

OUR SIN MAKES US DISOBEY

STORY: FALL

BIG TRUTH: OUR SIN MAKES US DISOBEY

Psalm 81:11-13; Isaiah 59:2; Jeremiah 17:9; Matthew 15:18-19; Romans 1:18-20,24-25; 8:5-8; Ephesians 2:1-3; 4:17-19; Titus 1:15-16; 3:3

BIBLE VERSE: ISAIAH 3:8

"For Jerusalem has stumbled, and Judah has fallen, because their speech and their deeds are against the Lord, defying His glorious presence."

BIG IDEAS

- Disobedience is choosing to say things that are in opposition to God's Word.
- Disobedience is choosing to do things that are in opposition to God's commands.
- Disobedience is choosing to dishonor and reject God.

BIBLE STORY: MALACHI 1

Malachi was God's messenger, or His prophet. He warned the Israelites, God's special people, of their sinfulness. God had given the Israelites specific laws for their ceremonial sacrifices made in the temple. These laws were for their own good and to bring glory to God. The priests in Malachi's day were not obeying God's laws. They were offering polluted and bad sacrifices. They were dishonoring and rejecting God.

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: OPPOSING WAYS

The priests in Malachi's day had forsaken, or rejected, God's laws. The sin in their hearts caused them to dishonor Him. Our hearts cause us to disobey and dishonor God and His Word.

BIBLE VERSE: ISAIAH 3:8

“For Jerusalem has stumbled, and Judah has fallen, because their speech and their deeds are against the Lord, defying His glorious presence.”

Our sinful hearts cause us to turn away from God.

- Isaiah told of the sin of Israel as a warning to them.
- Isaiah told of the way the people of God had turned away from Him.
- They had chosen their own way instead of following God.
- The people of God did not listen to Him.
- Our sin causes us to turn away from God.
- We, too, don't listen to God or His commands.

Sin makes us disobey God.

- God's people turned away from Him.
- They chose to follow their own way instead of following God.
- They knew what God's law said, but they didn't follow it.
- Our sin makes us disobey God. We want to go our own way and we do not follow Him.
- We have His Word, but we don't follow it.
- We choose our own way instead.
- We disobey because we are sinful and we turn away from God.
- The people of Israel were sinful and had turned away from God.
- They had forgotten Him and were not obeying His commands.

BIBLE STORY: MALACHI 1

The Priests Offer Polluted Offerings

Opening Illustration:

On small cards write out several commandments from God's Word, such as "Children obey your parents", "Love one another", etc. Make sure you have enough cards for every child in your class. Place the chairs in your room in a circle for musical chairs and put the cards on the floor in the center of the circle. Play a game of musical chairs. Every time the music stops and a child is without a chair, he or she gets to pick a card from the center. Have the child read the card or read it for them and ask the children to raise their hands if they have ever disobeyed the command. Play enough times so that every card gets read. Talk with the children about how our sinful hearts cause us to disobey God and reject Him. They cause us to be jealous and to get angry with others and even hurt others.

BIG IDEA: DISOBEDIENCE IS CHOOSING TO SAY THINGS THAT ARE IN OPPOSITION TO GOD'S WORD.

When we say untrue things about God's Word, we are disobeying Him.

- God's Word is complete and true.¹
- Everything in God's Word is good and helpful to us.
- When we say things about God's Word that are untrue, it is sin.
- When we say God's Word says something that it doesn't, it is sin.
- The priests were offering bad offerings and they were grumbling against God.
- The priests didn't want to follow God's Law because they thought it was too hard.
- They chose to say negative things about God's Law; they chose to complain against God and make it seem that God was harsh.
- When we grumble and complain about the commands in God's Word, we are sinning just like the priests.
- When we say negative things about God and His commands, we are being disobedient.
- When the priests grumbled and complained, they showed that they lacked faith and trust.
- When we grumble and complain and say untrue things about God's Word, we are showing a lack of faith and trust.

Speaking negatively or complaining about God's Word is disobedience.

- God's Word is true and living. It is profitable and helpful to His people.
- It is the way God speaks to His people and it is the way in which His people learn about Him.
- The priests complained about God's Law. They thought His law was too hard and too difficult for them.
- They chose to disobey Him by not following His law.
- Not only did they disobey, but their disobedience was dishonoring to God.
- God is a holy and righteous God. He is worthy of our honor and praise.
- When we complain about God's Word and His commands, we are not showing Him honor and respect.
- When we complain about God and what He tells us in His Word, we are disobeying Him.
- Every word in the Bible is good and helpful to us.

Why did the priests complain about God's Law? (They thought it was too hard and difficult.)

How did the priests dishonor God? (They offered polluted sacrifices to Him.)

1. Hebrews 4:12: God's Word is useful and pierces our souls revealing our heart condition and brings us back to the one true God.

BIG IDEA: DISOBEDIENCE IS CHOOSING TO DO THINGS THAT ARE IN OPPOSITION TO GOD'S COMMANDS.

All of God's commands are good and true.²

- God is all-powerful and the ruler of everything.
- He is the wisest of all beings and the Creator and Sustainer of all life.
- His commands are always what is best for His people.
- The priests were disobeying by not following God's law for sacrifices and offerings.
- The thought His Law was too hard and difficult, so they didn't obey it.
- They complained and chose to do things that were opposite of God's Law.
- When we do the opposite of what God tells us to do, we are disobeying His Word.
- Our sinful hearts cause us to do the opposite of what God says to do.



With the children, read 1 John 5:2-3. Help the children come up with a list of some of God's commands, such as "Do not lie", "Be kind to one another", etc. Talk with them about how when we do the opposite of these, we are disobeying.

Our hearts cause us to disobey God's commands.

- All of God's Word is helpful to us.
- God's Word helps us know how to obey God.
- When the priests chose to do the opposite of what God's Law said, they were following their sinful hearts.
- Our sinful hearts cause us to disobey God's Word.
- When we disobey, we are sinning against God.
- Our disobedience causes us to make wrong choices, which cause us great harm.
- The priests disobeyed and God became very angry with them.
- The priests followed their sinful hearts instead of obeying God.
- We naturally choose to follow our sinful hearts instead of obeying God.

What causes us to disobey God? (Our sinful hearts cause us to disobey Him.)

2. 1 John 5:3: We show our love to God by obeying His commands. His commands are not burdensome or hard when our hearts are submitted to Him.

BIG IDEA: DISOBEDIENCE IS CHOOSING TO DISHONOR AND REJECT GOD.³**Our sinful hearts lead us to turn away from God.**

- The priests offered polluted sacrifices to God instead of the very best sacrifices.
- The priests dishonored God when they offered polluted sacrifices.
- We dishonor God when we disobey Him.
- Our sinful hearts lead us to dishonor God out of our own disobedience.
- The priests disobeyed God by choosing to reject His Law.
- We disobey when we reject God's Word.



Lead the children to do a word study of the word "Holy." Help them look up different verses that describe God's holiness. Lead them in a discussion about how God is worthy of honor and praise from us.

Our sin leads us to reject God out of disobedience.

- The priests' hearts were sinful and disobedient.
- They didn't want to follow God's Law because of their sinfulness.
- Our hearts are sinful.
- We reject God and His Word when we disobey.
- The priests changed the way they sacrifice out of disobedience.
- When we try to change God's Word, we are disobeying and dishonoring Him.
- When we choose to follow our own way, we are rejecting God.
- Our hearts lead us to dishonor and reject God when we disobey and do things in opposition to His Word.

How did the priests dishonor and reject God? (They didn't obey the sacrificial laws.)

How do we dishonor and reject God? (We disobey His Word and follow our own hearts instead of obeying Him.)

3. 1 Samuel 2:12: No one is holy like God is holy. God deserves our honor and praise because He is the holiest.

HOOKS

**Follow The Leader**

Play a game of “Follow the Leader” with the children. Lead the children to do some easy things, like tapping their heads and some hard things, like hopping on one foot. Allow the children to take turns being the leader. After you finish playing, lead the children in a discussion about how our sinful hearts keep us from obeying God’s Words. We don’t follow Him like we should.



- When we disobey God’s Word, we are dishonoring Him.
- What are some ways we disobey God’s Word? (We do not obey our parents; we do not honor our parents; we lie to someone, etc.)
- Our sin causes us to disobey God.

**To Agree or Disagree**

Use tape to create a line down the center of the room. Tell the children you are going to say a series of statements. If they agree with the statement, they should step onto the line. If they disagree, they should step back from the line. Say the following statements and add any you can think of:



- “Disobeying is okay if you know your parents will say NO.”
- “When Jesus was a child, He always obeyed His human parents.”
- “It’s not really disobeying if your parents didn’t actually say NO.”
- “If you always obey your parents, your life will be perfect.”
- “Even if you don’t obey at first, it’s still obedience.”

Once you’ve said every statement, lead the children in a discussion about how our sin causes us to disobey God’s Word.

- Our sinful hearts lead us to disobey God.
- God has given us His Word to guide us and show us how to obey Him.
- When we change His Word or take away from it, we are being disobedient.
- Our obedience should be immediate and with a joyful heart because this shows that we trust God.