

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

ALL FALL SHORT

Gather together sidewalk chalk and a measuring tape. Challenge your child to jump the length of your driveway if he or she can. Allow your child to try jumping to the end of the driveway several times. After he jumps, measure the spot he lands on and mark it with the chalk. Once you've tried several times, talk with your child about how no matter how hard he tries, he falls short just like we all fall short of God's glory because of our sin.

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

Genesis 4:1-12.

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

Adam and Eve had two sons named Cain and Abel. Cain was a worker of the ground. He grew vegetables and food. Abel was a keeper of sheep. When Cain and Abel were older, they both brought an offering to the Lord. Cain brought an offering of some of the vegetables that he grew. Abel brought the firstborn of the sheep and their fat portions. God found Abel's offering to be favorable, but He did not find Cain's offering favorable. When God rejected Cain's offering, Cain became so angry that his face showed his anger. God asked Cain why he was so angry. He told Cain if he turned from his sin, his offering would be accepted. Cain did not listen to God. Instead, he found his brother in the field and killed him. Cain's heart hardened because he chose not to repent of his sin. The hardening of his heart led to the death of his brother. When God questioned Cain about Abel, Cain lied. Because of Cain's sin, the whole family was affected. Adam and Eve lost a son and Cain lost the life he had once had. He was cursed to be an outcast and a wanderer. Their family had been affected and changed because of Cain's sin. Our sin affects those closest to us. When we sin, we affect our family, even if we think we aren't directly sinning against them.

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

- Whom did Cain sin against? (He sinned against God.)
- How did Cain's sin affect his family? (They changed. Adam and Eve lost a son and he lost a brother.)

**KNOW**

As a family, spend some time memorizing Romans 3:23. Share with your child the truth that we all are sinners. There is no person who is without sin.

Spend some time this week praying and asking God to help your family not rebel against Him.

**DO**

Talk with your child about the relationship between cause and effect. Take some time this week to point out the effects, both positive and negative, of your child's actions. Remind your child that that our sin affects our family in the same way.

**FEEL**

Take your child on a trip to your local park or body of water. Talk with your child about how the rain affects the body of water. Ask your child to identify what would change about the body of water if it rained a lot. Remind your child that our sin affects our families.

Spend some time praying with your child and thanking God for overcoming our sin through Jesus.

**WANT**