

WE ARE SEPARATED FROM GOD

STORY: FALL

BIG TRUTH: WE ARE SEPARATED FROM GOD

Ephesians 2:1-3; 4:18-19; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17

BIBLE VERSE: EPHESIANS 2:12

“Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ.”

BIG IDEAS

- Our sin separates us from the truth.
- Our sin separates us from joy.
- Our sin separates us from the author of life.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 15:11-32

Jesus tells a story about a young son who chooses to go away from his father and his home because of his sinful heart. He takes his inheritance and leaves his family. He spends all of his inheritance and is left homeless and with nothing. He has to beg for food and when he returns home, he discovers his father waiting for him with open arms. This story shows us how God forgives us even though we are separated from Him by our sin.

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



KNOW

Every child should know that:

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



FEEL

Every child should feel:

- A need to have a right relationship with God



DO

Every child should:

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



WANT

Every child should want:

- A restored relationship with God

FAMILY DEVOTION: SEPARATED FROM TRUTH AND JOY

Our sin has placed a barrier between God and us. We are separated from Him because of it. Our separation from God means we are separated from joy and the truth.

BIBLE VERSE: EPHESIANS 2:12

“Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ.”

Our sinful hearts separate us from God.

- Every man’s heart is sinful.
- We have all inherited a sin nature from Adam and Eve.
- Our sin nature causes us to reject God, to seek our own way, and to disobey God.
- This sin separates us from a holy God.
- We are all separated from God before we repent and believe.

Our sinful hearts cause us to seek to fulfill sinful desires.

- Our hearts are not naturally set on the things of God.
- We seek after sinful things and we act in sinful ways.
- Our hearts do not lead us to seek after God or to glorify Him.
- Our sin nature separates us from God.
- This sin nature is the reason God sent His Son to pay our sin debt.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 15:11-32

The Prodigal Son

Opening Illustration:

Give each child a balloon and a marker. Ask the child to draw the world on their balloon. You may need to blow the balloons up and tie them first if they aren’t stretchy. After the children have drawn the world on their balloons, if they aren’t already blown up, blow them up and tie them. Tell the children that the balloons represent God’s perfect creation and our feet represent the sin of man. Lead the children to pop their balloons by stomping on them. Once the balloons are popped, ask the children to collect the popped pieces of their balloons. Lead them in a discussion about how our world is now broken like the balloon.

- Once our balloons pop, they do not function the same way, do they? (No, they can no longer be tossed back and forth and they no longer hold air.)
- This is what sin did to God’s perfect creation. It broke it. Now it doesn’t act or exist like it once did when God first made it.

BIG IDEA: OUR SIN SEPARATES US FROM THE TRUTH.**Our sin nature keeps us from seeking the truth.**

- Because we all have a sin nature, we do not seek the truth without God showing us.¹
- God opens our eyes and shows us the truth because our hearts are blinded to it by our sinful desires.
- The youngest son was blinded by his desire for his own pleasure and happiness.
- His sinful heart blinded him from the truth that he had a good home and a father who loved him.
- The young son didn't see the truth in his father's love and guidance.
- He chose to believe that life would be better somewhere else.



Bring in an uncooked egg, a bowl. Tell the children the outside of the egg is God and the inside is man. Crack the egg into the bowl and set the shell aside. Tell the children that our sin separates us from God just like cracking the egg separated the inside of the egg for its shell.

Our sin blinds us to the truth of our circumstances.

- The young son couldn't see the truth of his circumstances.
- He couldn't see how much his father loved him or the good life that he had.
- He was blinded and chose to go out on his own instead.
- Our sin blinds us to the truth.
- We think things are better on our own instead of following God's Word.
- We separate ourselves from God because we are blinded to the truth that His way is best and His love is perfect.

What does our sin nature keep us from seeking? (It keeps us from seeking the truth.)

What do our sinful hearts keep us from knowing about God? (His love is perfect and His way is best.)

1. 1 Corinthians 8:2-3: We do not seek God's truth on our own. When we know God, though, we are known by Him and we know His truth.

BIG IDEA: OUR SIN SEPARATES US FROM JOY.²**The only source of real joy is God.**

- God is the great Creator.
- Everything comes from Him because He is the Creator.
- Anything we find true joy in is from God.
- When we are separated from God, we can't really enjoy anything truly good in life because we do not know Him.
- Our joy isn't really as full as it could be without God.
- The prodigal son was separated from joy because of his sinful choices.
- He was away from his earthly father.
- He was away from his home and his family.

Our sinful hearts keep us from experiencing true joy.

- When we experience things apart from God, we can't fully experience them as intended.
- Because creation is broken and sin is in the world, we can't really know joy in life without God.
- The prodigal son was separated from joy because he was away from his father, his family, and his home.
- His sinful heart separated him from any joy in life.
- He couldn't even really experience joy in a new place doing what he wanted because there was no real joy apart from his father.



Bring in a pair of earplugs, noise cancelling headphones, and something to play music. Have the children take turns wearing the earplugs or headphones while you play music. When the children have all had a turn wearing the headphones or earplugs, talk to them about how the earplugs made it harder to hear and enjoy the music just like our sin keeps us from experiencing joy.

What is the only source of real joy? (God is the only source of real joy.)

What keeps us from experiencing true joy? (Our sinful hearts keep us from experiencing true joy.)

2. 1 Peter 1:8-9: Our joy is found in God; it is found in knowing God and being known by God.

BIG IDEA: OUR SIN SEPARATES US FROM THE AUTHOR OF LIFE.**God is the author of life and is our heavenly Father.**

- God is our Creator and the author of all life.
- He is our heavenly Father and the source of everything.
- When Adam and Eve sinned, they were separated from God.
- Our sin nature separates us from God.
- Sin causes us to be separate from God because God is holy and we are not.
- The prodigal son was separated from his father like sin separates us from God.

Our sin causes us to go away from God, the author of life.³

- The prodigal son's desire for his own way caused him to leave his father and his family.
- Our sin and the choices that we make as a result, cause us to be separated from God.
- We wander away from God, the author of our life.
- We choose our own path like the prodigal son, which leads to sadness and despair.
- Sin separates us from the one, true God who is the author of all life.



Bring in an apple, a picture of an apple tree, and a knife. Show the children the picture of the apple tree and then show them the apple. Talk with them about how the apple gets its life from the tree just like we get our life from God. Next, slice the apple and show them the core with the seeds. Talk with them about how the apple grew from the seeds in its core attached to the tree. Tell them that when we sin, we are separated from God just like the apple is separated from its core.

Who is the author of life? (God is the author of life.)

What separates us from the author of life? (Our sin separates us and causes us to move away from God.)

3. Psalm 34:16: God is a holy God and our sin separates us from Him.

HOOKS

**Separate, But Not Forgotten**

Divide the children into groups. Give each group a poster board and markers. Ask the children to draw or write their ideas about what it means to be separated from God. Once they have finished, allow each group to share their poster and ideas. Lead them in a discussion about how our sin separates us from God.



- It is our sinful hearts that separate us from God.
- What separated the prodigal son from his father? (His choice of getting his inheritance and going away.)
- Our sinful choices separate us from God, but God offers us forgiveness through Jesus.

**No Joy Without God**

Give each child a balloon and markers. Ask the children to decorate the balloons with things that bring them joy. Once they finish, have the children blow their balloons up and help them tie them. Next, play a game of musical chairs with the balloons. When the music stops, the child without a seat must pop his or her balloon. Lead the children in a discussion about how we have no real joy when we are separated from God.



- When we are away from God, we have no real joy.
- When the prodigal son went away from his family, he thought he was going to be happier, but he wasn't.
- God is our only source of real joy.

Good Choices/Bad Choices

Divide the children into two teams. Give each team a marker. One child from each team can run to the board and draw a good choice or bad choice. Their teammates have a minute to guess if it is a good choice or a bad choice. Once each teammate has a chance to draw, lead the children in a discussion about our sin separates us from God's truth, which causes us to make bad choices.