

WE ARE BROKEN IN OUR SIN

STORY: FALL / YEAR: VALUE

BIG TRUTH: WE ARE BROKEN IN OUR SIN

Isaiah 59:2; 64:6; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 1:19-23; 8:5-8; Ephesians 2:1-3; 4:17-19; Titus 1:15-16; 3:3

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 6:23A

"For the wages of sin is death."

BIG IDEAS

- Our relationship with God is broken.
- Our hearts are broken.
- Our actions are broken.

BIBLE STORY: JOSHUA 7

Achan sinned against God and broke his relationship with God by keeping some of the spoils of war. Achan thought he could hide what he had taken and that no one would know, but God uncovered Achan's sin and revealed just how broken his heart was. We are broken and sinful and act in ways that displease 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 be perfect and good like it was before.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- All people are broken in our sin and we suffer consequences because of sin



Every child should feel:

- Burdened by the reality of their sin



Every child should:

- Understand sin as disobedience against God and His plan



Every child should want:

- To be rescued from a life of sin and brokenness.

FAMILY DEVOTION: BROKEN HEARTS

Because of our sin natures, our hearts are sinful. Our hearts are broken and lead us astray. We must turn away from our brokenness and turn to God.



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BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 6:23A*"For the wages of sin is death."***Sin makes us slaves.**

- Sin is all-consuming and controlling.
- Sin rules over those who do not know God.
- Sin causes those without God to live unholy lives.
- Sin is present in every areas of a person's life.

Sin costs us everything.

- No one is without sin because we are all born with sinful hearts.
- Even when we think our sin is not big, it costs us everything.
- Because we all sin, we are all guilty.
- Our sin must be paid for and it costs us our lives.
- The wages of sin is physical and spiritual death.
- We deserve this wage because it is what we earn.

We owe a sin debt to God.

- Our sin is against God and we owe God a debt.
- Our sinful hearts lead to sinful actions and these sinful actions and thoughts must be paid for.
- Our sin debt cannot be paid for by us.
- God made a way for our sin debt to be paid through His Son.

BIBLE STORY: JOSHUA 7*The Sin Of Achan***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 not 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 RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS BROKEN.**Our sin is a rejection of God.**

- Our hearts are sinful and produce sinful actions.
- When we sin, we place a barrier between God and ourselves.
- Our sinful actions show we are focused on ourselves and not on God.
- When we sin, we choose to make ourselves happy instead of seeking to please God.



Hide several objects in the room and ask the children to look for them. Give them hints to help them find them. Talk with them about how Achan hid the devoted things he took, but God knew his heart.

Our sinful hearts separate us from God.¹

- Our relationship with God is not as it should be because of our sin.
- The Israelites lost in battle because of Achan's sin.
- Their hearts were overcome with fear and they fled even though they outnumbered the people of Ai.
- God had given His people specific commands before they entered the Promised Land and encountered different people groups.
- The Israelites were not to take any of their enemies' possessions, or devoted things because their enemies did not worship God.
- Achan's sin was that he disobeyed God and he had hidden some of the devoted things from other people groups.
- This was against God's command and it made God angry with His people.

Whom is our sin a rejection of? (God.)

Why was God angry with His people? (Achan had kept some of the devoted things.)

1. Isaiah 59:2: Our sin separates us from a holy and righteous God.

BIG IDEA: OUR HEARTS ARE BROKEN.**Sin makes our hearts deceptive.²**

- Because sin blinds us to the truth, our sinful hearts lie to us.
- Achan's heart wanted the devoted things he saw because they were treasures.
- Achan's heart was sinful and broken.
- His heart lied to him, making him believe he could take the devoted things and hide them.
- Our hearts lead us to sin and pursue our own way just as Achan did.



Bring in a balloon with a heart drawn on it. Tie the balloon to your ankle and ask the children to try and pop it with their feet. Once they pop it, talk with them about how our hearts are broken and sinful.

Our hearts are broken and unrighteous.

- Our hearts are not as they should be.
- Without God, our hearts lead us to sin and disobey Him.
- Achan's heart led him to disobey God and it also cost him his life.
- The wages of sin is death and Achan was separated from God by his sin and lost his life.

How did Achan's heart lead him to sin against God? (He kept the devoted things because his heart desired them and God had said not to keep them.)

2. Jeremiah 17:9: Our hearts cannot be trusted apart from the Holy Spirit. Our sinful hearts are deceitful and broken and will lead us to sin against God.

BIG IDEA: OUR ACTIONS ARE BROKEN.³**Our relationship with God is broken because of our sin.**

- We cannot please God because of our sinful hearts.
- Only when we turn away from our sin and believe can we please God.
- Achan's actions showed his heart was sinful and broken.
- He took the devoted thing and hid them in the ground under his tent.
- His actions were not glorifying to God.
- They were deceptive and sinful.
- We have a broken relationship with God because of our sinful and broken actions.



Ask the children to come up with a list of behaviors that please God and a list that don't. Once they make both lists, talk with them about our actions are broken because without Christ, we work to serve ourselves instead of Him.

Our choices show how broken our actions are.

- Sin breaks our relationship with God and it breaks our hearts.
- Achan's choice to keep the devoted things and then to hide them showed that they were sinful.
- If his actions had not been sinful, he would not have needed to hide the devoted things.
- Achan chose to act against God's will and that showed the brokenness of his heart and actions.
- Our actions show how disobedient we are towards God.
- Our actions are broken and sinful and without God, we can do nothing to please Him.

What did Achan's actions reveal about him? (They revealed that he was sinful.)

3. Galatians 5:19-21: The works of the flesh reveal just how broken we are and away from God.

HOOKS

**Sin Cards**

Give each child an index card and a pen or pencil. Help the children think of a sin that they have committed. Ask them to write the sin on the card. Next, ask them to hide the cards around the room for you to find. Take some time to find all of the cards and talk with them about how we try to hide our sin just like Achan did, but God always knows our hearts.



- Even when we think our sin is not known, God knows.
- Our hearts are broken and sinful and so are our actions.

**Throwing Stones**

Give each child two pieces of paper. Ask them to ball up one piece of paper. The balled up pieces of paper are stones. Tell the children that you will represent someone who has sinned against God. Ask the children if they should throw their “stones” at you? Allow them to throw their balled up papers at you, reminding them to aim below your waist. Remind them that Achan was stoned because his heart was sinful. Next, ask the children to write down a sin they have committed on their second piece of paper. Once they have written down a sin, ask the children if they should be stoned? Talk with them about how we are all sinners and our hearts are broken and sinful.



- We are all sinners because we are all born with a sinful heart.
- Our hearts and actions are broken just like Achan's were.
- We desire things that we shouldn't and we do and say things that we shouldn't.
- God is faithful to forgive us if we ask Him for forgiveness, though.