

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS OUR SUBSTITUTE

Isaiah 53:5-6; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 5:6-11; 8:1-4; 1 Peter 2:22-24; 3:18; 1 John 2:1-2; 4:9-10

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”

BIG IDEAS

- In our sin, we are guilty before God, deserving of His righteous punishment.
- In His love, God sent His Son, Jesus, fully man and fully God, to take our place.
- Jesus became our substitute on the cross, living the life we should have lived, and dying the death we should have died.

BIBLE STORY: HEBREWS 9:11-10:18

Our sin required a blood sacrifice as payment. Prior to the coming of Jesus, God’s people made animal sacrifices to atone for their sins as they looked toward the coming of Jesus. After Jesus came, He fulfilled God’s requirement for a blood sacrifice and paid for our sin completely. He is the perfect and good sacrifice for our sin. He is our substitute.

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 sent Jesus to die in our place as our substitute
- We need a substitute because we cannot pay our sin debt on our own

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

- Awe at Jesus’s willingness to sacrifice Himself as our substitute

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

- Talk about why we need a substitute and how Jesus is our substitute

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

- To believe in Jesus’s work on their behalf to pay their sin debt

THE GREAT SUBSTITUTION

Create a coupon book with your child filled with some of your child's favorite things, such as: eating ice cream, watching a particular show, playing with a friend, etc. Each day this week, allow your child to substitute a chore, responsibility, or consequence for one of the activities in the coupon book. Tell your child that Jesus took our place. He was our substitute.

DISCOVER IT: *(Use the passage to illustrate the Big Truth.)*
Hebrews 9:11-10:18.

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

When God gave the law to Moses and the Israelites, He gave them a set way to atone for their sins. This Mosaic system involved the sacrifice of animals in order to pay for, or atone the sins of the people. The people would appoint men to serve as priests, and then one man to serve as the high priest. These priests were the representatives of the people and they stood in to make the sacrifices for all the nation. The sacrifices made in the earthly temple had to be repeated. God gave His people this system to point them to the coming Messiah. When God sent Jesus, His only Son, to be our Savior, He provided a final and complete sacrifice. Jesus came to the earth, took on flesh and lived the life that we did not live. Jesus' life on the earth was lived in perfect obedience to God. He never faltered in His obedience, and He lived a sinless life. Because Jesus was like us in that He became fully man and He lived perfectly, He was the only person who could pay our sin debt. Though Jesus did not deserve to die because He is innocent, He willingly died in our place. He took on our sins and paid our sin debt in full. He died once and for all. There is no need for future atonement for man's sin because Jesus' death paid it in full. God promises that those who believe in the atoning power of Jesus' death on the cross will have eternal life with Him in heaven. When we repent, or turn away from our sin and believe in Jesus, our sin debt is considered paid in full, and we have the promise of an eternity in Heaven with Jesus. Jesus is our substitute, living the life we should have lived, and dying the death we deserved to die.

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

- Why did God send Jesus to become like us? (He sent Jesus to be like us so that Jesus might live perfectly and die for our sin debt.)
- How did Jesus become our perfect substitute? (He lived a perfect, sinless life on earth, and died for our sins on the cross.)



As a family, memorize Romans 8:15 by creating word art with the verse. Write the verse on a piece of paper or poster board. Use markers, colored pencils and crayons to decorate the words in the verse. As you decorate it, say the verse together several times.



Spend some time during meal times this week talking about what the privileges are of members of your family. For example, talk about how being a member of your family means you get to have family game nights, you get to share in meals, you get to go on vacation together, etc. Remind your child that when we repent and believe in Jesus, we become part of God's family and we have rights and privileges.



Take your child to your local zoo or petting zoo. Point out the way that the animals are separated from one another. Talk with your child about how we are separated from God by our sin, but when we repent and believe we are adopted into His family. Spend some time this week praying together as a family and thanking God for putting your family together.

