

**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****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

**SEPARATED FROM TRUTH AND JOY**

Set up an obstacle course in your house or outside for your child to go through. Stand at the end of the course and talk with your child about how our sin separates us from truth and joy as he or she goes through the course.

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

Luke 15:11-32

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

Jesus shared a story about a young son and his father. The father loved his son very much, but the young son wasn't happy at home. The young son decided that he would be happier if he left home and did what he wanted. He asked his father for his inheritance and the father gave it to him. The young son left with the money his father gave him and went looking for happiness somewhere away from his father. He did what he wanted when he wanted. He spent his money on things that he thought would make him happy, but then he ran out of money. He was away from his father, so he had no one to help him. He was so broken he had to beg for scraps of food that were being given to pigs. The young son was separated from his father. His sinful heart has separated him from the truth that his father loved him and that being with his father brought true joy. He returned home and found that even though he had left his father, his father was overjoyed to see him and welcomed him home with open arms. The young, prodigal son is like every person. We are all separated from God by our sinful hearts. Our sinful hearts separate us from God's truth and true joy, which is only found in being with the Father.

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

- Why did the young son ask for his inheritance and then leave his father? (He thought he would be happier making his own choices.)
- Was the young son happier when he left his father? (No, he ended up using all of his money and eating pig food.)
- How did the father react when the young son returned? (He was overjoyed and welcomed him with open arms.)

**KNOW**

As a family, memorize Ephesians 2:12 by playing a game of hide and seek with your child. When the person hiding is found, he or she gets to say the verse out loud.

**DO**

As a family, take a trip to a petting zoo or zoo. As you walk around the zoo, talk with your child about how we are separated from God like the animals are separated from the people by their enclosures or fences. Explain that it is our sinful hearts that separate us from God.

**FEEL**

As a family, take a trip to a place like an orchard, garden, or pumpkin patch to get apples, flowers, or pumpkins. As you walk around, talk with your child about how the items that you pick are separated from their source of life just like our sin separates us from the author of our life.

**WANT**

Spend some time this week sharing with your child different ways you have experienced joy in the Lord. Pray with your child thanking God that we do not have to be separated from Him if we believe in Jesus.