

SIN KILLS OUR JOY

STORY: FALL / YEAR: ETERNITY

BIG TRUTH: SIN KILLS OUR JOY

Jeremiah 2:12-13; Psalm 81:11-13; Isaiah 5:12-13; John 10:10; Romans 1:18-23; 1 Peter 5:8

BIBLE VERSE: PSALM 51:12

“Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.”

BIG IDEAS

- Sin causes us to try to find our joy in false saviors.
- Idolatry always robs us of joy.
- Joy can only be found in the one true Savior.

BIBLE STORY: 2 SAMUEL 11, 12:15-23

David's life was full of the many blessings of God, yet he turned away from God and sought his joy in sinful things. David allowed his heart to seek joy in an earthly relationship with Bathsheba instead of finding his joy in God alone.

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:

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



Every child should feel:

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



Every child should want:

- To experience new life in Christ

FAMILY DEVOTION: A JOY KILLER

Sin makes us selfish and unhappy. Sin steals the joy we have in God and keeps us from being truly satisfied. We can only be satisfied in Jesus.

PSALM 51:12

“Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.”

Salvation brings true joy to a person.

- Sin robs us of our joy.
- It leads us down a path of destruction and causes us to make choices that lead us away from true joy.
- Sin blinds us to the truth about God and joy can only be found in God.
- When a person turns away from sin and believes in Jesus, he or she can have true joy.
- Being cleansed of our sin nature brings true joy to a person.
- The person is no longer held captive by the sin, but is set free to live life in Jesus.

Knowing Jesus gives a person real joy.

- Before we know Christ, we live selfish lives that lead us to a life without joy.
- Though we may think we are finding joy, we are always searching and seeking for something new to bring us joy.
- Knowing Jesus brings us real joy that is completely fulfilling.
- In order to know Jesus, we must understand that we are sinners and then we must repent, or turn away from our sin and believe that Jesus paid our sin debt on the cross.
- When we know Jesus, we receive real joy that is available to us always.
- No matter our circumstances, we can know that we always have Jesus and that brings us eternal joy.

Being in a relationship with Jesus provides everlasting joy.

- When we enter into a relationship with Jesus, that relationship is everlasting.
- Jesus promises to never leave us or forsake us. Even when we sin against Him, He promises to forgive us if we ask Him to.
- Jesus gives us hope, and this hope brings us joy no matter what our lives may look like.
- Even when we enter a time of trials, we can still have joy because we have Jesus.
- We know that no matter what, He is always with us and is always working on our behalf.

BIBLE STORY: 2 SAMUEL 11, 12:15-23

David and Bathsheba

Opening Illustration:

On small cards write out several commandments from God’s Word, such as “Children obey your parents”, “Love one another”, etc. Make sure you have enough cards for every child in your class. Place the chairs in your room in a circle for musical chairs and put the cards on the floor in the center of the circle. Play a game of musical chairs. Every time the music stops and a child is without a chair, he or she gets to pick a card from the center. Have the child read the card or read it for them and ask the children to raise their hands if they have ever disobeyed the command. Play enough times so that every card gets read. Talk with the children about how our sinful hearts cause us to disobey God and reject Him. They cause us to be jealous and to get angry with others and even hurt others.

BIG IDEA: SIN CAUSES US TO TRY TO FIND OUR JOY IN FALSE SAVIORS.¹**Our sinful hearts cause us to forget the works of God.**

- God is a mighty and powerful God.
- His Word is full of His great works in the lives of His people.
- In our own lives, we can find many examples of the ways God works in and through us.
- Our sinful hearts blind us to His works and cause us to doubt His goodness.
- When we believe the lie that God is not good or we become dissatisfied with our circumstances, we begin to look for other ways to find joy.
- David had been blessed immensely by God, yet David was enticed to sin against God in a mighty way.



Ask the children to create a list of their five favorite things. They can be things like playing a particular sport, a favorite toy, a favorite food to eat, etc. Allow the children to share their favorites and then talk with them about how easy it is for us to try to find joy in these earthly things instead of finding joy in God.

Our hearts turn away from God and seek our own pleasure.

- Our hearts are sinful. They seek their own way instead of seeking to please God.
- Even when we have a relationship with God, we still struggle against our sin nature.
- David knew God and had a close relationship with Him, yet David sinned greatly against God.
- When we turn our eyes away from serving God, we stray away from Him.
- Our sinful hearts lead us to seek our own pleasure and not the glory of God.

Our hearts create idols to make us happy instead of worshiping God.

- Our hearts are sinful and wicked. They seek their own glory.
- Left to ourselves, our hearts lead us to create idols even though the true God is revealed through His very creation.
- Instead of worshiping God and finding our happiness in Him, we create false gods and idols to worship.
- This leads us to a life of sorrow instead of a life of joy.

What does our sinful heart cause us to do? (It causes us to look for false saviors and to create idols instead of worshiping the one true God.)

1. Judges 2:10-13: We easily create idols to worship instead of worshiping God because our hearts are wicked and deceiving.

BIG IDEA: IDOLATRY ALWAYS ROBBS US OF JOY.²**Our hearts are easily drawn to idol worship.**

- Since the first sin in the Garden of Eden, our hearts have been set on pleasing ourselves.
- Our hearts quickly believe lies about God instead of His truth which has been revealed to us.
- Our hearts are easily convinced to worship false gods instead of worshiping the one true God.
- David's heart was easily drawn to find his own pleasure instead of pleasing God.



Divide the children into two groups. Give each group a poster board and markers. Ask the children to draw pictures on their poster board of the different idols that people worship today, such as success, sports, people, money, etc. Allow the groups to share their posters and then remind them that idol worship always steals our joy.

Sin entices us to create and worship idols.

- Sin is fun and enticing. It entices us to create idols in our hearts.
- Anything that we enjoy can quickly become an idol in our hearts when we love it more than we love God.
- David knew God, yet he was enticed by the sin nature in his heart to turn away from God and find pleasure in something else.
- The sin nature in our hearts leads us to love other things more than we love God.
- This idolatry takes us away from our true source of joy, which is God.

Idol worship leads us to sorrow and unhappiness.

- When we turn away from God and worship anything other than Him, it leads us to a life of sorrow.
- Even if we seem happy and it seems that things are bringing us joy, they are not truly producing joy inside of us.
- When we worship idols, they are unfulfilling and we have to continue looking for other things to bring us joy.
- Our pursuit of idols always leaves us feeling empty and unhappy.

What does idol worship produce in us? (It produces sorrow and unhappiness.)

2. 2 Kings 17:41: *Even though the people feared God, they still easily built idols and worshiped false gods. Our hearts lead us to worship idols which leads to sorrow and unhappiness.*

BIG IDEA: JOY CAN ONLY BE FOUND IN THE ONE TRUE SAVIOR.³**Jesus gives new life and a new hope to those who believe.**

- Our lives are empty and meaningless before we repent and believe in Jesus.
- Jesus paid our sin debt on the cross, setting us free from our sin nature.
- When we turn away from our sin, or repent and believe that Jesus died for us on the cross, we are no longer held captive by our sin nature.
- We have a new life because God's Spirit comes to live inside of us and He gives us power to overcome the temptation to sin.
- Because we have this new life, we have a new hope. We are no longer living a life that is unfulfilled or empty.
- We have a hope that Jesus is always with us and that He is preparing a better place for us.



Play a game of musical beanbag. When the music stops, the child holding the beanbag should shout something that brings them joy. Remind them that true joy is found only in Jesus.

Knowing Jesus produces an inexpressible joy.

- When we have a relationship with Jesus, our joy is inexpressible because it comes from the giver of life, God.
- Knowing Jesus means that we are free from the sin nature that controls us from birth.
- We have freedom to follow God and live a life that is satisfied and fulfilled.
- We also have joy because we know that no matter our circumstances, we are never alone because Jesus promises to never leave us or forsake us.

Real joy is found only in knowing and serving Jesus.

- Just as David still sinned, though He knew God, we still sin after we've repented and believed in Jesus.
- The joy we have is that we can never be cast away from Jesus. When we confess our sin, just as David did, we are forgiven.
- When we live lives that are set on serving and worshiping Jesus, our lives are full of joy.
- We know that we are fulfilling our created purpose as we seek to bring God glory with our lives and this brings us joy.

Why does Jesus bring us joy? (He has paid for our sins and set us free.)

3. 1 Peter 1:8-9: *Knowing Jesus gives us an inexpressible joy because we know He is with us always and has forgiven us.*

HOOKS

**Joy Thief Mask**

Give each child a narrow strip of white paper. Help the children cut out two eye holes to create a thief's mask. Next, ask the children to write down the things they love more than God in the blank space on the mask. Use elastic cord and a hole punch to create a way for the children to wear the mask. Lead the children in a discussion about how idol worship steals our joy.



- When we love other things more than God, they steal our joy.
- Just like a thief steals the things we care about, sin robs us of our joy because it separates us from God.
- The only way we can have true joy is through knowing Jesus.

**Joyless Comic Strip**

Give each child a piece of paper and markers. Ask the children to create a comic strip highlighting the main points of the story of David and Bathsheba. Help the children include the main points. Allow the children to share their comic strips. Lead them in a discussion about how sin steals our joy.



- David's sin robbed him of his joy. His relationship with God was hindered because of his sin.
- Our sin robs us of our joy. We can only have true joy when we know Jesus.
- When we do know Jesus and we sin against Him, our joy is stolen.
- When we confess our sin and repent, we can have joy again because our relationship is good again.