

BIG TRUTH: WE ARE DEAD IN OUR SIN

Romans 5:12; 6:16; 7:5; Ephesians 2:1-3; James 1:14-15

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 6:23

"But the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

BIG IDEAS

- Sin not only makes us bad; sin makes us spiritually dead.
- Our spiritual death affects every area and relationship in our lives.
- Dead people cannot raise themselves back to life.
- We need resurrection.

BIBLE STORY: EZEKIEL 37:1-14

God gave His special messenger, Ezekiel a vision of a valley of dry bones. In the vision, Ezekiel saw the bones come back to life again. God gives us a resurrection through the death, burial, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus.

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 feel:**

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

**Every child should:**

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

**Every child should want:**

- To experience new life in Christ

OUR SPIRITUAL DEATH

As a family, spend time blowing up several balloons. Once the balloons are blown up, use your foot or a pin to pop the balloons. Ask your child to blow up the popped balloons. The balloons can't be blown up again just like we can't give ourselves spiritual life. We cannot raise ourselves from the dead.

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

Ezekiel 37:1-14.

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

Ezekiel was God's special messenger, or prophet. God shared certain things with Ezekiel, and it was Ezekiel's job to tell God's people. God shared a special vision with Ezekiel about the future of God's people, the Israelites. Ezekiel saw a great valley in his vision. The valley was filled with dry, brittle bones. These bones were not the bones of people who had just died. They were the bones of people who had been dead for many, many years. The bones were not joined together to form skeletons. They were separated and laying apart. Even though there was absolutely no sign of life in these bones, God gathered them together to form the people they once were; and He breathed life into them. We are all like the dead, dry, brittle bones. We are spiritually dead because we do not know God. Our sin keeps us from knowing Him. Because God is the only source of true life when we are in our sin, we are spiritually dead. We do not have the power to raise ourselves to life again. This vision showed God's power to raise the dead to life. God is the only being who has this power. He rules over life and is able to raise the dead to life. He raises our dead hearts to life when we place saving faith in His Son, Jesus.

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

- What did Ezekiel see in his vision? (He saw a valley of dry bones that had been there a long time.)
- What happened with the bones? (They were made into people again and life was breathed into them.)
- Who is like the dry bones? (Every person is like the dry bones because we are all dead in our sin.)



Spend some time as a family memorizing Romans 6:23 by playing a game of freeze tag. A person can be unfrozen when he or she says the verse out loud. Talk with your child about how our sin leads to death and we need new life through Jesus.



Help your child create a family skeleton. Cut bones out of cardstock or construction paper. Help your child write each family member's name on the bones and then piece the bones together to create a skeleton. Talk with your child about how we are all dead in our sin and in need of a resurrection.



Take your child on a scavenger hunt where he or she looks for things without life or dying things, such as rocks, dead leaves, grass clippings, etc. Talk with your child about how we are all dead in our sin and in need of a resurrection.



Help your child make a list of the ways he or she sins. Share with your child some ways that you sin. Talk with your child about how our sin keeps us from knowing God unless we've turned away from it and believed in Jesus. Jesus is the only way our hearts are made new again.

Spend some time praying with your child and thanking God for giving new life through Jesus.