

JESUS UNDESERVEDLY TAKES OUR PLACE

STORY: REDEMPTION / YEAR: ETERNITY

BIG TRUTH: JESUS UNDESERVEDLY TAKES OUR PLACE

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

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 5:8

“But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

BIG IDEAS

- The only person who can satisfy the righteous requirement for sin is God Himself.
- Jesus is fully God.
- Jesus is also fully man.
- Jesus faced every temptation that we face without sinning.
- Jesus did not deserve to die in our place, but instead, chose to in order to rescue us and bring glory to God.

BIBLE STORY: PHILEMON

Paul sends a letter to Philemon and those gathered together for the sake of Christ requesting that they welcome Onesimus as a brother and not as a slave. Paul offers to pay any debt that Onesimus might owe Philemon and the church there even though Paul did not owe it himself. Jesus pays our sin debt even though He does not owe it.

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



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



Every child should feel:

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



Every child should:

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



Every child should want:

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

FAMILY DEVOTION: THE UNDESERVED GIFT

Jesus is the only person who can satisfy the requirement for our sin debt. He lived a perfect life and died the death we deserved. We cannot pay Him back for His gift. We receive it by God's grace and mercy.



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BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 5:8

“But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

God loves us as sinners.

- God’s love for us is not conditional.
- He loves us perfectly just as we are.
- We do not have to change or get better in order for God to love us.
- His love is a holy and righteous love. It does not require anything of us.
- He loves us even while we are in full rebellion against Him.
- He cares for us and desires to be in a relationship with us even while we are sinners.

Christ died for our sin.

- Christ is perfect and holy because He is fully God.
- He became fully man and took on the sin of the world.
- Christ went to the cross as our perfect sacrifice to fulfill the requirement for our sin.
- He died the death that we should die though He was innocent and we are guilty.
- He paid for our sin debt fully and completely because of His perfect sacrifice.

We did nothing to deserve Christ’s sacrifice.

- We are not deserving of Christ’s sacrifice on our behalf.
- We cannot work hard enough or do enough kind things to be deserving of Christ’s love and sacrifice for us.
- We are unworthy of His sacrifice, yet He willingly chose to die for us.
- He were undeserving of His death on our behalf.
- As sinners, we are in full rebellion against God, yet He loves us still and sent His Son to die for us.

BIBLE STORY: PHILEMON

Paul and Onesimus

Opening Illustration:

Give each child a piece of art paper and paint. On the board write the words “God is...” Talk with the children about the different things that God is. He is Savior. He is Father. He is Merciful. He is Gracious. He is our Rescuer. Ask the children to draw pictures with their paint of one of the things that God is. Tape the pictures together when they are dry to make a paper quilt. Place the quilt on the wall under the phrase “God is...” written on a long piece of paper.

JESUS UNDESERVEDLY TAKES OUR PLACE

BIG IDEA: THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN SATISFY THE RIGHTEOUS REQUIREMENT FOR SIN IS GOD HIMSELF.¹

God requires a spotless blood sacrifice for our sin.

- When man sinned, the consequence of that sin was a spiritual death and a separation from God.
- When Adam and Eve sinned against God, they were cut off from their right relationship with God. This was their spiritual death.
- Physical death entered the world, too, as a way to keep sinful people from living forever.
- Because our sin results in death, the only way for our eternal spiritual death to be appeased is for another to die in our place.
- God required that the person who died in the place of man must be perfect and without blemish in order for the sin to be fully atoned for.



Give each child a blank piece of paper and a marker. Ask the children a series of questions about their thoughts and behaviors. Ask the children to make a mark on the paper for every sinful thought or behavior they are guilty of. Show the children that no person in the room is without blemish. Only Jesus lived a perfect life.

No person is without sin.

- Because we are all born after Adam and Eve, we all inherit their sin nature.
- Each person born in this world is born with a sin nature. This means our hearts are bent towards sin. We are inclined to sin because our hearts are sinful from birth.
- Even as young children, we choose to sin and rebel against God by rebelling against our parents.
- No person is without sin, and no person is without blemish.

Only Jesus is worthy to die in our place.

- Jesus came to the earth and was born as a baby, taking on human nature.
- He is fully God who came to the earth and took on humanity.
- Jesus lived on the earth as a man. He was tempted in every way, yet He never sinned.
- His life was perfect, making Him the perfect sacrifice for man's sin.
- Jesus is the only person worthy to take our place and die the death we deserved.

Why is God the only person who can satisfy the requirement for our sin? (He is the only person who lived a sinless life and is the sacrifice without a blemish.)

1. Revelation 5:9: Jesus is the Lamb who was slain for our sin. He alone is worthy.

JESUS UNDESERVEDLY TAKES OUR PLACE

BIG IDEA: JESUS IS FULLY GOD.²

Jesus is God the Son.

- God is one God in three persons.
- God is made up of three persons: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Jesus is God the Son. He is fully God and is manifested as God the Son.
- He has all the rights and divinity of God because He is God.
- He is not part God or half God. He is fully God.
- He is divine, holy, and perfect.
- Jesus' relationship to God the Father is different than that of a human father and son.



Divide the children into two groups. Ask one group to name the character traits of Jesus and the other to name the character traits of God the Father. Allow the two groups to share and show the children how Jesus and God are the same. Remind them that Jesus is fully God.

Jesus has always existed.

- Jesus has no beginning and end because He is God.
- He has always been.
- He was present at the creation of the world.
- He was not created to be God's Son. He has always been God the Son.
- He did not come into existence to save the world. He has always been because God has always been. He was sent by God into the world to take on flesh to save the world, but He was not created to save the world.

Jesus possesses all deity and power.

- All the character traits of God are true of Jesus.
- Jesus is God, and He possesses all the deity and power that is true of God the Father.
- Jesus is God in human form. He took on flesh to be like us that He might die for us.

How is Jesus fully God? (He is God and has all the deity and power of God.)

2. Colossians 2:9: Jesus is fully divine. He is God in human form, taking on flesh to be like us to die for us.

JESUS UNDESERVEDLY TAKES OUR PLACE

BIG IDEA: JESUS IS ALSO FULLY MAN.³

Jesus was born of a virgin.

- Jesus was born to the virgin, Mary. She knew no man before she conceived Jesus.
- The Holy Spirit came upon Mary, and Jesus entered Mary's womb as a baby to be born a man.
- Jesus came into the world the same way that every other person after Adam and Eve has entered the world---as a baby.
- Jesus became like man in every way to be the perfect sacrifice for man.

Jesus became a man to be like us.

- Jesus was not created in Mary's womb like we are created.
- He entered Mary's womb, becoming a baby through the work of the Holy Spirit that He might be born like we are born.
- He was a baby like we are babies.
- He was a child like we are children.
- He was an adult like we are adults.
- He became like us in every way to be the righteous sacrifice for us.

Jesus took on a human nature and was fully human.

- Jesus did not lose His divine nature when He was born of Mary.
- He was fully God and fully man.
- He took on a human nature so He could be just like us.
- He set aside His divine powers to be human like us.
- He lived on earth as a man facing all the same struggles and challenges that every person faces.

Why did Jesus take on humanity? (He took on humanity to be just like us that He might die in our place.)



Share with the children what it means to take someone's place. Lead the children in a discussion about what it would feel like to have someone else take a consequence for their disobedience or to be the person who takes someone else's place or punishment. Remind them that Jesus came to the earth to be just like us.

3. Hebrews 2:14: Jesus took on human form to be the perfect sacrifice for us.

JESUS UNDESERVEDLY TAKES OUR PLACE

BIG IDEA: JESUS FACED EVERY TEMPTATION THAT WE FACE WITHOUT SINNING.⁴

Jesus lived on earth as a man.

- Jesus lived on earth as a human being.
- He felt the same things that we feel.
- He felt hunger, fatigue, pain, and sorrow.
- He was tempted to sin in the same ways we are, yet He never did.

Jesus faced every temptation to sin in every way.

- There is nothing new under the sun because God is the beginning of all things.
- Jesus faced every sinful temptation that we face.
- He was tempted to sin in many ways.
- He was faced with choices and decisions in the same way that we are.

Jesus never sinned.

- Though Jesus was faced with every temptation to sin, He never sinned.
- He did not sin in His anger. He did not sin against His friends, family, or even strangers.
- Even when He was falsely accused, He never retaliated or lashed out in sinful anger.
- He always believed and always trusted.

How can Jesus relate to humanity? (He has been tempted in every way like we have, yet He never sinned.)



Read Matthew 4:1-11 with the children. Talk with the children about Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. Ask the children to name some of the things we're tempted with. Remind the children that Jesus was tempted like us, but He never sinned.

4. Hebrews 4:15: Jesus was tested in every way, yet He never sinned.

JESUS UNDESERVEDLY TAKES OUR PLACE

BIG IDEA: JESUS DID NOT DESERVE TO DIE IN OUR PLACE, BUT INSTEAD CHOSE TO IN ORDER TO RESCUE US AND BRING GLORY TO GOD.⁵

Jesus willingly died on the cross for man.

- Jesus came to the earth to die for mankind.
- He went to the cross even though He knew the sorrow and pain that He would feel.
- Jesus died on the cross to take man's place.
- He died on the cross to take man's sin on Himself and to pay the sin debt owed by every person.

Jesus did not deserve to pay our sin debt.

- Jesus lived a perfect life as a human.
- He did not sin. He was not guilty of rebelling against or disobeying God.
- Instead, He faced every temptation to sin and did not sin.
- He faced every trial and struggle perfectly.
- He lived the life that we could not live.

Jesus sacrificed Himself for us to rescue us.

- Jesus never deserved to die the death He did on the cross.
- He died on the cross taking on our sins.
- He took on our sin so that we might be free from the sin debt that we owe.
- He chose to rescue us from our sinfulness.
- We could not save ourselves, so He saved us.
- He became the blood sacrifice that was required to pay our sin debt and set us free from our sin.

Why did Jesus die on the cross? (He died the death we deserved to die. He died to pay our sin debt.)

5. Galatians 1:4: Jesus gave Himself for our sin. He died the death we deserved.

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HOOKS



KNOW

A Vision of Sacrifice

Help the children create a comic strip that highlights Paul's letter to Philemon.

Before the children create their comic strip, help them list out the main ideas from the letter. Talk with them about how Jesus died the death we deserved so that we might be rescued from our sin.



DO

- Jesus lived a perfect life and did not deserve to die in our place.
- He had done nothing wrong. He had sinned in no way, yet He became sin for our sake.
- He died in our place because He is the only person to live a perfect life.



FEEL

Man Versus God

Divide the children into two groups. Set a timer and ask the groups to race one another to see who can create a list of man's attributes and God's attributes the quickest before the timer goes off. Ask the groups to share their lists and then discuss the differences between man and God. Talk with the children about how Jesus was fully God and fully man.



WANT

- Jesus is fully God. He is God the Son and has all the attributes of God.
- Jesus became a man and took on flesh to be like man.
- Jesus is fully man and fully God.