

OUR SIN MAKES US EMPTY

STORY: FALL / YEAR: VALUE

BIG TRUTH: OUR SIN MAKES US EMPTY

Psalm 115:4-8; Isaiah 44:9-11; 55:1-3; Hosea 8:3-5,7; John 4:10-14

BIBLE VERSE: JEREMIAH 2:13

"For my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water."

BIG IDEAS

- Sin can never satisfy our heart.
- In our sin we look to false saviors to satisfy our hearts.
- In our sin we reject the true Savior who can satisfy our hearts.

BIBLE STORY: JOHN 4

Jesus chose to go to Samaria because He knew the Samaritan woman would be at the well. He met her there and shared the truth about who He is with her. He gave her living water that would cause her to never thirst again, just as He offers the same to every person who believes in Him. Our sin keeps us from this living water. It causes us to look to others to satisfy 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 repent of their disobedience against God

FAMILY DEVOTION: LIVING WATER

In our sin we reject the true Savior and choose instead to seek other things to satisfy us. Only Jesus, the true living water, can satisfy our hearts.

BIBLE VERSE: JEREMIAH 2:13

“For my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.”

God is our source of eternal living water.

- Living water was water that came from a stream or river.
- It was water that was plentiful and clean.
- Water in cisterns was run-off water.
- It was not usually clean or plentiful because it depended upon unreliable sources.
- God is the source of living to people who believe in Jesus.
- He is the only source of true living water for our souls.

Our sin causes us to choose broken cisterns over God, the living water.

- The cisterns were broken and dirty.
- Our sin causes us to choose broken and empty cisterns instead of living water.
- Our sin makes us empty because we choose to reject God’s living water.
- Broken cisterns do not provide much water at all, yet this is what God’s people chose instead of Him.
- We, too, in our sin choose things that leave us empty or take something from us .
- God is our source of living, eternal water. His water never runs out.
- When we drink of His water, our souls no longer thirst.
- Only He can truly satisfy our hearts.

BIBLE STORY: JOHN 4

The Woman At The Well

Opening Illustration:

Bring in enough tall socks for each child to have one. Bring in several bags of dry beans or rice. Use a plastic cup to fill the bottom portion of the sock with rice or beans. Help the children tie the sock using the tall section of the sock. Double knot the sock so the rice and beans are secure. Next, mark a spot on the floor. Have the children take turns standing far away from the mark and tossing their beanbag socks. Talk with the children about how no matter how hard we try we still miss the mark. Talk with them about how we cannot save ourselves or fix our brokenness.

- We may try hard every day, but we cannot save ourselves.
- Only Jesus can pay our sin debt and give us salvation.

BIG IDEA: SIN CAN NEVER SATISFY OUR HEART.¹**Our sin leaves us empty.**

- Sin may seem like it will satisfy us, but it never truly does.
- Sin leaves us empty and wanting more.
- The Samaritan woman had lived a sinful life.
- She didn't know Jesus yet and she was seeking other things to satisfy her heart.
- Jesus was offering her eternal satisfaction.
- She only saw the water in the well at first, but then Jesus showed her He was offering her more.
- We are like her when we mistake our sin for eternal happiness.
- Jesus was offering her living water, but she thought He was just meeting a physical need.
- Our sin will never bring us true happiness and satisfaction.
- We can only find true satisfaction in Jesus.



Use a dictionary to define the word "satisfaction." Ask the children to define the word themselves and then share the dictionary definition with them. Remind them that only God can give us true satisfaction. Everything else will leave us empty.

Sin takes from us and leaves us empty.

- Our sin is like a broken, empty cistern.
- It leaves us dry and empty.
- Our sin takes from us.
- We may think we gain from it, but we do not.
- Sin takes away our happiness and satisfaction.
- It leaves us wanting more or feeling empty and drained.

*What did the Samaritan woman think Jesus was offering her? (Water to meet a physical need.)
How does sin leave us? (It leaves us empty and wanting more.)*

1. Jeremiah 31:25: God gives us what we need and He satisfies our souls like nothing or no one else can.

BIG IDEA: IN OUR SIN WE LOOK TO FALSE SAVIORS TO SATISFY OUR HEARTS.

Sin makes us look to false gods.²

- The Samaritan woman kept thinking of physical water when Jesus offered her living water.
- We, too, look to earthly things to save us or make us happy.
- She thought of her physical need of water when Jesus spoke of living water, Himself, to her.
- We think of our immediate physical needs first too, but Jesus came to fulfill our spiritual needs.
- Our sin causes us to look for false gods or idols to satisfy us.
- We make earthly things, like money, status, and hobbies our savior.
- Sin blinds us to the true Savior, Jesus Christ.



Bring in a pair of binoculars. Print off pictures or write the names of things that we often make idols, such as money, friends, hobbies, etc. Place these around the room on the walls. Next, ask the children to take turns looking for these “false gods” to see if they can identify them. Remind them that we look for things that can’t satisfy us.

Only Jesus can really satisfy us.

- The Samaritan woman’s life was an example of someone looking for other things to satisfy her.
- She had been married multiple times. She failed to find someone to satisfy her. She didn’t know that Jesus was the one she was really looking for.
- We, too seek wrong things to make us happy.
- We turn away from Jesus, the living water, and we try to find other things or people to satisfy us.
- The other things and people we look to can never save us because they aren’t real saviors.
- Only Jesus is the true Savior who offers salvation when we place saving faith in Him.

What does our sin make us look for? (It makes us look for false gods or other things to satisfy us.)
Who is the only person who can satisfy us? (Jesus is the only person who can satisfy us.)

2. Psalm 115:4-8: Our idols or false gods are not alive. They can do nothing for us. They give us false hope and they do not satisfy us.

BIG IDEA: IN OUR SIN WE REJECT THE TRUE SAVIOR WHO CAN SATISFY OUR HEARTS.**Our hearts are only satisfied with the true living water.**

- Jesus offered the Samaritan woman living water that would cause her to never thirst again.
- Jesus is the thirst-ending living water.
- Our hearts can only be satisfied with this eternal living water.
- Our sin causes us to seek water other places, but that water can never satisfy us.
- The Samaritan woman had looked to other people and other things to satisfy her.
- Nothing had ever really made her happy or brought her satisfaction.
- Nothing will ever really satisfy us, except for Jesus.



Bring in a box that has several water bottles, disposable and reusable. Also place several juice boxes in the box. Use a bandana to blindfold the children and then let them take turns reaching into the box, picking a beverage and then guessing what it is. Remind the children that Jesus is the only true living water who can satisfy our souls.

Because of our sinful hearts, we reject the true living water.³

- Our sin makes us turn away from Jesus who is the living water.
- Only Jesus can satisfy our hearts and souls.
- He can give us new life and make us alive again.
- Jesus gave this living water to the Samaritan woman.
- She went away to tell others about the living water that ends all thirst.
- We reject this water when we reject the true Savior, Jesus Christ.
- Our sinful hearts blind us and make us think that we cannot find true satisfaction in Jesus Christ.

What did Jesus give the Samaritan woman? (He gave her living water that would satisfy her soul.)

What causes us to reject the true Savior? (Our sinful hearts cause us to reject the true Savior.)

3. Deuteronomy 32:18: Our sin causes us to reject the true and living God. We reject Him though He gives us life and offers us salvation.

HOOKS

**Living Water**

Bring in enough plastic water bottles for each child. Give each child a long strip of paper and supplies to decorate the paper. Once they decorate their paper, attach the paper around their water bottle using tape. Talk with the children about how Jesus is our living water. Only He can satisfy our souls.



- Jesus offered the Samaritan woman water that would cause her to never thirst again.
- We always need water, but Jesus was talking about a different type of water.
- He was talking about living water or forgiveness of our sins.
- Our sin causes us to look for living water in other places, but only Jesus can satisfy us.

**Eternal Satisfaction**

Play a game of beanbag toss with the children. When a child hits the designated spot with the beanbag, ask him or her to name something that makes them happy or satisfies them. Keep a list of the things the children name on the board or a large piece of paper taped to the wall. After every child has an opportunity to name something, lead them in a discussion about how these things don't offer eternal satisfaction.



- These things can make us happy for a little while.
- The things that bring us happiness can satisfy us for a little while, but we always want more.
- Jesus is the only thing that can give us eternal satisfaction.
- Only He can satisfy us and give us eternal happiness.