

GOD RESCUES ME FROM DEATH

STORY: REDEMPTION

BIG TRUTH: GOD RESCUES ME FROM DEATH

John 3:16; 3:36; 5:24; 6:35-40; 10:27-28; 1 Timothy 1:12-16; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 1 John 5:11-13

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 6:23

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

BIG IDEAS

- Our sin makes us dead spiritually and leads to death physically.
- God raised Jesus from the dead defeating death itself.
- God gives new life spiritually and eternally through Jesus.

BIBLE STORY: JOHN 11:1-44

God is more powerful than anything, including death. We are all spiritually dead and God gives us new life through Jesus Christ. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead as a sign of what His death on the cross does for every person who believes in Him.

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: A NEW LIFE

We are all dead spiritually, but we do not have to remain that way. Jesus came to pay our sin debt and make a way for us to be alive spiritually.

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 6:23

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Our sin requires a payment of death.

- Our sin is against a holy and righteous God.
- Our sin is a rejection of God and His commands.
- Because our sin is rebellion against Him, we must pay for our sin.
- God is just and the penalty for our sin is death.
- Our sin requires our death.

God shows mercy by allowing a substitute.

- Though our sin requires our death, God shows mercy.
- God allows for our sin debt to be paid by a substitute.
- Because of God’s mercy, we do not have to pay our sin debt.
- God makes a way for our debt to be paid by a substitute.

Jesus is our substitute.

- God gave His only Son to be our substitute.
- Jesus is the perfect sacrifice because He is fully God and fully man and He is perfect.
- He could pay our sin debt because He lived a perfect life.
- We do not have to pay for our sin because Jesus paid for our sin on the cross.
- The wages we owe are our lives, but these wages have been paid by Jesus.

BIBLE STORY: JOHN 11:1-44

The Resurrection of Lazarus

Opening Illustration:

Give each child a shield cut out of cardstock and crayons. Help the children write their name on the shield and then give them crayons, glitter, and stickers to decorate their shields. Talk with the children about how God rescues us and fixes our relationships with Him and others.

BIG IDEA: OUR SIN MAKES US DEAD SPIRITUALLY AND LEADS TO DEATH PHYSICALLY.¹

We are all spiritually dead in our sin, or trespasses.

- Our sin makes us dead inside.
- We are separated from God and have no relationship with Him.
- Our sin causes us to walk away from God, which kills us spiritually.
- Our souls are captive to sin and sin leads to death.
- Just like Lazarus was dead in the grave, our souls are dead in our sin.
- Because we are separated from God, spiritually we have no life.
- We are not seeking to glorify God or live for Him when we are still living in sin.
- Just like Lazarus could not raise himself from the dead, we cannot give ourselves spiritual life.



Help the children make a list of actions and their consequence, such as if you bump into something, you'll feel pain. Remind them that death is a consequence of our sin.

The consequence of our sin is physical death.

- Jesus wept when He saw Mary and the others weeping over Lazarus.
- He wept because of the sorrow that death brings to us.
- Death happens to life on earth because of sin.
- Before sin entered the world, there was no death.
- A consequence of Adam and Eve's rebellion against God is death on earth.
- Death is a common occurrence on earth because we live in a fallen world.
- Everyone will die a physical death unless Jesus returns first.
- Jesus knew that death was a painful consequence of our sin.
- He wept for Mary and Martha, not because there was no hope for Lazarus, but because He knew the pain they were feeling.

What leads to physical death? (Our sin leads to physical death.)

What does our sin make us? (It makes us spiritually dead.)

1. Romans 8:6: Our spirit is dead because of our sin. We are dead in our trespasses until we have new life in Christ.

BIG IDEA: GOD RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD DEFEATING DEATH ITSELF.

Only Jesus has raised Himself from the dead.

- Jesus died a physical death on the cross.
- He was dead and buried in a tomb.
- He was in the tomb three days and He became alive again on the third day.
- No other man has raised himself from the dead.
- No one else has that power over death.
- Only God has power over death.
- Lazarus could not raise himself from the dead.
- None of Lazarus' friends or family could raise him from the dead.
- Only Jesus had the power to raise the dead.

When Jesus rose from the dead, death lost its power.²

- Jesus came alive again and showed that He had ultimate power over death.
- Though He had raised others from the dead, only He could raise Himself from the dead.
- Death has no power over Jesus.
- Death was defeated and rendered powerless when Jesus was resurrected.
- He never died another physical death like the people he had raised from death.
- When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, He was pointing to the time that He would be resurrected and that everyone who believed in Him would be resurrected, too.

If we are in Christ, we do not have to fear death.

- Death brings great sorrow.
- Mary and Martha were sorrowful over the loss of their brother.
- Jesus wept because of the sorrow that death brings to people.
- Yet, we do not have to fear death if we have saving faith in Jesus.
- Jesus raised Lazarus to show that He himself was going to rise from the dead.
- Because Jesus has risen from the dead, everyone who has saving faith in Him, will rise from the dead.
- Though we die physically, spiritually, we do not die.

Who defeated death? (Jesus defeated death when He rose from the grave.)

2. Isaiah 25:8: Isaiah foretold that Jesus would come and defeat death. Death lost its power when Jesus defeated it by getting up from the grave.

BIG IDEA: GOD GIVES NEW LIFE SPIRITUALLY AND ETERNALLY THROUGH JESUS.³

Jesus gives new life spiritually.

- Jesus paid our sin debt, setting us free from our sin.
- We are no longer held captive to our sin nature because Jesus paid our ransom.
- When Jesus paid our sin debt, He made a way for our hearts to become new.
- When we have saving faith, our old, dead hearts are made new and we are made alive spiritually.
- Lazarus was given new life when Jesus raised him from the dead.



Role-play the resurrection of Lazarus and Jesus. Talk with the children about how we receive new life through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

The new life Jesus gives is eternal.

- Though we all will most likely experience a physical death, we are not dead spiritually.
- Our spirits do not die.
- When our physical bodies die, our spirits enter our eternal home in heaven.
- This life is eternal because of Jesus.
- He is our source of eternal life.
- He made a way for us to live forever spiritually.

Jesus died on the cross so that we might have new life.

- Jesus lived a perfect and sinless life and then He died on the cross in our place.
- When He took on our sins, He paid our sin debt.
- We can have new life spiritually because Jesus took care of our sin debt for us.
- We can live forever in Heaven with Him, because He made a way for us to be with Him.

How do we have eternal life spiritually? (When we have saving faith in Jesus, we can have eternal life with Him.)

3. John 3:16: Whoever believes in Jesus will have eternal life.

HOOKS

**New Life Starts Here**

Bring in several acorns and a picture of an oak tree. Show the picture of the oak tree to the children. Share facts about oak trees with the children, such as how long it takes an oak to grow, how long oak trees live, etc. Show the children the acorns. Talk with them about how the acorn starts as a small bud on the branch of the oak. The acorn grows and then falls from the tree. The acorn can become a new oak tree if it takes root in the ground. Talk with the children about how Jesus gives us new life when we have saving faith in Him.



- Jesus paid our sin debt so that we could have a new life.
- When we turn away from our sin and believe in Him, we can have a new life, just like the acorn becomes a new oak tree.

**Forever and Forever and Forever**

Bring in a long piece of string. Wrap a small section of one end in red tape or yarn. Show the string to the children. Tell the children that our life on earth is the length of the red section of the string and our eternity is the rest of the string. Talk with them about how we can have eternal life through Jesus.



- We are all dead in our sins. We are spiritually dead.
- This red section represents the length of our lives here on earth.
- This section is short.
- When we have saving faith in Jesus, we can live new lives here on earth and we can have eternal life in heaven.
- This long section is the eternity we can have through Jesus.