

GOD IS OUR SUBSTITUTE

STORY: REDEMPTION

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS OUR SUBSTITUTE

Isaiah 53:4-6; John 1:1-3; 18; Romans 5:6-11; 8:1-4; Galatians 3:13-14; Ephesians 5:1-2; 1 Peter 2:22-24; 3:18; 1 John 2:1-2; 4:9-10

BIBLE VERSE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

“For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”

BIG IDEAS

- We cannot save ourselves.
- God sent His Son to be our sinless sacrifice.
- Jesus died in our place.
- Substitution is final and forever.

BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 22

Abraham was God’s servant. God had promised to make a great nation through Abraham and He began by giving Abraham a son named Isaac. God tested Abraham’s faith when He asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. Abraham obeyed God and set out to give Isaac as a sacrifice, but God stopped him before he killed Isaac. God provided a ram in a thicket nearby to take the place of Isaac as the sacrifice. Jesus is our substitute just as the ram was Isaac’s substitute. Jesus took our place and paid our sin debt.

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: A SINLESS SACRIFICE

Because we are all sinful, we cannot save ourselves. Because God requires a perfect blood sacrifice for our sin debt, we need a substitute. Jesus became our substitute. He took our place on the cross and paid our sin debt.

BIBLE VERSE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

“For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”

Christ knew no sin.

- Jesus was born as a baby and took on flesh to live on the earth.
- Jesus was fully God and fully man.
- He came to the earth to live as a man and He did so perfectly.
- He never sinned, even as a child.
- He always obeyed God and His earthly parents.
- He obeyed His heavenly Father perfectly.
- Jesus was completely holy even as a man living on earth.
- There was no spot or blemish in Jesus; He owed no sin debt.

Jesus took on the sin of all of mankind.

- Jesus came to earth to be our substitute.
- He took our place and paid our sin debt so we wouldn't have to.
- He became like us so that He could pay our sin debt.
- He became a man so He could live perfectly and become our perfect sacrifice.
- We could not save ourselves because no person is without sin, except for Jesus.
- Only Jesus' death could pay our sin debt.
- He took our place and died to pay for a sin debt that He didn't owe.
- Jesus stood in our place and took on our sin.
- When God looked at Jesus on the cross, He saw the sin of all of mankind.
- Because Jesus was perfect and blameless, God accepted Jesus' death as payment for the sin of the world.
- Our sins are paid for through Jesus's death in our place.
- He was our substitute on the cross.

BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 22

Abraham and Isaac

Opening Illustration:

Bring in a bag of pretzel sticks, Twizzlers, or red yarn if you don't want to use candy, and blank pieces of white paper. Give each child a piece of paper, a handful of pretzel sticks and a piece of yarn or a string of Twizzler. Ask the children to use all but two of their pretzel sticks to make a bundle of "sticks". Use the red yarn or Twizzler to tie the bundle of "sticks" together. Tell the children that the bundle of sticks is what is used to build an altar to offer a sacrifice to God. Next, ask the children to use the remaining two pretzel sticks to create a cross on their white paper. Tape or glue the pretzels to the paper. Tell the children that Jesus came to earth to be our substitute. He died on the cross in our place. Allow the children to eat the bundle of "sticks" to show that the altar isn't needed because Jesus took our place.

BIG IDEA: WE CANNOT SAVE OURSELVES.

What does it mean to save something? (It means to set it aside or keep it back.)

No person is without sin.

- We are all born with a sinful heart.
- We all keep sinning.
- We do the opposite of God's Word. We don't obey His commands.
- No person is blameless before God.
- We all are in need of salvation, yet none of us can save ourselves.
- There is no man or woman who lives without sinning.
- When God asked Abraham to offer Isaac as a sacrifice, God was painting a picture of what He was going to do when He sent His Son, Jesus.

God requires a perfect sacrifice to pay our sin debt.¹

- God, the Creator of all things, required the Israelites to make sacrifices to atone for their sins before Jesus came.
- These sacrifices would satisfy the debt they owed each year.
- The animals that were sacrificed had to be perfect and without blemish or spot.
- The sacrifice to pay the sin debt of the world once and for all had to be perfect and without blemish or spot.
- No person on earth fit this requirement because all people are sinful.
- None of us can save ourselves because none of us are perfect.
- We have all sinned in some way; we are all flawed and broken people.
- Only a perfect man can save all of mankind and that was Jesus.



Ask the children to stand in a straight line across one side of the room. Next, ask the children to take a step forward if he or she is guilty of the behavior or attitude that you name. Name several behaviors or attitudes, such as pouting, lying, cheating, disobeying parents, etc. After you finish naming behaviors and attitudes, show the children how everyone is across the line. Remind them we are all sinful and we cannot save ourselves.

What kind of sacrifice does God require for the sin of mankind? (He requires a perfect sacrifice.)

1. Psalm 49:7: No one has the power to redeem themselves or someone else. God required a perfect sacrifice and only Jesus was perfect.

BIG IDEA: GOD SENT HIS SON TO BE OUR SINLESS SACRIFICE.²

What is a sacrifice? (A sacrifice is when we give up something that is very important to us.)

God made a way for man to be saved.

- Because every person is sinful and no person is able to pay their own sin debt, God made a way.
- God is sovereign, or all-powerful over everything and He is all-knowing.
- He knew that man would sin and He knew that man would need a substitute.
- God made a way for mankind to be saved by sacrificing His Son for us.
- Abraham obeyed God when he took Isaac to the mountain to sacrifice him.
- Abraham could not save Isaac, but God could.



Have the children compare man to Jesus. Use the board or a poster board to create a chart. Write the word Man on one side and Jesus on the other. Help the children name characteristics of man and of Jesus. Lead them to see that Jesus is perfect and man is not. Jesus is the perfect sacrifice.

God provided a substitute for every person.

- God knew every person would be sinful.
- He knew we would all need a substitute.
- God sent His Son, Jesus to the earth so He could take our place and pay our sin debt.
- God provided a ram in the thicket to take Isaac's place.
- God knew Jesus would die on the cross when He sent Jesus to the earth.
- Jesus became our substitute just like the ram became the substitute for Isaac.
- Jesus took our place.

How did God make a way for every person to be saved? (He sent His Son, Jesus to pay our sin debt.)

2. 1 John 4:9: God sent Jesus while we were still sinners because no person is able to pay his or her own sin debt. We all need Jesus to be our substitute.

BIG IDEA: JESUS DIED IN OUR PLACE.**We all needed someone to take our place.**

- Every person is sinful.
- No one is able to pay his or her own sin debt.
- We are all in need of someone to save us from our sin.
- Our sin holds us captive and separates us from God.
- Our sinful hearts lead us to continue sinning against God, even when we don't want to.



Lead the children in a discussion about how we cannot save ourselves. We need a substitute. Have the children define the word "substitute". Remind them that Jesus is our substitute. He took our place so we don't have to pay our sin debt.

God made a way for us to be set free from our sin.³

- God did not leave us in our sin.
- Just like God didn't leave Abraham to carry out the sacrifice of Isaac, God didn't leave us in our sin.
- God made a way for us to be forgiven.
- He gave His Son, Jesus to die in our place.
- God provided a ram to take Isaac's place when Abraham showed his willingness to obey God.
- Jesus died on the cross for our sin debt.
- He died in our place.
- We can live forever in Heaven when we repent, or turn away from our sin, and believe in Jesus.
- When we turn away from our sin and follow Him, we have saving faith.
- Jesus died to give us this chance to place our faith in Him and be saved from our sin debt.
- He died in our place so we would not have to die for our sins.

How did God make a way for our sin debt to be paid? (He sent His Son to pay our sin debt.)

What did Jesus do for us so we would not have to pay our sin debt? (He died on the cross in our place.)

3. Romans 4:25: Jesus took our place and took on our sin so we would not have to die for our sins. He died in our place.

BIG IDEA: SUBSTITUTION IS FINAL AND FOREVER.

What is something that is forever? (Examples might be the sky seems to last forever, time seems forever at this age.)

What does forever mean? (It means that it never ends. It's always and never-ending.)

Jesus' death paid our sin debt completely.

- Our sin debt was paid in full when Jesus died on the cross.
- God only required one perfect sacrifice for the sin of every person.
- We do not need to continue sacrificing because God provided the perfect and complete sacrifice for our sins.
- Jesus' death paid our sin debt completely.
- Jesus' death was enough to satisfy God.
- His death was enough to pay for the sin of every person who ever lived and would ever live.



Lead the children to count to the highest number that they can. Talk with the children about how numbers are considered infinite because they never end. Remind the children that Jesus' substitution for us is final and forever.

God sees Jesus' righteousness now when He looks at His followers.⁴

- When we have saving faith, God doesn't see our sin anymore.
- God sees Jesus' righteousness when He looks at those who have saving faith.
- Jesus completely took our place and when we have saving faith, God sees Jesus' righteousness instead of our sinfulness.
- God doesn't require a new sacrifice every time we sin; He requires repentance and He is faithful to forgive when we ask.
- Jesus' death was enough.
- We don't need another substitute because Jesus fully paid the sin debt of every person.
- We cannot undo Jesus' substitution for us.
- The work He did on the cross is final and forever.

How long does Jesus' sacrifice for us last? (It lasts forever.)

Can Jesus' substitution for us be undone? (No, it is final and complete.)

4. Romans 3:22: God sees the righteousness of Christ when He looks at believers. He applies Christ's righteousness to us.

HOOKS

**A Substitute**

Help the children create a collage that tells the story of Abraham and Isaac. Give the children old magazines, newspapers, and other pictures to use in their collage. As the children create their collages, talk with them about how God provided a substitute for Isaac and He provided a substitute for all mankind.



- God provided a substitute for Isaac so that Abraham didn't have to kill Isaac.
- God sent His Son to take our place on the cross and pay our sin debt.
- Jesus is our Substitute.
- Because He paid our sin debt, we do not have to pay our sin debt.

**Final Substitution**

Divide the children into small groups. Set a timer. Give each group Lego blocks and ask them to build an altar before the timer goes off. Lead the children to discuss how Abraham and Isaac built an altar, but God provided a substitute.



- Even though God told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, God substituted a ram in place of Isaac.
- We all owe a sin debt to God for our sinfulness, yet God sent Jesus to be our substitute.
- Jesus' substitution in our place is final and forever.