

GOD RESCUES ME FROM SEPARATION

STORY: REDEMPTION / YEAR: VALUE

BIG TRUTH: GOD RESCUES ME FROM SEPARATION

2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Romans 3:21-26; 5:6-11; Colossians 1:21-23

BIBLE VERSE: EPHESIANS 2:13

“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”

BIG IDEAS

- Our sin creates a chasm of separation between God and us.
- God pursues us in our separation through the incarnation.
- God rescues us from our separation through the blood of Jesus.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 15:11-32

We are like the Prodigal Son. We move away from God by rejecting Him and His commands. God is like the Prodigal son’s father, welcoming us back when we repent and believe in Jesus.

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

FAMILY DEVOTION: NO MORE SEPARATION

We are not able to save ourselves from our separation with God. We reject God because of our sinful hearts. God doesn’t leave us in our separation. He rescues us from it.

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BIBLE VERSE: EPHESIANS 2:13

“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”

Jesus unites us to God.

- Our sin separates us from God.
- We reject God and His commands so we are separated from God.
- Jesus came to earth and lived a sinless life so He could pay our sin debt.
- Because Jesus paid our sin debt, we can be in a relationship with God.
- Jesus is the way to know God.

Jesus unites us to each other.

- Because Jesus paid our sin debt, we can have right relationships with others.
- Jesus makes a way for us to be in right relationships with others.
- We know how to love our enemies because Jesus loves us even while we are His enemies.

Jesus unites us to God’s family.

- We can know Jesus because He paid our sin debt.
- He makes a way for us to be in a relationship with Him.
- Our sin separates us and keeps us outside of the family of God.
- Jesus clears the way for us to be part of God’s family.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 15:11-32

The Prodigal Son

Opening Illustration:

Give each child a blank piece of paper and then small strips of paper. Ask the children to create a cross out of the strips of paper. Use tape or glue to attach the cross to the blank piece of paper. Next, give the children stickers and markers to decorate their crosses. Talk with the children about how Jesus is the way that God fixes our brokenness and takes away our separation from Him.

GOD RESCUES ME FROM SEPARATION

BIG IDEA: OUR SIN CREATES A CHASM OF SEPARATION BETWEEN GOD AND US.¹

What is a chasm? (A chasm is a great difference or space between people or things.)

God is holy and righteous and does not look on sin.

- God is perfectly holy.
- Everything He does is holy and righteous.
- God is perfectly righteous.
- Everything He does is right, holy, and good.
- Because God is holy and righteous, He does not accept sin.

Our sin makes us unholy and unrighteous.

- Because we are unholy and unrighteous, we are the opposite of God.
- Our hearts rebel against Him.
- Our rebellion and rejection separate us from God.
- The young son rebelled against his father.
- He chose to leave his father's house to seek his own way.
- Our sinful hearts cause us to do the same thing.
- We rebel against God and seek our own way and live to make ourselves happy.

Because of our sin, there is a great difference between God and us.

- Our sinful hearts cause us to move away from God.
- God is not sinful and when we sin, we move in the opposite direction of God.
- Because of this sin, we cannot be in a relationship with God.
- Our sin creates a barrier between God and us. He is holy and righteous and we are not.

What creates a barrier between God and us? (Our sin creates a barrier.)

Why is there a chasm between God and us? (God is holy and righteous and we are not.)



Give each child a crayon and a small Ziploc bag. Tell the children that we are the crayon and the Ziploc bag is our sin. Have the children place the crayon inside the bag and close it. Next, ask the children to use their crayon to write "God" on a sheet of paper. When they cannot, tell them that our sin creates a chasm or separation between God and us.

1. Isaiah 59:1-2: Our sin causes us to be separated from God. God is holy and we are not and this unholiness causes a separation between God and us.

GOD RESCUES ME FROM SEPARATION

BIG IDEA: GOD PURSUES US IN OUR SEPARATION THROUGH THE INCARNATION.²

What is the incarnation? (*Jesus becoming a man is the incarnation.*)

God seeks us out to make us His children.

- We do not seek God.
- Our hearts are sinful and we are so blinded by our sin, we do not seek God.
- God seeks us.
- He pursues us and uses His Spirit to draw us to Him.
- God seeks us out to make us a part of His family.

God chose to become like us to make a way for us to be with Him.

- Jesus is God.
- Jesus is God's Son.
- God became man by being born through the virgin birth.
- Jesus was incarnated when He became fully man.
- The incarnation is God being fully God and becoming fully man.
- Jesus made a way for us to overcome our separation from God.
- He became like us and pursues us to be part of His family.
- When Jesus was incarnated into the body of a man, He made it possible for us to be with Him.
- We are separated from Him because of our sin, but He came after us by coming to earth through the incarnation.



Play a game of animal charades with the children. Have the children pretend to be different animals. When everyone has had a turn, talk with them about how we can't really become anything other than what we are. We cannot be incarnated like Jesus was. He is fully God and He became a man to rescue us.

How does God pursue us? (*He pursues us through the incarnation of Jesus into a man's body.*)

2. John 1:14: *Jesus is the Word of God and Jesus became flesh when He was incarnated into a human body.*

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BIG IDEA: GOD RESCUES US FROM OUR SEPARATION THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS.³

Jesus is the way to know God.

- The young son was separated from his father because of his rebellion.
- We are separated from God because of our rebellion.
- Jesus came to the earth to make a way for us to be saved.
- Our rebellion keeps us away from God, but God does not leave us separated.
- He rescues us by counting the death of Jesus as payment for our sins.
- The young son was separated from his father, but when we he returned, he was reconciled to his father again.



Give each child a piece of cardstock and the materials to create a party invitation. Help the children create a party invitation for the prodigal son. Remind them that the father killed a cow and gave a party. Talk with them about how God rescues us through the death of Jesus. He brings us into His family.

Jesus' death on the cross overcomes our separation.

- Without Jesus' death, we would have no hope of overcoming our separation from God.
- Jesus died on the cross in our place, taking on our sin debt.
- He paid the debt we owed and how we can have a relationship with God.
- Jesus' blood, meaning His death as our Substitute, washes us clean.
- Because He makes us righteous, we are no longer separated from God.

How did Jesus' death overcome our separation from God? (Our sin debt separated us from God, but Jesus paid our sin debt.)

3. 2 Timothy 2:9: *Jesus came to pay our sin debt and to set us free from our sin. He sets us free from our bondage and the sin that separates us from God. He overcomes our separation.*

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HOOKS



KNOW

The Great Chasm

Help the children make a list of sins that we each commit daily. Write the sins they name on the board. Next, help the children write an attribute of God next to each sin. For example, if they list “lying”, write “trustworthy” next to it as one of God’s attributes. Talk with them about how there is a great divide or difference between God and us because He is holy and we are not.



DO

- God is the most holy and righteous being alive.
- We are the opposite of God because we are sinful.
- Because of our sin, there is a separation between God and us.
- God overcomes our separation through Jesus.



FEEL

God’s Pursuit

Bring in some string and a balloon. Blow the balloon up and tie the string to the end of it. Next, ask for a volunteer from the children and tie the balloon around the volunteer’s ankle. Ask the volunteer to get away from the balloon. As he walks the balloon should follow him. Talk with the children about how God pursues us through Jesus.



WANT

- When Jesus became a man, He lived among us. He became like us.
- Jesus became like us so that He could make a way for us to be with God.
- God pursues us and brings us into His family through Jesus.