

# OUR SIN MAKES US SELFISH

STORY: FALL / YEAR: VALUE

## BIG TRUTH: OUR SIN MAKES US SELFISH

Romans 1:28-32; Galatians 5:20; Philippians 2:3-4; 2 Timothy 3:1-2; James 3:16

## BIBLE VERSE: COLOSSIANS 3:5A

*"Put to death therefore what is earthly in you"*

## BIG IDEAS

- In our sin we choose to put ourselves first.
- In our sin we want what is not ours to possess.
- In our sin we rob God.

## BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 4:1-12

Cain's offering was rejected by God and Abel's received a blessing. Cain's offering was not given with a heart devoted to God. Cain was focused on pleasing himself and not God and his offering was rejected. Even when God gave Cain a chance to repent, he chose not to, showing that his heart was not for God. Our sin causes us to be selfish and focused on ourselves.

## 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: ME FIRST

We all desire to put ourselves first because of our selfish natures, but when we submit to God, we put Him first.

## STORY: FALL

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**BIBLE VERSE: COLOSSIANS 3:5A***"Put to death therefore what is earthly in you"***Our earthly desires are idolatry.**

- Our earthly desires are the things our sinful hearts seek.
- They are all about seeking to please ourselves, which means we aren't seeking to please God.
- When we put something or someone in front of God in our heart, it is idolatry.
- When we desire other things or people more than God, we have made those things or people idols.
- The things in our sinful heart that don't please God are earthly idols.

**Our earthly desires are selfish.**

- The things of the flesh are about fulfilling our desires.
- When we focus on pleasing ourselves, we are being selfish.
- Paul tells his readers to put away these things.
- We should not give in to the desire to please ourselves.
- These sinful desires show just how selfish we are.
- They reveal our focus on ourselves and what we want.

**These works of the flesh show we are selfish.**

- When we follow our sinful hearts, we show just how selfish we are.
- These works of the flesh that Paul lists are all rooted in pleasing ourselves.
- This shows that our sin makes us selfish.

**BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 4:1-12***Cain and Abel***Opening Illustration:**

Give each child a paper plate with the center cut out making a ring. Next, give the children a marker or crayon and ask them to draw a picture of themselves on one side of the ring and on the opposite side to write GOD. Next, give them little small slips of paper and string. On the papers they should write ways they've sinned and then use the string to attach these to the top of the ring so that they hang between GOD and the picture of the child. Remind the children that we reject God and our relationship with Him because of our sin.

**BIG IDEA: IN OUR SIN WE CHOOSE TO PUT OURSELVES FIRST.<sup>1</sup>****Selfishness is putting ourselves first.**

- When our thoughts are focused on ourselves, we show that we are selfish.
- Our sinful hearts want to focus on ourselves.
- Our sinful hearts tells us we are the most important person.
- Cain believed his sinful heart.
- He thought of himself as the most important person.
- He put himself first.
- Our sin causes us to see ourselves as more important than God.



Divide the children into two teams and ask them to make a list of as many selfless actions as they can in one minute. Compare the actions after the minute is up. Remind them that God desires for us to put others first.

**Our sin causes us to choose ourselves over God.**

- Cain thought of himself as the most important.
- He didn't give God an offering from a heart desiring to please God.
- He did not have a heart that put God first.
- Our sin causes us to think of ourselves and not of others.
- Our sin causes us to think of ourselves as more important than others.
- When we do this, we aren't honoring God.
- We are seeking to please ourselves.

*What does our sin cause us to do? (It causes us to put ourselves first.)*

1. 2 Timothy 3:1-2: A love of self is equated with the signs of the "last days". Our sin causes us to place a high value on ourselves and to love ourselves above all other.

**BIG IDEA: IN OUR SIN WE WANT WHAT IS NOT OURS TO POSSESS.****Our selfishness causes us to want what others have.<sup>2</sup>**

- When we focus only on ourselves, we become so selfish, we want other people's things.
- Because we are thinking only of ourselves, we think we deserve the things other people have.
- Cain desired Abel's blessing.
- He was so focused on his rights, he wanted his brother's blessing.
- When Cain gave his offering to God, he didn't give it with a heart wanting to worship God.
- Cain was seeking to make much of himself instead of worshipping God.



Bring in two gifts, one should be a large, empty box wrapped in nice paper. The other should be a small box wrapped in ugly paper with a small prize inside. Ask the children to raise their hands if they'd like to have the big box or the small box. Once every child has chosen. Divide them according to their choice and then give the groups their respective boxes to open. Once they open them, talk with them about how sin in our hearts causes us to want the best for ourselves.

**Our sin makes us feel we deserve things.**

- When we have a wrong view of ourselves, we think we deserve things.
- We think we should have the things we don't have.
- Our selfishness makes us think only of ourselves and what we should have instead of how we can please God and serve others.
- Cain thought he deserved a blessing from God even though his heart was not devoted to God.
- Our sin makes us think we should get things that aren't ours.
- We get jealous and angry when we don't get the things we want or think we deserve.

*What does our sin make us want? (It makes us want the things that aren't ours to have.)*

*How did Cain want something that wasn't his? (He wanted a blessing from God, but he didn't deserve a blessing from God.)*

2. 2 Thessalonians 3:12: Paul urges believers to work for their own living and not expect others to provide for them.

**BIG IDEA: IN OUR SIN WE ROB GOD TO KEEP WHAT WE SHOULD GIVE.****Our selfishness causes us to keep what we should give.<sup>3</sup>**

- Our sin makes us think of ourselves first.
- When we focus on ourselves, we aren't being generous.
- Cain didn't give out of a heart that wanted to please God.
- He thought he deserved the blessing and praise that his brother received.
- He gave his offering desiring to receive praise and not as a way of honoring or worshipping God.
- In our sin we keep back what we should give to God.
- In our sin we give out of a desire of seeing ourselves honored or glorified.



Give the children a white paper and markers. Ask them to create a card to give to someone. Remind them that sin makes us put ourselves first instead of putting others first.

**Our sin keeps us from giving ourselves to God.**

- Cain's heart was not devoted to God.
- He was only thinking of himself.
- Our sinful hearts keep us from being devoted to God.
- We are made for God and when we focus on ourselves instead of Him, we rob Him.
- When we focus on ourselves, we don't give to others.
- Cain took from God when he killed his brother.
- Cain thought only of himself when he took his brother's life.
- Our hearts are like Cain's.
- We, too, take from God when we keep back things that we should give to others.

*How did Cain rob God? (He took his brother's life.)*

*How can we rob God? (When we don't give ourselves to Him and we don't give to others.)*

3. Luke 6:30: Jesus teaches the principle of giving that is radical. We should give of our abundance and not ask for hit back. We should not rob God by keeping what He has given to us all to ourselves.

## STORY: FALL

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## HOOKS

**Story Sequence**

Place three poster boards or large pieces of paper around the room. One paper should say “Beginning”, one should say “Middle” and the third one should say “End”. Next divide the children into three groups and give each group a marker. Assign each of the groups a piece of paper and ask them to fill in their assigned section of the story of Cain and Abel. Once everyone has finished, ask each group to read their section of the story out loud. Talk with the children about how Cain’s sinful heart made him selfish. Our hearts make us selfish, too.

**Does It Please the Lord?**

Play a version of the game “Mother May I?” Replace the phrase “Mother May I?” with “Does it please the Lord?” Line the children against one wall with the goal of reaching the opposite wall by taking steps that you call out. In order to take the assigned steps, the child should say “Does it please the Lord?” before moving. Use the steps below and add your own, if needed. After the game, lead the children in a discussion about how our hearts keep us from giving to the Lord because we are seeking to please ourselves instead of Him.



Steps:

Baby Moses Step: one foot in front of and touching the other.

Goliath Step: Leg stretched out as far as it can go step

Camel Hop: one tiny hop

Lion Leap: one big hop

Shepherd Step: a regular step