

WE ARE DEAD IN OUR SIN

STORY: FALL / YEAR: ETERNITY

BIG TRUTH: WE ARE DEAD IN OUR SIN

Romans 5:12; 6:16; 7:5; Ephesians 2:1-3; James 1:14-15

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 6:23

“But the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

BIG IDEAS

- Sin not only makes us bad; sin makes us spiritually dead.
- Our spiritual death affects every area and relationship in our lives.
- Dead people cannot raise themselves back to life.
- We need resurrection.

BIBLE STORY: EZEKIEL 37:1-14

God gave His special messenger, Ezekiel a vision of a valley of dry bones. In the vision, Ezekiel saw the bones come back to life again. God gives us a resurrection through the death, burial, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus.

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 makes us dead



Every child should feel:

- Broken over sin and its effects on the world and our lives



Every child should:

- Look around and acknowledge the ways that sin kills us and the world around us



Every child should want:

- To experience new life in Christ

FAMILY DEVOTION: OUR SPIRITUAL DEATH

Our sin leads to death. Death is the consequence of our sin. It leads to our physical death and our spiritual death. We are all in need of a resurrection.

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 6:23

“But the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Sin costs us everything.

- No one is without sin because we are all born with sinful hearts.
- Even when we think our sin is not big, it costs us everything.
- Because we all sin, we are all guilty.
- Our sin must be paid for and it costs us our lives.
- The wages of sin is physical and spiritual death. Spiritual death means that we are separated from God now and unless we repent and believe in Jesus, we will be separated from Him forever.
- We deserve this wage because it is what we earn.

We owe a sin debt to God.

- Our sin is against God and we owe God a debt.
- Our sinful hearts lead to sinful actions and these sinful actions and thoughts must be paid for.
- Our sin debt cannot be paid for by us because we are all sinful and God requires a sinless sacrifice to pay for our sin.
- God made a way for our sin debt to be paid through His Son.

God offers us new life through Jesus Christ.

- The result of our sin is death.
- Because we are all born sinful, we cannot save ourselves.
- God offers us a new life through His Son, Jesus.
- Jesus raises us to new life spiritually through His own death and resurrection.
- Though we are spiritually dead, we can be raised to new life through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

BIBLE STORY: EZEKIEL 37:1-14

The Valley of Dry Bones

Opening Illustration:

Give each child a balloon that is inflated and a marker. Ask the children 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. It broke it. Now it doesn’t act or exist like it once did when God first made it.

BIG IDEA: SIN NOT ONLY MAKES US BAD; IT MAKES US SPIRITUALLY DEAD.¹**Our sin causes us to turn away from God.**

- Our sin separates us from God. He is holy and perfect and we are not.
- Just like God cast out Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, we are separated from Him by our sin.
- Our sin nature leads us away from God, not toward Him.
- No one seeks God on his or her own. We are, instead, seeking to fulfill our sinful desires.



Give the children a piece of white paper, Q-tips, and glue. Ask the children to create a skeleton using the Q-tips and glue. Talk with them about how our sin makes us spiritually dead.

Our rebellion against God leads to physical and spiritual death.

- Beginning with Adam and Eve, man's sin caused death to enter the world.
- Since death entered the world, God's creation began dying.
- People began dying when sickness and disease became a part of life on earth.
- Death became a part of everyone's life because sin separated man from the true source of life, God.
- Because God is the giver of life, being separated from Him means we are spiritually dead.

We are all dead spiritually.

- Life comes from God. He is the Creator of all life and the sustainer of life.
- Our sin separates us from Him, leading to our eventual physical and spiritual death.
- We are dead spiritually because we do not have the true light and life inside of us.
- We are like the dead, dry bones in the valley that Ezekiel saw. We are dead and without hope.

What makes us spiritually dead? (Our sin makes us spiritually dead.)

1. Ephesians 2:1: *Our sin leads us away from God and leads to our spiritual death.*

BIG IDEA: OUR SPIRITUAL DEATH AFFECTS EVERY AREA AND RELATIONSHIP IN OUR LIVES.

When we are dead in our sin, we cannot live full, complete lives.

- Because our sin makes us spiritually dead, we cannot truly live fulfilling lives.
- Our hearts cannot really love others as God created us to love because of our sin.
- Our spiritual death causes us to focus on ourselves because we are captive to our sin nature.
- We do not treat others in a kind and loving way because our hearts are set on our own sin.

Our relationships are never really complete when we are spiritually dead.

- We cannot really live while we are spiritually dead.
- Our lives are not lived as fully and completely as they could be because we are spiritually dead.
- We are like the dry bones in the valley that Ezekiel saw. We cannot help ourselves and we cannot really interact with others on a truly deep level.
- Our sin keeps us focused on ourselves and stops us from really being able to be in a true, lasting relationship with someone else.

Our spiritual death keeps us from really understanding who we are.

- We are created for God, and while we are separated from Him, we can never really know who we are.
- Our spirits are never truly at rest while we are separated from God because we are always searching for things to fill the void that has been left by Him.
- Our spiritual death means we live unsatisfied lives, always searching for something to make us happy, leaving us always wanting more.
- Without God, we cannot know who we really are because we don't know Him, our Creator.

What does our spiritual death affect? (It affects every part of our lives, such as the way we talk, interact with others, the choices we make, etc.)



Give each child a paper towel, white coffee filter, and a small plastic cup of water. Use the paper towel to catch the water that drips from the coffee filter. Ask the children to dip the coffee filter slightly in the cup of water. Show the children how even just a little bit of water affects the coffee filter. Our spiritual deaths affect every part of our lives.

BIG IDEA: DEAD PEOPLE CANNOT RAISE THEMSELVES BACK TO LIFE.²**We cannot pay our own sin debt.**

- We are all sinful and in need of salvation.
- Our sin makes us spiritually dead.
- Because we are all sinful, we cannot pay our own sin debt.
- Our sin debt requires the death of a perfect sacrifice. No one is perfect, so we cannot save ourselves.
- Because we are all born sinful, we cannot make ourselves spiritually alive.



Divide the children into groups. Ask each group to define the words “wages” and “gift”. Read Romans 6:23. Ask the children to discuss what it means that the wages of our sin is death. Remind them that God gives us the gift of salvation.

God’s grace offers us salvation and new life.

- Just like Ezekiel saw the dry bones come back to life, we are made new again through God’s gracious offer of salvation.
- We cannot make ourselves new again because we cannot take away our sin.
- We need salvation in order to be made alive again.
- When we receive God’s grace, we receive new life.

We cannot earn God’s gift of salvation.

- God’s gracious gift of salvation through Jesus gives us new life.
- It breathes life into our dead spirits.
- We cannot do anything to earn God’s salvation.
- We do not even realize that we are spiritually dead until God shows us.
- Nothing we do or say can provide salvation to us. It is a gift that God gives us.
- He gives us new life through His Son, Jesus.

Why can we not give ourselves life again? (We are all sinful and we do not even realize we are spiritually dead until God shows us.)

2. Ephesians 2:8: *We are saved and made new through faith in Jesus Christ.*

BIG IDEA: WE NEED RESURRECTION.³**We are all dead in our trespasses, or sinful acts.**

- Every person is like the dry, dead bones in the valley that Ezekiel saw in his vision.
- We are living a physical life on this earth, but our souls are spiritually dead because of our sin.
- Sin leads to death, and our sinful hearts lead us to death.
- There is no one who is born without sin. No one is righteous.
- Because we are not righteous, or without sin, we cannot save ourselves.
- We cannot breathe new life into our dead souls.



Give each child the outline of a skeleton or a paper bone. Ask the children to write his or name on the skeleton or on the bone. Use markers or colored pencils to color the skeleton or bone. Tell the children that we are all dead in our sin and we all need a resurrection.

We all need to be forgiven for our sin.

- Our sin is against the holy and righteous God.
- When we rebel, we rebel against Him.
- He created the heavens and the earth. He breathes life into every person and our rejection and rebellion are against Him.
- We owe Him a sin debt. He gave us everything we needed and offered us access to Himself, but we rejected it.
- Our rejection broke His perfect creation and introduced sin into our hearts.
- We all need His forgiveness.

We need our dead hearts made new again.

- We need our dead hearts made new again like the dry bones were made new again.
- God is the only way for our dead hearts to receive new life.
- Only through His gift of salvation through His Son, Jesus, can we be made new again.
- Our hearts are no longer enslaved to our sin. We can have a new relationship with God.
- We can truly live again when we have God's forgiveness and our dead hearts have been resurrected.

Why do we need a resurrection? (Our sin makes us dead and we need to be raised to a new life.)

3. Ephesians 2:1; John 3:3: *We are all dead in our trespasses and need to be raised to new life. Jesus is the way we receive new life.*

HOOKS

**Dry Bone Hunt**

Have the children cut out paper bones from construction paper. Ask the children to decorate their bones using markers, stickers, and crayons. Make sure the children don't put their names on the bones. Next, gather the bones and place them in a brown paper bag. Ask the children to take turns drawing a bone from the bag and guessing the person it belongs to. Do this until every child has a chance to draw a bone and guess the owner. Lead the children in a discussion about how we are all dead in our sin and in need of a resurrection.



- All of us have a bone in this bag.
- These bones represent our dead hearts because of sin.
- We all are dead like the dry bones and we all need a resurrection.
- God gives us new life through Jesus.

**Freeze Bones**

Tell the children they are dry bones. Ask the children to stand by their chairs or move to an open space in the room. When you say "move", the "bones" should stand in place or move around in the open space until you say "freeze". Say "move" again to allow the children to move once more. Tell the children that when you say "freeze," they are dry and dead. When you say "move" they are alive again. Lead them in a discussion about how we all need to be given new life.



- Because of our sin, we are all spiritually dead.
- Being spiritually dead means we do not have life in Christ.
- Jesus is the source of all life and our sin keeps us from knowing Him.
- When we turn away from our sin and believe in Him, we have access to Him and we get new life.
- Everyone is sinful, and everyone needs to be given new life.