

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

NO HELP FOR US

As a family create a "Help Wanted" ad that is seeking someone to help us overcome our sin natures. Use a large poster board or cardboard to create the ad. Talk with your child about how we cannot help ourselves. Only Jesus could save us because we cannot save ourselves.

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

Genesis 22.

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

Abraham followed and obeyed God for many years before God promised to give him a son and to make a great nation through him. Abraham believed God and God gave Abraham a son, Isaac. God asked Abraham to do a difficult thing for Him one day. He asked Abraham to take Isaac to the top of the mountain and to offer Isaac as a burnt offering to God. A burnt offering is an offering that is burned up completely. Abraham loved Isaac. Abraham proved that he loved God more. He trusted God and so he obeyed God. Abraham took Isaac to the top of the mountain and they built an altar together. Abraham laid Isaac on the altar and prepared to sacrifice him to God, but God's voice broke through the Heavens and stopped Abraham. God tested Abraham's faith in Him and when Abraham showed that he really did trust God, God stopped him from sacrificing his son. A sacrifice was still needed for the offering. God provided a ram caught in a thicket nearby for Abraham and Isaac to offer to Him. Abraham and Isaac offered the ram to God with thanksgiving. He had provided a substitute for Isaac. God provided a substitute for all of His people when He sent Jesus to pay our sin debt. We are all sinful and owe a great sin debt that we cannot pay ourselves. God didn't leave us in need. Instead, He sent His only Son, Jesus to die on the cross in our place. Jesus took our place and became our substitute. Because of Jesus we don't have to pay our sin debt when we choose to have saving faith in Him.

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

- What did God ask Abraham to do? (He asked Abraham to offer Isaac as a burnt offering to God.)
- How did Abraham respond to what God asked Abraham to do? (He obeyed.)
- How did Abraham show he trusted God? (He took Isaac to the mountain and prepared to sacrifice him.)
- What substitute did God provide for Isaac? (He provided a ram caught in a thicket.)
- Who did God send to be our substitute? (He sent His only Son, Jesus.)
- Why did we need a substitute? (We are all sinful and in need of someone to save us.)



As a family, memorize 2 Corinthians 5:21 by writing the verse on slips of paper and numbering the slips of paper. Place the slips of paper throughout your house and then call out a number and ask your child to find the slip of paper that matches the number you called out. When he or she finds the paper, they get to say the verse out loud.



Take a walk outside as a family and point out the many things you see that are dying or will die. If possible, point out an evergreen tree. If there isn't one you can see, show your child a picture of one. Talk with your child about how Jesus' substitution is like the evergreen tree that is always green. It lasts forever.

Use or purchase a muffin or cupcake box mix. Make the mix with your child, but talk with him or her about how you can sometimes substitute ingredients and sometimes you can't. Talk with them about how we cannot save ourselves. No one else could be our substitute besides Jesus because only Jesus is perfect.

As a family, create an altar using crackers, such as graham crackers. Talk with your child about how Isaac wasn't sacrificed on the altar because God provided a substitute for him. We don't have to pay our sin debt because Jesus is our substitute. He took our place.