

BIG TRUTH: WE ARE SEPARATED

Genesis 3:23-24; Deuteronomy 31:16-18; Micah 3:4; Romans 1:18-21; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 2:12; 4:18; Colossians 1:19-22

BIBLE VERSE: ISAIAH 59:2

“But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.”

BIG IDEAS

- Sin is lostness.
- Sin is brokenness.
- I am broken and lost.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 15:1-7

Jesus spent His time on this earth seeking out sinners that He might share the good news with them. The Pharisees and scribes grumbled against Jesus because He spent time with sinners, yet Jesus shared with them that even one lost person is of great value to God. Just like a shepherd will leave his herd to find one lost sheep, Jesus came to the earth to save the lost. We are the lost sheep in need of Jesus.

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 sin and 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.

SEPARATED BY SIN

Gather together a glass of water, vegetable oil and a dropper. Show your child the glass of water and say that it represents God. Next, use the dropper to place a few drops of the oil in the water. Show your child how the oil stays separate from the water just like we are separated from God because of our sin.

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

Luke 15:1-7

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

Jesus was confronted by some of the most important men in His day, the Pharisees and the scribes. These men questioned Him about the way He ministered to sinners. They didn't understand that we are all sinners. They didn't understand that every person is separated from God. Jesus told them a story about a shepherd who had a flock of a hundred sheep. One sheep gets lost; it wanders off the path and away from the flock. The shepherd could have left the sheep to wander and take care of itself. The shepherd could have chosen to ignore the one sheep because He had ninety-nine other sheep to take care of. The shepherd didn't do that. He chose to leave the ninety-nine who were safe and to go look for the lost sheep. Jesus told this story to show the people listening that He left His heavenly home to come to earth to seek us out. We are the lost sheep. We need our heavenly Shepherd to find us. We are all separated from God because of our sinful hearts. We all make choices and decisions that do not bring God glory. Even the good things we do aren't really good because we don't do them to glorify God. Jesus came to earth to seek and save the lost. We are the lost.

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

- What question did the Pharisees and scribes ask Jesus? (They wanted to know why He was letting sinners come near Him.)
- What did the shepherd decide to do when one of his sheep was lost? (He decided to go and look for the lost sheep.)
- How are we like the lost sheep? (We are lost and separated from God because of our sinful hearts.)
- What separates us from God? (Our sin separates us from God.)

**KNOW**

As a family memorize Isaiah 59:2 by repeating the verse in a loud voice and then in a quiet voice until it is memorized.

**DO**

Take your child on a scavenger hunt looking for things that are all broken. Hide broken things throughout your house or yard. Once your child has found all of the items, talk with him or her about how they are broken just like sin breaks us and our relationship with God.

**FEEL**

Gather together a bag of trail mix and several small containers. With your child, choose one part of the trail mix to separate out from the rest. For example, you can separate the peanuts from the rest of the mix. Once the mix is separated, talk with your child about how sin separates us from God just like the peanuts were separated from the trail mix.

**WANT**

Take a trip to your local grocery store. As you walk through the store with your child, talk about how different items are separated from others. The meat is not with the produce because the meat would contaminate the produce. Remind your child that we are separated from God because sin breaks us. It contaminates our hearts.

Before bedtime each night this week, spend a few moments praying with your child thanking God for sending Jesus to seek and to save. Remind your child that we are like the lost sheep. We are separated from God because of our sinful hearts.