

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS OUR SUBSTITUTE

Isaiah 53:4-6; John 1:1-3; 18; Romans 5:6-11; 8:1-4; Galatians 3:13-14; Ephesians 5:1-2; 1 Peter 2:22-24; 3:18; 1 John 2:1-2; 4:9-10

BIBLE VERSE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

"For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."

BIG IDEAS

- We cannot save ourselves.
- God sent His Son to be our sinless sacrifice.
- Jesus died in our place.
- Substitution is final and forever.

BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 22

Abraham was God's servant. God had promised to make a great nation through Abraham and He began by giving Abraham a son named Isaac. God tested Abraham's faith when He asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. Abraham obeyed God and set out to give Isaac as a sacrifice, but God stopped him before he killed Isaac. God provided a ram in a thicket nearby to take the place of Isaac as the sacrifice. Jesus is our substitute just as the ram was Isaac's substitute. Jesus took our place and paid our sin debt.

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**KNOW****Every child should know that:**

- God adopts His children into a new family by His grace

**FEEL****Every child should feel:**

- Awe at the gift of adoption that God has given to His people

**DO****Every child should:**

- Treat others in the church with honor and respect because in Christ we are all members of the same family

**WANT****Every child should want:**

- To be adopted into God's family through faith and repentance

THE GREAT SUBSTITUTION

Go through your child's toys. Ask your child choose one toy that is old, broken, or worn out. Tell your child that he can substitute a new version of the toy for the old one. Remind your child that Jesus was our substitute. He took our place.

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

Genesis 22.

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

Abraham followed God. Many years before, God had promised to give Abraham a son and to make a great nation through him. Abraham believed God, and one day God gave Isaac as his son, and Abraham loved Isaac. One day, God asked Abraham to do a difficult thing and take Isaac to the top of the mountain to offer Isaac as a burnt offering to God. Abraham loved God even more than He loved Isaac. He trusted God, so he obeyed God. Abraham took Isaac to the top of the mountain and they built an altar together. Abraham laid Isaac on the altar and prepared to sacrifice him to God, but God's voice broke through and stopped Abraham. God provided a ram caught in a thicket nearby for Abraham and Isaac to offer to Him. Abraham and Isaac offered the ram to God with thanksgiving. He had provided a substitute for Isaac. God provided a substitute for all of His people when He sent Jesus to pay our sin debt. We all are sinful and owe a great sin debt that we cannot pay ourselves. God didn't leave us in need. Instead, He sent His only Son, Jesus to die on the cross in our place. Jesus took our place and became our substitute.

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

- What did God ask Abraham to do? (He asked Abraham to offer Isaac as a burnt offering to God.)
- How did Abraham respond to what God asked Abraham to do? (He obeyed.)
- How did Abraham show he trusted God? (He took Isaac to the mountain and prepared to sacrifice him.)
- What substitute did God provide for Isaac? (He provided a ram caught in a thicket.)
- Who did God send to be our substitute? (He sent His only Son, Jesus.)
- Why did we need a substitute? (We are all sinful and in need of someone to save us.)



As a family, memorize 2 Corinthians 5:21 by writing the words of each verse on a plastic cup and mixing them up. Take turns putting the verse together and saying it out loud.



Spend some time this week talking with your child about choices and things that are not forever, such as choosing what to eat for lunch or what time to go to bed. Next, talk with your child about things that are forever. Remind your child that Jesus' substitution for us is forever. It cannot be undone.



Throughout the week, help your child understand substitution by allowing your child to substitute one thing for something else. For example, allow your child to substitute an item from his dinner plate, allow your child to substitute five minutes of homework time for play time, going to bed on time for five extra minutes, etc. Remind your child that Jesus is our Substitute.



Spend some time this week sharing your own salvation story with your child. Talk about how Jesus paid for your sins and took your place as your substitute. Share with your child how this substitution is forever.

Spend some time in the morning or at night praying with your child and thanking God for sending Jesus to be our substitute. Talk with your child about how we don't have to pay our sin debt because Jesus paid it for us.