

# GOD IS OUR SUBSTITUTE

## STORY: REDEMPTION

### BIG TRUTH: GOD IS OUR SUBSTITUTE

Isaiah 53:4-6; John 1:1-3; 18; Romans 5:6-11; 8:1-4; Galatians 3:13-14; Ephesians 5:1-2;  
1 Peter 2:22-24; 3:18; 1 John 2:1-2; 4:9-10

### BIBLE VERSE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

*"For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."*

### BIG IDEAS

- We cannot save ourselves.
- God sent His Son to be our sinless sacrifice.
- Jesus died in our place.
- Substitution is final and forever.

### BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 22

Abraham was God's servant. God had promised to make a great nation through Abraham and He began by giving Abraham a son named Isaac. God tested Abraham's faith when He asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. Abraham obeyed God and set out to give Isaac as a sacrifice, but God stopped him before he killed Isaac. God provided a ram in a thicket nearby to take the place of Isaac as the sacrifice. Jesus is our substitute just as the ram was Isaac's substitute. Jesus took our place and paid our sin debt.

### STORY: REDEMPTION

Thankfully, God does not just leave us in the broken world, but is repairing the brokenness through His Son. From the very beginning of time, God promised He would fix creation, and He kept His promise by sending Jesus to rescue us from our sin. Jesus came to live on the earth and willingly died on the cross so that sin's power over creation would be broken forever.

### BIG AIMS



#### Every child should know that:

- God provides mercy and grace through Jesus
- Mercy is when God does not give us what we deserve; grace is when God gives us what we do not deserve



#### Every child should feel:

- Awe at God's goodness in His mercy and grace to us



#### Every child should:

- Give thanks because God is merciful and gracious to us



#### Every child should want:

- To accept God's gifts of mercy and grace that He extends to us through Jesus

### FAMILY DEVOTION: NO HELP FOR US

Every man and woman is born with a sin nature. Our sin natures cause us to keep sinning. Because we are not perfect, we cannot save ourselves. We cannot help ourselves. God sent Jesus to be our salvation.

**BIBLE VERSE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21**

*“For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”*

**Christ knew no sin.**

- Jesus was born as a baby and took on flesh to live on the earth.
- Jesus was fully God and fully man.
- He came to the earth to live as a man and He did so perfectly.
- He never sinned, even as a child.
- He always obeyed God and His earthly parents.
- He obeyed His heavenly Father perfectly.
- Jesus was completely holy even as a man living on earth.
- There was no spot or blemish in Jesus; He owed no sin debt.

**Jesus took on the sin of all of mankind.**

- Jesus came to earth to be our substitute.
- He took our place and paid our sin debt so we wouldn't have to.
- He became like us so that He could pay our sin debt.
- He became a man so He could live perfectly and become our perfect sacrifice.
- We could not save ourselves because no person is without sin, except for Jesus.
- Only Jesus's death could pay our sin debt.
- He took our place and died to pay for a sin debt that He didn't owe.
- Jesus stood in our place and took on our sin.
- When God looked at Jesus on the cross, He saw the sin of all of mankind.
- Because Jesus was perfect and blameless, God accepted Jesus' death as payment for the sin of the world.
- Our sins are paid for through Jesus's death in our place.
- He was our substitute on the cross.

**BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 22**

*Abraham and Isaac*

**Opening Illustration:**

Bring in a bag of pretzel sticks, Twizzlers, or red yarn if you don't want to use candy, and blank pieces of white paper. Give each child a piece of paper, a handful of pretzel sticks and a piece of yarn or a string of Twizzler. Ask the children to use all but two of their pretzel sticks to make a bundle of "sticks". Use the red yarn or Twizzler to tie the bundle of "sticks" together. Tell the children that the bundle of sticks is what is used to build an altar to offer a sacrifice to God. Next, ask the children to use the remaining two pretzel sticks to create a cross on their white paper. Tape or glue the pretzels to the paper. Tell the children that Jesus came to earth to be our substitute. He died on the cross in our place. Allow the children to eat the bundle of "sticks" to show that the altar isn't needed because Jesus took our place.

**BIG IDEA: WE CANNOT SAVE OURSELVES.**

*What does it mean to save something? (It means to set it aside or keep it back.)*

**No person is without sin.**

- We are all born with a sinful heart.
- We all keep sinning.
- We do the opposite of God's Word. We don't obey His commands.
- No person is blameless before God.
- We all are in need of salvation, yet none of us can save ourselves.
- There is no man or woman who lives without sinning.
- When God asked Abraham to offer Isaac as a sacrifice, God was painting a picture of what He was going to do when He sent His Son, Jesus.

**God requires a perfect sacrifice to pay our sin debt.<sup>1</sup>**

- God, the Creator of all things, required the Israelites to make sacrifices to atone for their sins before Jesus came.
- These sacrifices would satisfy the debt they owed each year.
- The animals that were sacrificed had to be perfect and without blemish or spot.
- The sacrifice to pay the sin debt of the world once and for all had to be perfect and without blemish or spot.
- No person on earth fit this requirement because all people are sinful.
- None of us can save ourselves because none of us are perfect.
- We have all sinned in some way; we are all flawed and broken people.
- Only a perfect man can save all of mankind and that was Jesus.

*What kind of sacrifice does God require for the sin of mankind? (He requires a perfect sacrifice.)*



Bring in a spray bottle filled with water and some dry cloths. Tell the children that you are going to spray the water near them and you want them to gather it in their hands. Spray the water near each child's hands, but not on them and ask the child to gather the water in their hands. When they can't, tell them that we can't save ourselves either. Just like we can't gather the water sprayed in the air, we can't pay our own sin debt.

1. Psalm 49:7: No one has the power to redeem themselves or someone else. God required a perfect sacrifice and only Jesus was perfect.

**BIG IDEA: GOD SENT HIS SON TO BE OUR SINLESS SACRIFICE.<sup>2</sup>**

What is a sacrifice? (A sacrifice is when we give up something that is very important to us.)

**God made a way for man to be saved.**

- Because every person is sinful and no person is able to pay their own sin debt, God made a way.
- God is sovereign, or all-powerful over everything and He is all-knowing.
- He knew that man would sin and He knew that man would need a substitute.
- God made a way for mankind to be saved by sacrificing His Son for us.
- Abraham obeyed God when he took Isaac to the mountain to sacrifice him.
- Abraham could not save Isaac, but God could.

**God provided a substitute for every person.**

- God knew every person would be sinful.
- He knew we would all need a substitute.
- God sent His Son, Jesus to the earth so He could take our place and pay our sin debt.
- God provided a ram in the thicket to take Isaac's place.
- God knew Jesus would die on the cross when He sent Jesus to the earth.
- Jesus became our substitute just like the ram became the substitute for Isaac.
- Jesus took our place.



Bring in a bag of cotton balls and several small bottles of finger paint. Put the finger paint on a paper plate and then give each child a cotton ball. List off several ways that each of us sins, such as disobeying our parents, not being kind, lying, hitting, being jealous, etc. Ask the children to dip their cotton ball into the paint every time he or she hears a sin she or he has done. Next, show the children a white cotton ball and tell them it represents Jesus who had no sin.

*How did God make a way for every person to be saved? (He sent His Son, Jesus to pay our sin debt.)*

2. 1 John 4:9: God sent Jesus while we were still sinners because no person is able to pay his or her own sin debt. We all need Jesus to be our substitute.

**BIG IDEA: JESUS DIED IN OUR PLACE.****We all needed someone to take our place.**

- Every person is sinful.
- No one is able to pay his or her own sin debt.
- We are all in need of someone to save us from our sin.
- Our sin holds us captive and separates us from God.
- Our sinful hearts lead us to continue sinning against God, even when we don't want to.



Give each child a white paper plate, black marker, and cotton balls. Help the children create a paper plate ram by drawing eyes and ears on the plate before gluing cotton ball on it. Talk with the children about how the ram was the substitute for Isaac like Jesus was our substitute.

**God made a way for us to be set free from our sin.<sup>3</sup>**

- God did not leave us in our sin.
- Just like God didn't leave Abraham to carry out the sacrifice of Isaac, God didn't leave us in our sin.
- God made a way for us to be forgiven.
- He gave His Son, Jesus to die in our place.
- God provided a ram to take Isaac's place when Abraham showed his willingness to obey God.
- Jesus died on the cross for our sin debt.
- He died in our place.
- We can live forever in Heaven when we repent, or turn away from our sin, and believe in Jesus.
- When we turn away from our sin and follow Him, we have saving faith.
- Jesus died to give us this chance to place our faith in Him and be saved from our sin debt.
- He died in our place so we would not have to die for our sins.

*How did God make a way for our sin debt to be paid? (He sent His Son to pay our sin debt.)*

*What did Jesus do for us so we would not have to pay our sin debt? (He died on the cross in our place.)*

3. Romans 4:25: Jesus took our place and took on our sin so we would not have to die for our sins. He died in our place.

**BIG IDEA: SUBSTITUTION IS FINAL AND FOREVER.**

*What is something that is forever? (Examples might be the sky seems to last forever, time seems forever at this age.)*

*What does forever mean? (It means that it never ends. It's always and never-ending.)*

**Jesus' death paid our sin debt completely.**

- Our sin debt was paid in full when Jesus died on the cross.
- God only required one perfect sacrifice for the sin of every person.
- We do not need to continue sacrificing because God provided the perfect and complete sacrifice for our sins.
- Jesus' death paid our sin debt completely.
- Jesus' death was enough to satisfy God.
- His death was enough to pay for the sin of every person who ever lived and would ever live.



Lead the children in a discussion about what they think “forever” means. Talk with them about how it's hard for us to know what “forever” means because things end on earth. Show the children an object that has no beginning or end like a metal ring or hula-hoop. Tell the children that these things go in a circle forever just like Jesus being our substitute is forever.

**God sees Jesus' righteousness now when He looks at His followers.<sup>4</sup>**

- When we have saving faith, God doesn't see our sin anymore.
- God sees Jesus' righteousness when He looks at those who have saving faith.
- Jesus completely took our place and when we have saving faith, God sees Jesus' righteousness instead of our sinfulness.
- God doesn't require a new sacrifice every time we sin; He requires repentance and He is faithful to forgive when we ask.
- Jesus' death was enough.
- We don't need another substitute because Jesus fully paid the sin debt of every person.
- We cannot undo Jesus' substitution for us.
- The work He did on the cross is final and forever.

*How long does Jesus' sacrifice for us last? (It lasts forever.)*

*Can Jesus' substitution for us be undone? (No, it is final and complete.)*

4. Romans 3:22: God sees the righteousness of Christ when He looks at believers. He applies Christ's righteousness to us.

## HOOKS

**An Altar'd Life**

Bring in a container of blocks or stackable items, such as hardcover books. Help the children build an altar using the blocks or stackable items. As they build the altar talk to the children about how God provided a substitute sacrifice in the ram for Abraham and Isaac. Lead them in a discussion about how God provided a substitute for each of us.



- Abraham didn't have to sacrifice Isaac because God provided a ram as a substitute.
- We all owe a sin debt, but God provided a substitute for us.
- Who is our substitute? (Jesus is our substitute.)
- How did Jesus take our place? (He died on the cross to pay our sin debt.)

**Forever Is A Long Time**

Bring in several clocks—some analog and some digital. Show the clocks to the children and ask them how long different units of time are, such as a second, a minute, an hour, several hours. Ask them to compare the units of time by standing up when you call out a unit of time that is longer than another one (ex. "Is an hour longer than a minute?") Do this several times using longer and longer units of time. Lead the children in a discussion about how forever really is a long time.



- There is nothing that really lasts forever on the earth.
- God is forever. His payment for our sin is forever.