

# WE REJECT GOD'S LAW

## STORY: FALL

### BIG TRUTH: WE REJECT GOD'S LAW

Judges 2:10-12; 2 Kings 17:14-15; Nehemiah 9:26-29; Jeremiah 5:20-24; Psalm 81:11; Romans 1:21-25; Amos 2:4; Romans 8:5-8

### BIBLE VERSE: PSALM 78:10-11

*"They did not keep God's covenant, but refused to walk according to His law. They forgot His works and the wonders that He had shown them."*

### BIG IDEAS

- In our sin we choose to disobey God's law.
- In our sin we forget God's works.
- In our sin we reject our need for God.

### BIBLE STORY: 2 KINGS 22

For many years, God's special people, the Israelites had been without God's law. They had forgotten His law and it had been lost. When Josiah became the new king of the tribe of Judah, the law was discovered and the Israelites realized just how sinful they had been. They had rejected their need for God.

### 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: CHOOSING TO DISOBEY

Disobedience is sin. When we disobey, we choose to not follow God and His commands. We have His Word to guide us and when we don't obey, we are sinning against Him.

**BIBLE VERSE: PSALM 78:10-11**

*"They did not keep God's covenant, but refused to walk according to His law. They forgot His works and the wonders that He had shown them."*

**God's law is for the good of His people.**

- God's laws are not for our harm or to keep things from us.
- God's law is for the good of His people.
- In this passage, the tribe of Ephraim, the Ephraimites, walked away from God's law.
- They turned away from the battle, and refused to fight as part of God's people.
- God's command for the tribes of Israel to help one another was for their good, not for their harm.

**We reject God's commands because of sin.**

- The tribe of Ephraim took their eyes off of God.
- They forgot all the miraculous things God had done for His people.
- They deliberately chose to turn away from the battle, showing the disobedience in their hearts.
- We take our eyes off of God and turn away from His commands in His Word.
- When we do this, we sin like the people of Ephraim.
- We forget who God is and all that He has done for us.

**BIBLE STORY: 2 KINGS 22**

*Josiah and the Book of the Law*

**Opening Illustration:**

On small cards write out several commandments from God's Word, such as "Children obey your parents", "Love one another", etc. Make sure you have enough cards for every child in your class. Place the chairs in your room in a circle for musical chairs and put the cards on the floor in the center of the circle. Play a game of musical chairs. Every time the music stops and a child is without a chair, he or she gets to pick a card from the center. Have the child read the card or read it for them and ask the children to raise their hands if they have ever disobeyed the command. Play enough times so that every card gets read. Talk with the children about how our sinful hearts cause us to disobey God and reject Him. They cause us to be jealous and to get angry with others and even hurt others.

**BIG IDEA: IN OUR SIN WE CHOOSE TO DISOBEY GOD'S LAW.****Our sin causes us to forget God's Law.<sup>1</sup>**

- Because the people of Judah had turned away from God's Law for so long, they had forgotten it.
- Our sin causes us to forget God's command when we turn away from it.
- The people of Judah had not been following God's Law.
- They were sinning against God because they had forgotten His Law.
- Our sinful hearts cause us to turn away from God and His Law.



Play a game of “Red Light/ Green Light”. Talk with the children about how there are laws, like traffic laws, that we should all obey just like there are God's laws in His Word. In our sin we choose to disobey His Law.

**Our hearts are rebellious and disobedient.**

- Our hearts are in rebellion to God from the beginning of our lives.
- Just like the people of Judah turned away, we turn away from God's commands.
- Our sinful hearts cause us to disobey Him.
- The people of Judah had completely forgotten God's Law because of their sinful hearts.
- Our sin causes us to reject God's law and to seek our own way of doing things.
- Our hearts are rebellious and we desire to please ourselves instead of pleasing God.

*What do we disobey in our sin? (We disobey God's law.)*

1. John 15:10: We are commanded to follow God's law, to obey His commands. Those who are followers of Christ will follow His commands.

**BIG IDEA: IN OUR SIN WE FORGET GOD'S WORKS.****Our sinful hearts are blind to God's work in our lives.**

- Our sin blinds us to the truth and keeps us from seeing God at work in our lives.
- We quickly forget all that God has done for us.
- The people of Judah forgot what God had done for them.
- They forgot and turned away from God's Law.
- We, too, forget and turn away from God's Law.
- We reject Him and try to live according to our own plans instead of following God.

**God's works are to remind us of the His faithfulness.<sup>2</sup>**

- The people of Judah forgot all that God had done for them.
- They disobeyed Him because they had forgotten and turned away.
- We, too, can forget and then we are likely to disobey God.
- When we remember His works in our life, we remember His faithfulness.
- Remembering His faithfulness helps us remain faithful.
- The people of Judah didn't remain faithful to God because they had forgotten all that He had done for them.



Gather together several pictures of different landscapes, such as beach, mountains, desert, etc. Flash the pictures quickly and then ask the children to name the pictures in order. Do this several times, mixing up the order of the pictures each time. Talk with the children about how easy it is to forget the order of the pictures. We forget all that God has done, too.

*What does our sin cause us to forget about God? (It causes us to forget His works.)*

2. Deuteronomy 7:9: God's faithfulness is eternal. He remains faithful to His people and this faithfulness can be seen through His works.

**BIG IDEA: IN OUR SIN WE REJECT OUR NEED FOR GOD.****Sin causes pride in our hearts.<sup>3</sup>**

- Our sinful hearts are full of pride.
- We take pride in ourselves and what we think we have done.
- The people of Judah had pride in themselves.
- Their pride caused them to forget God and His Law.
- We can do that, too, when we think more highly of ourselves we than we should.

**Sin and pride causes self-reliance.**

- When our hearts are prideful, we think we can take care of ourselves.
- We turn away from God and focus on ourselves.
- We do things in our own power.
- Our self-reliance causes us to reject God.
- When we rely on ourselves, we don't see a need for God.
- When we don't see a need for God, we forget His Law.
- When we rely on ourselves and not God, we are rejecting His Law.
- This always leads us to sorrow because God's ways are always best.



Divide the children into small groups and ask them to look up the following verses: Psalm 23:4, Psalm 138:7-10, Deuteronomy 32:8. Talk with the children about what these verses say about God's help and His provision for His people. Remind them that He is always faithful, but we often choose to reject our need for Him.

*What do we reject when we rely on ourselves? (We reject our need for God.)*

3. Isaiah 2:12: *Those who are prideful will be humbled by God. Pride is sin in our hearts.*

## HOOKS



KNOW

**Josiah and the Rolls**

Bring in two empty cardboard rolls used to hold wrapping paper. Bring in a roll of white paper and different markers. Attach the paper to the cardboard rolls with tape or glue to make it look like a large scroll. Next, ask the children to help you copy the Ten Commandments on the paper. Lead the children in a discussion about how during Josiah's reign the Book of the Law was found. The Israelites had lost it because they had chosen to disobey God's law.



DO

- When the Book of the Law was found, Josiah realized the people had not been following God's Law.
- They had rejected His Law and chosen to disobey Him.
- Josiah wanted the people to follow God's Law because he followed God.
- Our sinful hearts cause us to reject God's Word. We choose to disobey just like the Israelites disobeyed.



FEEL



WANT

**Hidden Bibles**

Before class, hide several small Bibles throughout the room. Gather the children together and play a game of musical beanbag with them. When the music stops, the child holding the beanbag gets to go hunt for a hidden Bible. If he or she finds one, they get to stay in the game. If they don't find it, they are out of the game. Once you have played and have a winner of the game, lead the children in a discussion about how our sinful hearts cause us to choose to reject God's Law.

- God's special people, the Israelites, rejected God's Law. They chose to disobey His Law and do their own thing.
- Our sinful hearts cause us to reject God's Word and disobey Him.
- We don't listen to His Word and we don't obey Him.