

SIN KILLS OUR PEACE

STORY: FALL

BIG TRUTH: SIN KILLS OUR PEACE

Isaiah 57:20-21; Romans 3:10-12, 14-18; James 4:1-4

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 8:5-6

"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace."

BIG IDEAS

- God is the author of peace.
- Sin is a rejection of God that always leads to confusion.
- Sin destroys our peace with God, others, and self.
- The only way we can have peace is through the power of the Holy Spirit.

BIBLE STORY: 1 SAMUEL 16:14-23, 18:1-16

Saul turned away from God and sinned against Him. When Saul sinned, God sent an evil spirit to torment Saul. Saul's life was in turmoil. David served Saul and played music to help calm him, but Saul's soul would be tormented once the music stopped. David followed God and obeyed Him. His soul was at rest because God is the author of peace. Sin kills our peace just like sin killed Saul's peace.

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

FAMILY DEVOTION: PEACEFUL LIVING

Our hearts and souls are not at peace until we know God. Our sin leads us to lives of confusion and despair. We never really feel peace until we have repented and believed in Jesus. David had peace because he followed God. Saul's soul was in torment because he sinned against God.

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 8:5-6

"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace."

When we follow our sin nature, our minds are set on sinful things.

- Our sin nature leads us to death.
- As we follow our sin nature, our thoughts are not on the things of God.
- Our thoughts are on our own sinful desires and the earthly things that lead to sinful choices.
- When our minds are set on sinful things, we do not have true peace.
- We are always looking for things to make us happy, but nothing can ever truly satisfy us except for God.

When we set our minds on the things of God, we live lives of peace.

- When our hearts are living for God, our minds can be at rest because our hope is in Him.
- God is the Ruler and Creator of all things. He is the most powerful being of all beings. There is nothing too hard or difficult for God.
- Because these things are true about God, when our hearts are following Him, we can be at peace.
- When we think on the things of God, we are reminded of His power and authority over all things in the world. Our hearts are at peace because we know that God is in control.

Following the flesh leads to death and turmoil.

- When we follow our sinful hearts, we walk down a path to death.
- Sin always leads to our spiritual death. When we are following our sin nature, we are not at rest. Our hearts are not at peace.
- Our flesh, or sin nature, leads us to make poor choices, and the consequences cause turmoil in our lives.

Peace is only found in following God.

- The only way we can have true peace is when we know God and have His Spirit.
- We cannot achieve peace on our own. It is only with the Holy Spirit that we can have peace in any situation.

BIBLE STORY: 1 SAMUEL 16:14-23, 18:1-16

Saul and the Harmful Spirit

Opening Illustration:

Bring in enough tall socks for each child to have one. Bring in several bags of dry beans or rice. Use a plastic cup to fill the bottom portion of the sock with rice or beans. Help the children tie the sock using the tall section of the sock. Double knot the sock so the rice and beans are secure. Next, mark a spot on the floor. Have the children take turns standing far away from the mark and tossing their beanbag socks. Talk with the children about how no matter how hard we try we still miss the mark. Talk with them about how we cannot save ourselves or fix our brokenness.

- We may try hard every day, but we cannot save ourselves.
- Only Jesus can pay our sin debt and give us salvation.

BIG IDEA: GOD IS THE AUTHOR OF PEACE.¹**Peace is a fruit of the Spirit.**

- The fruit of the Spirit are the characteristics of God.
- His Spirit bears fruit of who He is and how He acts.
- Peace is from God because it is part of who He is.
- His Spirit bears the fruit of peace in the lives of those who know God.
- Peace is not found in the world because it is from God.



Bring in several different songs to play for the children. Play some calming music and some loud music. Ask the children to identify which songs are calming and which songs get them excited or are less calming. Remind the children that real peace comes from God.

God is the giver of peace.

- God is the author of all things because He is the beginning of everything.
- He defines what peace is and how to have peace.
- He is the only one who can give peace.
- It is only through a relationship with God that a person can truly be at peace.
- Saul did not have peace because he had turned away from God. He chose to follow his sinful desires instead of following God.
- When we follow God, we receive peace because it comes from God.

God is the only way to have peace.

- We can try to find peace in other things in the world, but we will always fail.
- The only truly lasting peace we can have is found in knowing God.
- If we know God, then we can have peace.
- When we look for peace in other places, we only find comfort for a little while, and then our hearts are in turmoil again.
- Saul would be comforted for a little while when David played music, then his soul would be tormented again.

Who is the author of peace? (God is the author and giver of peace.)

1. Galatians 5:22: Peace is a fruit of the Spirit. It is only through God's Spirit that we can have peace.

BIG IDEA: SIN IS A REJECTION OF GOD THAT ALWAYS LEADS TO CONFUSION.²

Sin blinds us to the truth.

- When we are living in our sin, the eyes of our hearts are blind to the truth of God.
- Our sin keeps us from seeing the truth of who God is and what He has done for us.
- Not knowing the truth keeps us from the source of true peace.
- We live in spiritual blindness and confusion because we do not truly know God and have a relationship with Him.



Bring in a blindfold. Take turns blindfolding the children and asking them to find their way to a designated spot in the room. Talk with them about how difficult it is to find their way when their eyes are covered. Remind them that our sin is a rejection of God that leads to confusion.

Sin keeps us from having understanding.

- When we don't know God, we don't have understanding.
- When we don't have understanding, our lives are lived in confusion.
- We wander around trying to find our way, but are never able because we don't have true understanding of our purpose on earth.
- Saul lived a life of confusion because he lacked understanding.
- He had turned away from God and rejected Him, so his life was in turmoil.

When we reject God, we reject His wisdom and understanding.

- Just like Saul rejected God's wisdom and understanding, our sin leads us to reject God and His wisdom and understanding.
- When we reject God, we live in confusion because we can't really know the way we should live.
- God is our source of wisdom and understanding because He is the Creator and Ruler of everything. He alone knows best how to live in this world.

What does sin lead to? (It leads to a life of confusion because we reject God's wisdom and understanding when we reject Him.)

2. 2 Corinthians 4:4: The ruler of this world has blinded the eyes of people and keeps them from seeing the truth about God. Not understanding the truth about God leads to a life of turmoil and confusion.

BIG IDEA: SIN DESTROYS OUR PEACE WITH GOD, OTHERS, AND SELF.³**Sin leads us to lives of turmoil.**

- Saul turned away from God and his life became a life of turmoil and confusion.
- Sin does not lead to peace. Even when we think we are on the path to peace, we are not.
- Sin leads us to focus on ourselves and this causes strife and struggle with others.
- Our lives are not at rest when we are following our sinful hearts because sin is selfish. When we live selfish lives, our relationships with others are affected.



Divide the children into groups and ask them to make a list of things that make them feel peaceful. Have the groups share their lists and then talk with them about how anything other than God that brings us peace doesn't really last. Only God can give everlasting peace.

Sin keeps our minds in confusion and turmoil.

- When we are living according to our sin nature, we are not at rest because our minds are in turmoil.
- We cannot really trust others because our souls are not at rest.
- Only through God can we truly be at rest and have peace because we are always hoping in Him.
- When we reject God, we never really have true wisdom and understanding, which means we are always living in confusion.

Our sin hurts our relationships.

- Our sin leads to poor relationships with others.
- We cannot really love others when we do not know God because love is from God.
- We cannot really be at peace with others because peace is from God.
- When we are living according to our sin nature, we can never really have fulfilling relationships because there is always turmoil in our souls.

What does sin hurt? (It hurts our relationship with God, others, and self.)

3. Isaiah 57:20-21: Those who do not follow God are living lives of turmoil. They are like the tossing sea. They are never really at rest.

BIG IDEA: THE ONLY WAY WE CAN HAVE PEACE IS THROUGH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.⁴

Peace is from God.

- When we repent of our sin and believe in Jesus, we receive the Spirit of God.
- The Holy Spirit is fully God.
- Because we have the Holy Spirit inside of us, we have peace.
- Peace is from God.
- Only God can give peace because He is the Creator of peace.
- Saul could not have peace apart from God. Even though he tried other ways to have peace, they all failed.
- When we try other ways to have peace, we will fail.



Bring in a medium sized box full of heavy books. Ask the children to take turns trying to lift the box of books. When they cannot lift it by themselves, ask the children to help one another lift the box of books. Tell the children that just like they are helping one another lift the books, the Spirit helps us have peace.

Only through God's Spirit can we bear the fruit of peace.

- Because peace is a fruit of God's Spirit, we can only bear peace when we have God's Spirit.
- Those who have rejected God do not really have peace.
- People may seem to have peace, but inside, their souls are tormented just like Saul's spirit was tormented.
- God's Spirit is the only way that a person can bear the fruit of the Spirit.

Knowing God means having His Spirit, which gives peace.

- We are unable to bear any fruit of the Spirit without the help of the Spirit.
- We may try to be at peace, but inside we are never really at peace without the help of the Spirit.
- Sometimes we may show outward signs of peaceful living, but inside our souls are in torment if we do not know God.
- When we have God's Spirit, we can be at peace because we have the power of the Spirit.

How can we have true peace? (Only through the power of God's Spirit can we have true peace.)

4. Philippians 4:7: God gives peace that passes all understanding. Only through His help can we have that kind of peace.

HOOKS

**Peace or Non Peace**

Divide the children into two groups. Bring in several objects that are considered peaceful and several that are not, such as a soft blanket, a picture of a snowy meadow, a whistle, a small drum, etc. Ask a child from each group to choose an item and then determine if the item brings peace or doesn't. Once every child has a chance to choose an item, talk with them about how true peace only comes from knowing God.



- Peace is from God because He is the author of all things.
- Only when we know Him by repenting of our sin and believing in Jesus can we have peace.

**Real Peace vs. Fake Peace**

Have the children take turns guessing if something is peaceful or not by playing a game of musical beanbag. The person left holding the beanbag when the music stops should name something that could or could not bring peace, such as a warm bath, a soothing song, etc. The other children should guess if they think it brings peace or not. At the end of the game, lead the children in a discussion about how the only thing that really gives peace is God.



- There are things in life that could sometimes seem peaceful like the things we've named, but nothing brings peace everlasting except for God.
- When we have a relationship with God, we have everlasting peace.
- Only God can give true peace.