

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 has provided a rescue plan for us through Jesus

**Every child should feel:**

- A desperate need to be rescued from sin and death

**Every child should:**

- Remember that God proved He is more powerful than sin and death through Jesus

**Every child should want:**

- To be rescued by Jesus who is our Savior

ONCE AND FOR ALL

Spend some time talking about your child's past birthdays. Share pictures and memories from some of the birthdays with your child. Talk with your child about how once that birthday happens, he or she doesn't have that same birthday again. They only turn that age once and that's it. Remind them that Jesus' substitution for us is once and for all. It doesn't have to happen again.

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.)



KNOW



DO



FEEL



WANT

As a family, memorize 2 Corinthians 5:21 by talking with your child about what it means that Jesus took on our sin. Take turns saying the verse out loud until you memorize it.

Gather together an old article of clothing and a bowl of bleach. Use a medicine dropper to drop some of the bleach on the article of clothing. Allow it to dry to show the effect of the bleach. Talk with your child about how once the bleach is on the clothing, the bleaching effect cannot be undone. It's like that for the life of the article of clothing. Talk with them about how Jesus' substitution for our sins is always and forever.

Spend some time this week talking with your child about choices and things that are not forever, such as choosing what to eat for lunch or what time to go to bed. Next, talk with your child about things that are forever. Remind your child that Jesus' substitution for us is forever. It cannot be undone.

Spend some time this week in the mornings as your child gets ready for the day about how God sent Jesus to be our substitute. Talk with your child about what it means to you that Jesus is your substitute.