IT:** *(Use the questions to discuss the Big Truth)*

- Who was gathered to listen to Jesus that the Pharisees didn't like? (Sinners and tax collectors.)
- What did the shepherd decide to do when one of his sheep was lost? (He decided to go and look for the lost sheep.)
- How are we like the lost sheep? (We are lost and separated from God because of our sinful hearts.)



As a family memorize Isaiah 59:2 by writing the verse on a large piece of paper and then cutting the paper up to make a puzzle. Help your child put the puzzle together and memorize the verse.



Ask your child to help you sort laundry this week. As you sort laundry, talk with your child about how we are separated from God just like you separate white clothes from colors. Remind your child that it is our sin that separates us from God.



As a family act out the story of the lost sheep. Take turns playing the lost sheep and the shepherd. Talk with your child about how we are all like the lost sheep. We are separated from God.



Gather a bowl full of cotton balls. Divide the cotton balls into groups and dye each group a different color. Place the dyed cotton balls into a plastic bag. Let your child pick one cotton ball. This cotton ball will be his or her "sheep." Next, hide the other cotton balls around your house and help your child find his or her missing "sheep", or the cotton balls that match the color of his or her chosen cotton ball. Talk with them about how we are the lost sheep and God sent Jesus to find us like you're finding the cotton balls.

Before bedtime each night this week, spend a few moments praying with your child thanking God for sending Jesus to seek and to save. Remind your child that we are like the lost sheep. We are separated from God because of our sinful hearts.