

WE EXPERIENCE PAIN AND LOSS AS A FAMILY

STORY: FALL

BIG TRUTH: WE EXPERIENCE PAIN AND LOSS AS A FAMILY

Job 5:6-7; Psalm 38:3; Ecclesiastes 2:22-23; Mark 10:5-9; 14:1; Romans 5:12

BIBLE VERSE: GENESIS 3:17

"And to Adam He said, 'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life."

BIG IDEAS

- Sickness is a result of sin.
- Death is a result of sin.
- Divorce is a result of sin.
- My family needs a rescuer.

BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 3:1-21

God made the first man and woman. He gave them everything they needed, yet they turned away from Him and sinned against Him. Because God made them male and female and created the first marriage and family, the consequence of their sin was felt by their entire family. Our sin affects everyone.

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: PAIN AND LOSS

No man is an island and God did not intend for us to live alone. He created families and families experience all of life together. We experience good times and bad times together.

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Man sinned against God.

- God’s creation was perfect in the beginning.
- Man believed the lie that Satan told Eve and then sinned against God.
- Instead of trusting in God and obeying His commands, man chose to believe a lie.
- Man ate the fruit of the one tree that was forbidden signifying man’s disobedience against God.
- Man’s sin was against God and this led to death entering the world.

The consequence of man’s sin is a broken world.

- Sin always has a consequence.
- Man’s sin in the garden resulted in God cursing the ground that produces food.
- Before man’s sin, finding food was not hard. God had given man everything he would ever need and the ground yielded plenty of food.
- After man’s sin, God cursed the ground and now the ground does not produce food so easily.
- Man’s sin produced brokenness in the hearts of people.
- We all suffer now because of sin.

People struggle now because of man’s sin.

- Life is not the paradise that God first created.
- We struggle with some of the most basic things in life now.
- Many people struggle every day to find enough food and clean water to care for their families.
- Families struggle to get along and live harmoniously.
- Sin has caused much strife and hardship in the lives of every person.

BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 3:1-21

The Fall

Opening Illustration:

Bring in enough tall socks for each child to have one. Bring in several bags of dry beans or rice. Use a plastic cup to fill the bottom portion of the sock with rice or beans. Help the children tie the sock using the tall section of the sock. Double knot the sock so the rice and beans are secure. Next, mark a spot on the floor. Have the children take turns standing far away from the mark and tossing their beanbag socks. Talk with the children about how no matter how hard we try we still miss the mark. Talk with them about how we cannot save ourselves or fix our brokenness.

- We may try hard every day, but we cannot save ourselves.
- Only Jesus can pay our sin debt and give us salvation.

WE EXPERIENCE PAIN AND LOSS AS A FAMILY

BIG IDEA: SICKNESS IS A RESULT OF SIN.¹

Sin results in hard times for man.

- One of sin's many effects on man and the world is producing hardship.
- Life before sin was not difficult or hard for man. Man had a perfect relationship with God and God provided all that man needed.
- The ground yielded food easily and work was enjoyable.
- After sin, man has experienced difficulty and hard times.
- Many people in the world struggle to have enough food and water to feed their families.
- Our difficulties in life are a result of sin. Work is harder now and life is not easy because we disobeyed God.



Divide the children into small groups and ask the groups to create a list of the sicknesses that plague people today. Talk through the sicknesses and remind the children that sickness is in the world today because of sin.

Families experience sickness because of sin.

- Before sin entered the world and the heart of man, God's creation was perfect.
- Man did not get sick or suffer disease and death.
- After sin entered the heart of man, the world broke. Now mankind experiences sickness and death.
- Families experience sickness together because of sin.
- Diseases ravage people's bodies and lives all because man sinned against God.
- Adam and Eve experienced hardship after they sinned against God.
- Their lives were not the same. Their work was hard and their bodies were no longer perfect.

Why is sickness in the world? (Sickness is in the world because of man's sin.)

1. Psalm 38:3: Because of sin, our bodies are decaying and dying. Hardship and sickness ravage our bodies because of sin.

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BIG IDEA: DEATH IS A RESULT OF SIN.²

Physical death is a result of sin.

- A direct consequence of man's sin is the physical death of mankind.
- Our bodies began dying when man sinned in the garden.
- No longer would mankind live forever with God in the garden.
- Now, our bodies decay and die .
- Every person will face a physical death unless Jesus returns during his or her lifetime.
- Adam and Eve experienced a physical death because of their sin.



Help the children understand cause and effect by giving each child a coffee filter. Ask the children to take turns dipping the edge of their coffee filter into a bowl of water that you hold. Tell the children that you want them to only get a tiny part of their coffee filter wet. Talk with the children about how it was impossible to wet only part of the coffee filter. Remind them that sin affects all of life and every person in our lives

Our spiritual death is because of our sin.

- Not only do our bodies die, but our souls are spiritually dead too, because of sin.
- Sin separates us from God and God is the giver of all life.
- Our souls are destined for an eternity separated from God unless we turn away from our sin and believe in Jesus.
- Our spiritual deaths result in unhappiness and sorrow.
- Our souls are never really at rest or peace without God.

Families experience death and loss because of sin.

- Because of sin, families experience loss.
- People die or leave because of sin.
- Families go through difficult times because man sinned against God.
- Adam and Eve's family was never the same.
- Even though they continued to have children, they experienced death and loss as a family because of sin.

Why did death enter the world? (Death entered the world because of sin.)

2. Romans 5:12: Death is the result of sin. We all experience death and loss.

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BIG IDEA: DIVORCE IS A RESULT OF SIN.³

God made marriage to last for life.

- God's purpose for marriage was that a man and woman would join their lives together for all of their earthly lives.
- God's purpose for marriage was that it would be a symbol of His love for the church.
- God's love for the church is everlasting and eternal. He never stops loving His people and marriage is intended to be a picture of that.
- God created the first man and woman and commanded them to live as husband and wife for the duration of their lives.

Because of man's hard hearts, divorce is part of life.

- Sin hardens our hearts. It makes us callous and uncaring.
- Because sin hardens our hearts and makes us blind to the truth, we continue to sin.
- Our sin has lasting consequences on us and the people around us.
- Because of man's hardened hearts, divorce is part of life here on earth.
- Divorce was not God's intention and He does not like divorce.
- Divorce is a result of man's sinful heart and unwillingness to submit to God's plan for him.

Families suffer through divorce together.

- Divorce is not just between the man and woman.
- Divorce affects the entire family and even friends.
- When a husband and wife divorce, everyone close to them is affected by it.
- Their children are affected by the ending of the marriage.
- Other family members are affected by the loss of the relationship.
- Divorce produces a much more difficult life for all who are involved and is the result of sin.
- Families experience divorce together and feel its consequences for the rest of their lives.

Why is divorce a part of our world? (Divorce is a part of our world because of man's sin.)

3. Mark 10:2-12: Because of the hardness of hearts, divorce exists in the world today. It affects every person in the family.

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BIG IDEA: MY FAMILY NEEDS A RESCUER.⁴

We are all sinful and spiritually dead.

- There is no person who is not sinful.
- Because we are all born with a sin nature, we all sin.
- Our hearts lead us away from God and toward our sinful desires.
- Adam and Eve were led away from God because they believed the lies of Satan.
- We are separated from God because of our sinful hearts.
- Our sin nature means that we are spiritually dead. We cannot fully live spiritually when we do not know God.



Give the children a paper plate with holes cut out for eyes. Supply them with markers, stickers, and other crafts supplies so they can make a superhero mask. Ask the children to choose the superhero that they'd be if they could and then create a mask to represent that superhero. Talk with the children about how our families all need to be rescued, but the only person who can rescue us is Jesus.

We cannot save ourselves.

- The payment for our sin is death. We are unable to pay our sin debt because we are not sinless.
- God requires a spotless, or sinless blood sacrifice.
- The only person who can save us is someone who is sinless. Only Jesus lived a sinless life as a human. Only He could be the sinless blood sacrifice.

Our families need rescuing by Jesus.

- Our families cannot be what they need to be without Jesus.
- Families may seem to be good and interacting in a good way, but inside they are not fully what they can be without Jesus.
- Our families fall apart because our hearts are sinful. We do not seek the glory of God, so this affects our families.
- When we are living in our sin, we are living for ourselves and this causes our families to be full of strife, harm, or division.
- We are all in need of salvation through Jesus.

Why do our families need a rescuer? (Because our families are made up of broken people, our families experience brokenness. Because of our brokenness, we all need to be rescued by Jesus.)

4. Galatians 1:4: Jesus paid our sin debt on the cross. Our families are in need of the salvation that He offers.

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HOOKS



Rescue Relay

Give each child an index card and marker. Ask the children to write down the names of or draw pictures of their family members. Once they finish this, collect the cards and place them in a pile in the floor. Next, divide the children into two groups and have the groups race each other relay style to see who can “rescue” the most cards. Each group can only pick up one card at a time until all the cards are collected. Lead the children in a discussion about how our families need a rescuer. Only Jesus can rescue them.



The Perfect Family Tree

Place the outline of a tree on the board or wall. Next, give each child a heart-shaped piece of paper and pencil. Ask the children to write down one sinful thing that affects our families. Help the children think of the ways that our families are affected by sin. Ask the children to tape their hearts on the tree. Next, give each child another, larger heart-shaped piece of paper with the name Jesus on it. Have the children take turns wearing a blindfold and trying to pin their new hearts on their old hearts. Once every child finishes, lead the children in a discussion about how only Jesus can rescue our families. Our families cannot be perfect on this earth because of our sinfulness.

