

WE ARE A BROKEN FAMILY

STORY: FALL

BIG TRUTH: WE ARE A BROKEN FAMILY

Romans 1:18-32; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Ephesians 2:1-3; 4:17-19; 1 John 1:8-10

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 3:23

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"

BIG IDEAS

- Everyone has sinned.
- Our sin is ultimately against God.
- Sin wrecks our hearts.
- Sin wrecks our family.

BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 4:1-12

Cain and Abel both brought their offerings to the Lord, but God approved only Abel's offering. Cain revealed his true heart, something that God already knew, when he killed his brother and then lied about his whereabouts. Sin has broken our hearts and our families.

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:**

- Sin has broken our families

**Every child should feel:**

- Burdened at how sin breaks our families

**Every child should:**

- Be aware of the ways their sin affects their family

**Every child should want:**

- Their family to be made new by Christ

FAMILY DEVOTION: ALL FALL SHORT

We are all sinful. We begin at a young age rebelling against God's created order. We sin against Him and this leads to a brokenness in our lives.

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 3:23

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"

God requires obedience to His Word.

- God is a holy and righteous God.
- He is the most holy of all beings.
- He is the Creator of all things and ruler over all.
- Because God is the Creator and Ruler of all, He commands and deserves obedience to His Word.
- God's requirement of obedience to His Word is just and right because He is perfect and His justice is perfect.

No one fully obeys God's Law.

- There is no person who can fully keep God's Law.
- He commands us to keep His Law, but we are all sinful and do not keep His Law.
- We do not obey His Word. Instead, we seek to do what makes us happy instead of pleasing God.
- Even when we try to follow God's Law, we disobey because no one is perfect except for God.
- Even the good things that we do aren't really good because we are doing them for our own glory and not for God's.

Everyone is born with a nature enslaved to sin.

- We are all born sinful because we inherit a sin nature.
- Even when we're young, we begin to choose sin over obeying God.
- Because of our sin nature, our hearts are broken and enslaved to sin.
- We do not choose to obey God. We choose instead to seek our own good and to reject Him.
- Every person is born with this sin nature. No one is without sin.
- We all have sinned and continue to sin.

BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 4:1-12

Cain and Abel

Opening Illustration:

Give each child a balloon that is inflated and a marker. Ask the child to draw the world on their balloon. After the children have drawn the world on their balloons, tell the children that the balloons represent God's perfect creation and our feet represent the sin of man. Lead the children to pop their balloons by stomping on them. Once the balloons are popped, ask the children to collect the popped pieces of their balloons. Lead them in a discussion about how our world is broken like the balloon. Everything about our world is broken because of our sin.

- Once our balloons pop, they do not function the same way, do they? (No, they can no longer be tossed back and forth and they no longer hold air.)
- This is what sin did to God's perfect creation. Sin broke it. Now creation doesn't act or exist like it once did when God first made it.

BIG IDEA: EVERYONE HAS SINNED.¹**We all have a sin nature.**

- This means sin comes naturally. We do not have to be taught to sin.
- This nature reveals itself through our thoughts, feelings, and actions.
- We do not naturally follow God.
- We do not automatically seek to obey God's Word.
- Instead, we follow our sinful hearts and that lead us away from God.
- Cain acted as his earthly nature desired to act when he killed his brother.



Help the children create paper doll chains using construction paper. Give the children a black marker and ask them to make a mark on each of their dolls. Attach the paper doll chains to one another to make one big chain. Remind the children that all have sinned just like all the paper dolls have black marks on them.

We are ruled by our earthly nature when we are not in Christ.

- We are enslaved to our sin nature. There is nothing good in us and we desire to do what pleases us instead of what glorifies God.
- Cain was enslaved to his sinful desires. Even when God confronted him and offered him mercy, Cain followed his sinful heart instead of God.
- Our lives are ruled by sin because we are sinful. There is nothing good in us.
- Even the good things we try to do are tainted by our sin nature.
- Cain's offering was not given out of sacrifice and devotion to God. His offering revealed the nature of his heart.

God's wrath is coming because all have sinned.

- The world will experience God's justifiable wrath because every person has sinned.
- Only Jesus was born without sin and lived a sinless life on earth.
- Everyone else is born with a sin nature and everyone chooses to sin.
- God is justified in judging the world because of our sin.
- Just like God cursed Cain and caused him to be an outcast and wanderer, the world is cursed because of the sin of man.

Who has sinned? (Everyone has sinned because everyone is born with a sin nature.)

1. Colossians 3:5-6: We have an earthly nature that is sinful. When we repent and believe in Christ, we receive a new nature that is like Christ.

BIG IDEA: OUR SIN IS ULTIMATELY AGAINST GOD.²**God is our just and holy King.**

- God is the only sinless being.
- He alone is perfect.
- Only God does everything right, and all the decisions He makes are good.
- His heart is not sinful, nor does He do sinful things.
- He is holy and righteous. He has always been holy and righteous.
- God's holiness and righteousness make Him a just judge of man and the world.
- He is our holy Ruler. He alone deserves our worship and praise.



Ask the children to imagine that the class is going to visit their house. Ask the children to create a list of rules for visiting their house. Lead the children in a conversation about who would be wronged if someone visited their house and broke one of their rules. Help them to see that we sin against God when we sin because He is the Ruler of all things.

God determines right and wrong and instructs us through His Word.

- God gave us His Law that we might know what is right and wrong.
- Without God's Law and His Word, we would not know what is right and wrong.
- God is the beginning of all things, and it is from Him that we know and understand how to live in a way that pleases Him.
- Because He is the beginning of all things and determines what is right and wrong, it is Him that we owe our devotion and obedience.

Our sin is rebellion against God.

- God is the one true God. Because He is the only God and the Creator of all things, He rules over all things.
- When we sin, we are rebelling against God and His established order.
- When Cain sinned, he sinned against God's rule and Cain broke God's Law.
- When we sin, we sin against God.

How is our sin ultimately against God? (He is the Creator and Ruler over all things and He determines right and wrong.)

2. Psalm 51:4: Our sin is ultimately against God who rules over all things.

BIG IDEA: SIN WRECKS OUR HEARTS.³**Our hearts are wicked because of our sin nature.**

- Every person is born with a heart set on sin.
- We each inherit a sin nature from Adam and Eve. This nature rules us and leads us to reject God's truth.
- Our hearts are wicked from the beginning of our life.
- Our hearts do not seek God, nor do they seek His truth.
- Our hearts are blinded by our sin and become increasingly wicked.
- Cain's heart was wicked even before he killed Abel.
- His heart was sinful as demonstrated through his unacceptable offering to God.



Bring in a bag of large marshmallows. Before class or at the beginning of class, remove some of the marshmallows and allow them to harden. Allow the children to feel both the soft marshmallows and the hardened marshmallow. (They can feel the marshmallows through the bags.) Remind the children that sin wrecks our hearts like the air ruined the marshmallows.

Sin causes our hearts to harden more.

- Cain's heart was sinful before he took his brother's life.
- After God refused Cain's offering, He gave Cain an opportunity to turn away from his sin.
- Cain chose to continue disobeying God. Instead of repenting of his sinfulness, he went out and killed his brother out of jealousy and anger.
- When we sin, and refuse to repent, our hearts become more sinful.
- We become hardened to God's Word and move farther away from Him.

Our hearts cannot save themselves.

- We are born with a sin nature. No one is born free of it.
- Because we are born with a sin nature, we cannot save ourselves.
- We cannot undo our sin nature on our own.
- Cain could not change himself, but he could have accepted God's offer of change.
- We, too, can accept God's offer of change through His Son, Jesus.

How does sin wreck our hearts? (It hardens our hearts to God and causes us to move farther away from Him.)

3. Psalm 10:3: Our hearts are wicked and sinful.

BIG IDEA: SIN WRECKS OUR FAMILY.⁴**The sin of one man led to the sin of all.**

- Adam's sin in the Garden of Eden led to the sin of all mankind.
- Adam's sin introduced death into the world and broke God's perfect creation.
- Every person born after Adam is now born with a sin nature.
- Adam's sin did not just affect himself. It affected the entire world.
- The perfect family that God had created with Adam and Eve no longer existed. It was now changed, marred forever by Adam and Eve's sin.



Bring in a rope. Ask the children to take turns tying their hand to another child's hand. Once they have tied their hands together, ask each child to try to use his or her hand to scratch the opposite arm. Remind the children that just like having their hand tied to someone else affected their ability to scratch, our sin affects our family.

Our personal sin has a negative effect on our family.

- When we sin, those around us often suffer the negative consequences of our sinful choices.
- Even when we think our sin is not seen or known, it affects us and then ultimately our family because we interact with them.
- Only God knew Cain's heart when he brought his offering, yet Cain's sinfulness affected his entire family.
- God knows our hearts and our sinfulness affects others around us, especially our families.
- Our sin can cause strife in our family. It can cause relationships to be strained or difficult.

Our families are changed because of our sin.

- When Cain sinned, his family changed.
- Cain's sin of murder meant that Abel no longer lived.
- Abel's death changed Adam and Eve's family.
- Sin affects all families in the world.
- Often, families break up or children no longer live with their parents because of sin in the world.
- Our sin affects the people we interact with. Even when it seems that we are sinning in secret, that sin affects our behavior and mood thus affecting our families.

How does sin wreck our family? (It causes strife in our relationships and causes harm to family members.)

4. 1 Corinthians 15:22: *Our sin doesn't just affect us; it affects those around us, too.*

HOOKS

**Winning Favor**

Divide the children into groups and ask them to make a chart listing the reasons Abel's offering was accepted and Cain's was not. Help them correctly identify the reasons the offerings were treated differently. Next, ask the children to think of several ways that Cain's sin affected his family. Ask them to share their charts and lead them in a discussion about how our sin affects our family.



- No one is completely isolated from others.
- When we sin, it doesn't just affect us. It affects the people we are closest to.

**Musical Choices**

Play a game of musical beanbag with the children. When the music stops, ask the person holding the beanbag to make a choice between doing something nice or doing something mean. Use the following as your choices and make up any more you'd like to add:



- You can choose to share your toys with your sibling or keep them to yourself.
- You can choose to give the last piece of dessert to your friend or eat it yourself.
- You can choose to help your teacher pass out supplies or continue talking to your friends instead.
- Once you ask the questions, lead the children in a discussion about how our sinful choices affect our family because every choice we make affects the people around us.