

BIG TRUTH: OUR SIN MAKES US DISOBEY

Psalms 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 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 repent of their disobedience against God

OPPOSING WAYS

Gather a long rope or a large sheet to play a game of “Tug-of-War” with your child. Play the game several times. Remind your child that God’s Word tells us how to obey Him, but our sinful hearts pull us in the opposite direction. Our way is sinful and leads us to a life of sorrow. God’s commands are not hard or burdensome and bring us life.

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

Malachi 1

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

The Israelites had long ago turned away from God. They had not followed His Law or obeyed Him. Now God sent Malachi, His special messenger to warn them of their disobedience. The Israelites were not following God’s commands. Their priests were not obeying the sacrificial laws. They were not offering the very best first born animals without blemish or spot. Instead, they were offering old or lame animals. The priests knew what God commanded them to do, but they didn’t like God’s way. Instead, they grumbled and complained about how hard God’s Laws were and they disobeyed them. Their disobedience in offering polluted offerings to Him dishonored God. In their disobedience, the Israelites were rejecting God and His Word. Our own hearts are sinful like those of the Israelites. We may think God’s commands are hard or difficult, but they are always for our good. Our sinful hearts will lead us to disobey God. When we disobey God, we reject Him and our need for Him. Just like the priests rejected God by disobeying His laws, we reject Him by disobeying His Word.

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

- What did Malachi warn the people about? (He warned them about their disobedience to God’s laws.)
- What did the priests grumble and complain about? (They grumbled and complained about God’s sacrificial laws.)
- What causes us to disobey God’s Word? (Our sinful hearts cause us to disobey His Word.)

**KNOW**

As a family, memorize Isaiah 3:8 by playing a game of freeze tag. The person who is frozen can be unfrozen by saying the verse out loud.

**DO**

As a family read the following verses: Ephesians 4:26, Colossians 3:8, James 1:19-20, James 5:9, and Ephesians 6:1. Talk with your child about what each verse is saying to do. Remind your child that our sinful hearts don’t want to obey God’s Word, but His Word is always for our good.

**FEEL**

Use a bandana or a piece of rope to tie your right foot to your child’s left foot. Once your feet are tied together, tell your child that you are going to walk together toward a place in the room, such as the door or the table. Tell your child to begin walking toward that spot and then you walk in the opposite direction. Do this several times and then talk with your child about how our sinful hearts cause us to disobey God, which is like going in the opposite direction of His commands, and how disobedience keeps us from getting to where we want to go.

**WANT**

Spend some time at bedtime this week talking with your child about his or her obedience this week. Remind your child that we all disobey, but God is faithful to forgive us when we ask for forgiveness.