

**BIG TRUTH: JESUS IS OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**

Romans 3:21-22; 4:1-5; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 4:20-24

**BIBLE VERSE: 1 PETER 2:24**

*“He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed.”*

**BIG IDEAS**

- To be in God’s presence means that we must be holy or righteous.
- Jesus not only bears our punishment, but also applies His righteousness.
- In Christ, the Father no longer sees our sin, but instead sees His Son’s perfection.
- Jesus makes us positionally holy before God.

**BIBLE STORY: LUKE 15:15-31**

Jesus’ parable about the young son who left his father’s house to seek his own sinful pleasure is an example of how God welcomes us as sinners into His family. Just like the young son could never pay for the sin he had committed against his father, we cannot pay our own sin debt. God credits Jesus’ righteousness to us, making us holy before Him.

**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

**NOT MY RIGHTEOUSNESS**

Gather together several items that belong to different family members. Play a game in which your child has to guess if the item is his or not. When it's not his, have him say, "Not my item." Remind your child that the righteousness we receive is not our own, but Jesus'.

**DISCOVER IT:** (Use the passage to illustrate the Big Truth.)

Luke 15:15-31.

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

Jesus told a parable about a man with two sons. This man loved both of his sons very much. One day, the younger son asked his father for his inheritance. The father gave the inheritance to his young son and the son set off on his way. He traveled to a far country and spent all of his inheritance foolishly. The young son had no money left and no way to care for himself. He hired himself out to a citizen of that country. The citizen gave the young son the job of feeding his pigs in the field. The son would feed the pigs in the fields and long to eat the food being fed to the pigs, but no one offered to give him any. One day, the young son came to the revelation that he could return home to his father, not as his son, but as his servant. The young man set off to his father's house, planning in his heart to ask his father for forgiveness and to become his father's servant. The father had not stopped loving his young son. One day, the father saw his son in the distance and he was overjoyed at his son's return. The father ran to his son, embracing him and kissing him. The son begged his father for his forgiveness, confessing his sins to his father. The father forgave his son and ordered the best calf to be killed and a great feast to be had in honor of his son's return. We are like the young son. Our sin nature leads us away from God. It makes us unholy before God. Because of our sin, we are separated from God. God made a way for us to be in a relationship with Him when He sent Jesus to pay our sin debt. Because Jesus lived a life of perfection, we can be seen as righteous or holy through Him.

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

- Why are we separated from God? (Our sin separates us from God who is holy.)
- How can we be in a relationship with God? (Through saving faith in Jesus, we can have Jesus' righteousness credited to us.)

**KNOW**

As a family, memorize 1 Peter 2:24 by writing the verse on a large poster board and spending time decorating it with markers. Say the verse together several times as you decorate it.

**DO**

Help your child create a comic strip showing the main points from the story of the Prodigal Son. Remind your child that we are like the prodigal son. Our sin leads us away from God and we are in need of forgiveness and salvation.

**FEEL**

Reenact the story of the Prodigal Son with your child. Remind your child that we are like the prodigal son. Our sin separates us from God, but Jesus' righteousness allows us to have a relationship with God.

**WANT**

Spend time as a family talking about what it means to be credited something. Take turns naming different sins that separate us from God before we have saving faith. Remind your child that God sees Jesus' righteousness and not our sinfulness when we have saving faith.

Spend some time this week singing praise songs with your child, thanking God for sending Jesus to save us.