

WE REJECT GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR FAMILY

STORY: FALL

BIG TRUTH: WE REJECT GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR FAMILY

Deuteronomy 10:12-13; Ezekiel 2:3-5, 8; Romans 3:23; Colossians 3:18-21

BIBLE VERSE: PSALM 78:8

"And that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God."

BIG IDEAS

- The family exists to bring God glory.
- God wants my family to be faithful to Him.
- My family has rejected God in our sin.
- My family needs a new heart.

BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 12:10-20

Abram was worried that Pharaoh would kill him and take Sarai, so he told Sarai to lie and say she was only his sister. Abram's lie brought great affliction upon Pharaoh and caused Pharaoh to send Abram and Sarai away.

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: A FAITHFUL FAMILY

God desires that we all are faithful to Him. He desires that our families are faithful to Him. He wants us to follow Him in obedience, but our hearts are sinful.

WE REJECT GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR FAMILY

BIBLE VERSE: PSALM 78:8

“And that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God.”

God's people forgot all that He had done for them.

- When God brought His people out of Egypt, He did many great wonders for them.
- His people quickly forgot all that God had done for them.
- They did not remember the many ways He had protected them, provided for them, and freed them from their enemies.
- They did not keep God's covenant. They rebelled against Him.
- We are like the Israelites. We forget all that God does for us.
- We rebel against Him and do not remain faithful to Him.

They did not walk according to God's Word.

- God's people rejected His plan for them.
- Because they forgot His great works among them and didn't keep His covenant, they did not walk according to His Word.
- Instead, they sought their own way and followed their own hearts.
- We reject God's plan and we do not follow His Word.
- Instead, we seek our own way and follow our own hearts which leads us to death.

They rejected God's plan for them and they ultimately rejected God.

- Though God had chosen them to be His people and He had done incredible things in their lives, they still rejected His way.
- They did not remain steadfast and faithful to God.
- They were a stubborn and rebellious generation of people.
- They rejected God's truth and worshipped false gods.
- They turned away from God and followed after their own hearts.
- We reject God's plan for our lives. We reject His plan for our families.

BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 12:10-20

Abram Lies

Opening Illustration:

Give each child a paper plate with the center cut out making a ring. Next, give the children a marker or crayon and ask them to draw a picture of themselves on one side of the ring and on the opposite side to write GOD. Next, give them little small slips of paper and string. On the papers they should write ways they've sinned and then use the string to attach these to the top of the ring so that they hang between GOD and the picture of the child. Remind the children that we reject God and our relationship with Him because of our sin.

WE REJECT GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR FAMILY

BIG IDEA: THE FAMILY EXISTS TO BRING GOD GLORY.¹

Everything exists for God's glory.

- All that God created, He created for His glory.
- The heavens and the earth exist to bring God glory.
- Man exists to bring God glory.
- God is the holiest of all beings and the only one deserving of all the glory.
- He alone is the one true God. He is the Creator of all things and all things exist for Him.



Divide the children into small groups. Give each group a piece of white paper and markers. Ask the groups to create a short comic strip that shows a way the family can bring God glory. Help them think of ideas. Ask the groups to share their comic strips and then remind the children that the family exists to bring God glory.

The family unit is a reflection of God and His people.

- God is the Father of His people. His people are His children.
- Those who are followers of Christ are part of His family.
- The family is a reflection of God and His people.
- God designed earthly fathers to interact with their children the way God interacts with His children.
- The family is a picture of God and His children.
- God loves His children and provides for His children just like He designed earthly parents to do for their children.

The family should bring God glory.

- Everything that exists is made for God's glory.
- The primary purpose for every person is to bring God glory.
- The family unit should seek to bring God glory by loving one another as God commands us to love.
- The family unit should bring God glory by being a true reflection of God and His children.
- When the family seeks to be a right reflection, it brings God glory and fulfills its purpose.

Why does the family exist? (It exists to bring God glory.)

1. Ephesians 5:21-33: Everyone should submit to one another in love. God has established a correct order within the family and when the family seeks to obey God, it brings God glory.

WE REJECT GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR FAMILY

BIG IDEA: GOD WANTS MY FAMILY TO BE FAITHFUL TO HIM.²

God desires for His people to be faithful to Him.

- God created man to be in a relationship with Him. God desires that man walk according to His commands.
- God desired that Abram walk according to His Word because God is the Ruler over all.
- God wants all of His people to follow Him faithfully.
- He desires that His people remain steadfast and live according to His truth.
- God's way is better than man's and God desires that man submit to His Word and obey Him.



Play a game of musical beanbag. When a person is left holding the beanbag, ask him or her to name a way for his or her family to remain faithful to God. Remind the children that God desires for our families to remain faithful to Him.

God desires the family to obey His Word.

- God has a created order and plan for His people.
- He created Adam and Eve to be a family.
- God has a plan for the family.
- He desires that the family remain faithful to Him because it is a reflection of Him.
- God wants families to be steadfast and to follow Him all the days of their lives.
- God's desire for Abram was that his family would follow God faithfully.

Our family should live according to God's Word.

- We are created for God's glory and to follow God.
- Our family should live according to God's commands and should seek to obey Him in everything.
- Our family exists for God's glory and we bring God glory by walking according to His Word.
- Abram's family was created to follow God always.

What does God want our families to do? (He wants our families to be faithful to Him.)

2. Deuteronomy 10:12-13: God commands His people to obey Him and to follow after Him always. He desires that families remain faithful to Him always.

WE REJECT GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR FAMILY

BIG IDEA: MY FAMILY HAS REJECTED GOD IN OUR SIN.³

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

- Everyone is sinful.
- We are all born with a sin nature and, many times, when faced with the choice to sin or not, we choose to sin.
- No one is perfect and sinless on this earth.
- Because we are broken, we continue to sin.
- We are separated from God by our sin.
- We do not naturally choose to follow God, nor do we seek to know Him.

Our families are made up of broken, sinful people.

- Because we are all sinful, our families are made up of sinful people.
- No family is perfect because it is made up of broken people.
- Abram's family was no different. Even though he was God's chosen leader, Abram was still sinful.
- Our families do not always obey God because of our sinful hearts.
- Our families do not naturally seek God. We rebel against God and seek our own way.
- Abram followed his own way when he entered Egypt. He did not follow God's way.

Our families have turned away from God.

- Because we are all sinful, our families have not followed God faithfully.
- We have turned away from God and sought our own way.
- Just like Abram followed his own way when he entered Egypt, our families have followed their own way.
- Our families do not naturally seek to glorify God.
- Instead, families seek to please themselves or follow after idols.

How have our families rejected God? (We have not followed God faithfully and we have followed our own way instead.)



Bring in several small ropes. Divide the children into small groups of two to four. Give a rope to each group. Ask the groups to hold the ropes in a single file line and then give them instructions about how to move around the room. Show the children that each group moves in the same direction because they are all connected by the rope. Remind them that our families reject God because we are all sinful.

3. Romans 3:23: All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. We are all sinful which means our families are made up of sinful people.

WE REJECT GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR FAMILY

BIG IDEA: MY FAMILY NEEDS A NEW HEART.⁴

We are all in need of forgiveness.

- Everyone sins because we are broken and our sin makes us even more broken.
- We cannot save ourselves. We are all in need of salvation.
- No one is able to pay his or her sin debt.
- We needed someone to pay our sin debt for us.
- We needed to be forgiven for our sin against God.
- We cannot earn forgiveness because we are sinful.
- Our sin nature taints everything we do.



Help the children create a heart paper chain. Ask the children to make their heart paper chain as big as the number of people in their families. Allow them to decorate their heart paper chains with crayons or markers. Remind them that our families need new hearts.

Our families are made up of people who need forgiveness.

- Because every person is born sinful and we continue to sin, our families are made up of sinful people.
- We all sin and are in need of forgiveness.
- This means our families are made up of people who sin and need forgiveness.
- Abram's family was made up of people who needed forgiveness, including Abram.

Our families need new hearts.

- Because we are all sinful our hearts are broken.
- We all need a heart that is forgiven and cleansed of our sin.
- Our families are made up of people who need a heart that is forgiven and cleansed of sin.
- Jesus gives us new hearts when we turn away from our sin and believe in Him.

Why do our families need new hearts? (Our families are made up of broken, sinful people.)

4. Matthew 9:12-13: Jesus came to give us forgiveness of our sins. When we repent and believe in Him, we receive a cleansed and new heart.

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HOOKS



Circle of Truth

Gather the children in a circle and pass a soft object, such as a ball. When the child has the object, he or she should name something that is true or false about him or her and then ask the other children to guess if it's true or not. Allow every child to have a turn and then lead them in a discussion about how our families are all in need of new hearts.



To Be Faithful Or Not To Be Faithful

Give each child a paper heart and colored pencils. Ask the children to draw a picture of their family. Around their picture of their family, ask the children to write down different ways that their families can be faithful to God. Allow them to draw pictures if they like. Ask the children to share their pictures and then lead them in a discussion about how God desires for our families to be faithful.

