

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:**

- Understand sin as disobedience against God and His plan

**Every child should feel:**

- Burdened by the reality of their sin

**Every child should want:**

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

ME FIRST

Set up a time for you and your child to do small tasks for an elderly neighbor or someone in your church, such as grocery shopping, raking leaves, cleaning house, etc. Talk with your child about how we often want to help only ourselves out of the selfishness in our hearts, but God desires for us to serve others.

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

Genesis 4:1-12.

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

Cain and Abel were the first children of Adam and Eve. Cain and Abel knew what God required and how they were supposed to serve God. Cain and Abel both brought God an offering, but they both didn't receive the same response. Abel brought the firstborn of his flock and the fat portions. Cain brought an offering from the fruit of the ground, or his harvest. Even though both men brought God an offering, God only accepted Abel's offering because his was the only offering given out of true worship to God. Cain's offering was rejected because it was given out of selfishness. Cain wasn't truly giving God something of importance to him. God knew Cain's heart and that it wasn't devoted to him. God saw the selfishness in Cain's heart and how he wanted to keep the best portions for himself. When God rejected Cain's offering, Cain revealed his selfishness by killing his brother, Abel. Cain not only kept the best portions for himself, he robbed his brother of his life. He was jealous of Abel's blessing from God and took Abel's life from him. Our sinful hearts cause us to be selfish. We want things that don't belong to us. We want to keep the best things for ourselves. We think "me, first" instead of putting others first. God showed us how to be selfless by giving His Son to pay our sin debt.

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

- What was the difference in Cain and Abel's offerings? (Cain's offering was from the fruit of the ground and his heart attitude was not one set on pleasing God. Abel's offering was of the firstborn of his livestock and was given from a heart desiring to please God.)
- Why did God reject Cain's offering? (Cain was giving out of selfishness and not to worship God.)
- How can we be selfish? (We put ourselves first or think of ourselves before we think of others.)



As a family, memorize Colossians 3:5 by creating a puzzle from the verse. Write the verse on a piece of paper and then cut it up. Take turns putting the "puzzle" together and then saying the verse out loud.



As a family, collect items to donate to your local homeless shelter or women's shelter. Talk with your children about the importance of not giving out worn out or broken things to those less fortunate. Talk with them about how our sin will make us want to keep all of our nice things for ourselves instead of giving them to those in need. God desires for us to give our best to Him.



Plan a night to spend around a fire pit or a small bonfire. Gather together small sticks and twigs that can be placed on the fire. As you spend time around the fire pit, talk with your child about how our selfishness can be fueled by focusing on ourselves just like the fire is fueled by the sticks.



Spend some time as a family worshipping God through prayer and reading of His Word. Talk with your child about how our worship should be selfless and focus on who God is and what He does and not on ourselves.