

ETERNAL LIFE COMES THROUGH SAVING FAITH

BIG TRUTH: ETERNAL LIFE COMES THROUGH SAVING FAITH

John 3:16; Acts 4:10-12; Romans 1:16-17; 10:9-11; Galatians 3:11

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 3:14-15

“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life.”

BIG IDEAS

- Our sin against God is an incurable poison in our veins.
- Jesus lived a sinless life and became sin for us so that we could be saved.
- The only way to be saved from sin is by seeing Jesus as the only way of salvation.
- All who look to the Son for salvation receive the gift of eternal life with Him.

BIBLE STORY: NUMBERS 21; JOHN 3

In the wilderness, Moses lifted up the serpent to save the people. This is a picture of the salvation that Jesus brought when He was lifted up on the cross. His death brings salvation to all who believe.

STORY: NEW CREATION

Part of the beauty of the gospel is that God does not just rescue us from the power of sin, but He is also making everything new. God offers new creation to those who place their faith in Jesus. This newness comes in two ways. The first is that by breaking the power of sin, Jesus is making men and women into brand new people with new identities. Second, God is not only making people new, but He is also going to make a new heaven and a new earth for us to live on and worship Him in.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- Through Jesus, we can have new, true, eternal, abundant life in God



Every child should:

- Talk about how this life will pass away, but eternal life in God is forever



Every child should feel:

- Excitement for the opportunity to live eternally with God



Every child should want:

- To live for eternity rather than what feels right in the moment

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HIGH AND LIFTED UP

As a family, create a kite in the shape of a serpent. Use a garbage bag, scissors, two sticks, and string to create the kite. Tie the frame together using the sticks and string. Next, cut a tail in the shape of a serpent from the bag and attach it to the end of the frame. Use the rest of the bag to cover the frame of the kite. Attach a spool of string to the bottom of the kite. Remind your child that just as the Israelites were saved when they looked at the serpent, we are saved when we look to Jesus.

DISCOVER IT: *(Use the passage to illustrate the Big Truth.)*
Numbers 21 and John 3.

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

When the Israelites were in the desert, they complained a lot against God. They lacked faith to trust that God was going to take care of them. One time after God provided for them, they complained about God and His provision. God became angry with them and cursed them with poisonous serpents. The serpents were biting the people and killing them. The people cried out to God and He offered them salvation from the serpents. He had Moses create a bronze serpent and place it on a pole. Moses lifted the serpent into the air and if the people looked at the serpent, they would not die from the serpent's bite. The people who looked at the serpent lifted high were saved and the people who did not were not saved. The serpent being lifted up is a picture of what happened to Jesus. Jesus was lifted up on the cross when He was crucified. He knew no sin, yet He became sin for mankind. Jesus died on the cross for our sin. Anyone who looks to Jesus for salvation is saved, and anyone who does not is lost forever.

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

- How did the Israelites sin against God? (They complained about Him and His provision showing their lack of faith in Him.)
- What happened to the Israelites? (God sent poisonous serpents to attack them.)
- How were the Israelites saved from the serpents? (If they looked at the bronze serpent Moses lifted on a pole, they were saved.)
- How are we saved from our sin? (If we look to Jesus for salvation, we are saved.)



As a family, memorize John 3:14-15 by writing the verses on a poster board and spending time as a family decorating the poster board. Put the poster board somewhere that it is easily seen. Every time someone says the verses this week, he or she gets to pass off a chore to another family member.



Take your child for a walk through your local park. Carry a pair of binoculars with you. Ask your child to spend time looking through the binoculars. Ask your child to describe the different things that he or she sees. Remind your child that when we see Jesus as the only way for salvation, we will be saved.



Share with your child what it means to you that Jesus was high and lifted up. Talk with your child about how we cannot overcome our own sin and how it is like a poison. Share examples with your child of how sin takes us over and affects every part of us. Remind her that only Jesus can save us from our sin.



Spend time as a family praying and thanking God for sending Jesus to live the perfect life and to die for our sins.