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SIN KILLS OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

STORY: FALL / YEAR: ETERNITY

BIG TRUTH: SIN KILLS OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Genesis 3:23-24; Deuteronomy 31:17-18; Micah 3:4; Romans 1:18-21; Ephesians 2:12; 4:18; Colossians 1:21-22; Galatians 5:19-21

BIBLE VERSE: ISAIAH 59:2

"But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear."

BIG IDEAS

- Our sin separates us from God.
- We willingly choose rejection and rebellion.
- God is life which means separation from Him is death.

BIBLE STORY: EXODUS 32

God's people chose to sin against Him by creating a golden calf to worship while Moses was on the mountain. Their sin separated them from God because sin kills our relationship with God. They chose to worship a false god instead.

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: THE GREAT SEPARATION

God's people did not remain faithful to Him while Moses was on the mountaintop receiving God's law. They chose instead to create a false god in the form of a golden calf and worshiped it. Their sin separated them from God. Our sin kills our relationship with God and leaves us empty.

FDP
FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP PLAN

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BIBLE VERSE: ISAIAH 59:2

"But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear."

God is perfect and holy.

- God is blameless in all that He does.
- He does not make mistakes, nor does He commit sin.
- All that He is and all that He does is without blemish because He is the holiest of holies.
- He is not limited in His power. He is able to do all things and He does them perfectly.
- He is the most glorious of all beings and deserving of all our praise and worship.

Man's sin causes a separation between man and God.

- God is not limited by man's sin or held captive by it.
- Man's sin does not keep God from having a relationship with man.
- Man's sin results in a separation from God because God has determined a separation to be the consequence of man's sin.
- Man's sin is against God. It is an intentional and willful rejection of Him.
- Our sin hurts ourselves and others. Ultimately, it is against God who is the sovereign Ruler over all.

God chooses not to look on man's sin.

- God is all-powerful and mighty.
- God is not kept from man because of sin.
- God has power over sin, yet He chooses to not look on man's sin.
- A consequence of sinning against God is that man is separated from God.
- God is holy and just and He is right in His judgment against man's sin.

BIBLE STORY: EXODUS 32

The Golden Calf

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.

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BIG IDEA: OUR SIN SEPARATES US FROM GOD.[1]

Our sin prevents us from having a relationship with God.

- Because we are born with a sin nature, we are born in rebellion to God.
- We do not naturally seek God because of our sin nature.
- It is our natural inclination to reject God and suppress the truth about Him.
- Because we reject Him and His commands, we are His enemy.
- We cannot have a relationship with God while we are still sinners.
- Just as God sent Adam and Eve out from the Garden of Eden after their sin, we, too, are separated from God.
- God's people, the Israelites, were separated from Him because of their sin of idol worship.
- They chose to build the golden calf and this showed their rejection of God as their God.

Have the children form a circle holding hands. Ask one child to stand outside of the circle and try to break through. Allow other children to try to break through the circle. Remind the children that our sin keeps us away from God. It separates us from God.

Sin keeps us from really knowing God.

- Our sin nature blinds us spiritually. We do not seek the things of God. We are not seeking to know God or to please God.
- Our spiritual blindness leads us away from God even more.
- We cannot really understand the things of God because we are spiritually blind.
- We don't really understand who God is and can't really have a relationship with Him.
- The Israelites were blinded by their sin when they chose to create their own gods.
- They didn't really know or understand God because they didn't believe that He was going to take care of them. They believed that Moses would not return and that God had forgotten them.
- Sin blinds us to the truth about God and keeps us from having a relationship with Him.

How does our sin separate us from God? (Our sin is our rejection of God and leads us farther away from God. It blinds us to the truth about God and keeps us from knowing Him.)

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1. *Ephesians 2:12: In our sin, we are separated from God and alienated from Him. When we are separated from Him, we cannot have a relationship with Him.*

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BIG IDEA: WE WILLINGLY CHOOSE REJECTION AND REBELLION.[2]

Our sin hardens our hearts.

- We are all born under the wrath of God because of the sin nature that we inherit.
- There is no person born sinless or without blame. Even the smallest of children are guilty of sin against God.
- The sin nature that we inherit blinds us to the truth about God. We begin very early suppressing the truth about God and seeking other things to worship.
- This action of sinning leads us farther away from God and brings upon us greater spiritual darkness.
- When we sin, our hearts become harder to the truth of God. We move farther away from Him and become more calloused to Him.

Ask the children to write down behaviors that can be classified as rebellious. Place the behaviors in a bag or bowl and ask the children to take turns drawing one out and reading it out loud. Talk with the children about how each behavior is rebellious and how our hearts lead us to intentionally rebel against and reject God.

Our sin leads us to intentionally reject God and His ways.

- We are fully responsible for our sin.
- We intentionally choose to follow our sinful hearts rather than acknowledge the truth about God.
- God has revealed Himself in His creation. Nature declares His glory and visible and invisible traits of God can be seen.
- We choose instead to suppress the truth and exchange it for a lie. This leads us to willfully reject God.
- God has revealed Himself even more through His Word and He has given us His commands. We reject Him and His commands when we choose our sin over obedience to Him.
- The Israelites chose their sin over obeying God. They had been warned to remain faithful, yet they chose to create a false god to worship.
- They intentionally chose to reject God as their Lord and instead created a golden calf to worship.

How does our willful rebellion harden our hearts? (It leads us further into sin and farther away from God. It leads us to create idols to worship and we become callous to God's commands.)

2. *Hebrews 3:15: God's people harden their hearts when they rebelled against Him. Our sin hardens our hearts as we choose to willfully rebel against Him.*

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BIG IDEA: GOD IS LIFE WHICH MEANS SEPARATION FROM HIM IS DEATH.[3]

Our sin leads to physical and spiritual death.

- The wage, or consequence of our sin is physical death.
- We will all die unless Jesus returns in our lifetime.
- The world began to die when Adam and Eve sinned.
- Death is a consequence of sin. Before sin, there was no death.
- Our sin leads to our physical death and to our spiritual death.
- Because our sin separates us from God, we experience spiritual death.
- Our spirits are not truly alive when they are apart from God.
- The Israelites experienced spiritual death because of their sin. They were separated from God and not truly living.

Bring in a flashlight. Before class remove the batteries from the flashlight. Ask the children to take turns trying to turn the flashlight on. Next, show the children that the batteries are missing. Place the batteries in the flashlight and let the children take turns turning the flashlight on. Remind them that being separated from God means being separated from life.

Our sin separates us from the source of life.

- God is life. He gives life and sustains life.
- To know God is to have life.
- When we are living in our sin and have not turned away from it, we are separated from life.
- We do not have true life without Him.
- The Israelites did not gain life when they rejected God and worshiped a false god. They gained death because they were then separated from Him.

Separation from God means eternal death.

- As long as we are living in our sin and are unrepentant, we are separated from God.
- God does not look on our sin and therefore, we do not have a relationship with Him while we are sinners.
- This separation causes us to be spiritually dead while we are on earth and if we die having never repented, we will experience eternal separation from God.
- When we are eternally separated from God, we experience eternal death because God is life and we will be eternally separated from Him.

Why does separation from God lead to death? (God is life and when we don't know Him and are separated from Him, we experience spiritual death.)

3. *Colossians 2:13: We are dead in our trespasses, but God makes us alive in Him through Jesus.*

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HOOKS

Golden Calf Worship

Give each child a paper plate, two clothespins, a yellow marker, a white piece of paper or the outline of a cow's face. Ask the children to color their cow face yellow using the marker. Next, ask them to fold their paper plate in half and glue the cow face to the end of the paper plate. Attach the two clothespins to the open bottom end of the paper plate to make legs. Talk with the children about how our sin leads us to intentionally reject God.

- When we sin against God, we are showing that we are willfully rejecting Him.
- Our sin shows that we are intentionally rebelling against His Word.
- Our sin separates us from God just like the Israelites were separated from God because of their worship of the golden calf.

Idol Worship

Give the children blank pieces of paper and markers. Ask them to create a comic strip detailing the story of the Israelites and the golden calf. Allow the children to share their comic strips and then lead them in a discussion about how our sin separates us from God and leads to death.

- Our sin is a rejection of God.
- It leads to our spiritual death and causes us to be separated from God.
- The Israelites rejected God and they were separated from Him by their sin.
- We reject God in our sin and are separated from Him.

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