

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

A SINLESS SACRIFICE

As a family spend time making sugar cookies. Divide the dough. Place one drop of dark food coloring in part of the dough. Bake the cookies and show your child the difference in the cookies. The cookies with the food coloring are like mankind---sinful. The cookies without the food coloring are like Jesus—without blemish or sin. He is our sinless sacrifice.

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

Genesis 22.

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

Abraham had long followed God and been obedient to Him. Many years before, God had promised to give Abraham a son and to make a great nation through him. Abraham believed God and God gave Abraham Isaac, his only son. God asked Abraham to do a difficult thing for Him one day. He asked Abraham to take Isaac to the top of the mountain and to offer Isaac as a burnt offering to God. A burnt offering was an offering that was burned up completely. Abraham loved Isaac. Isaac was his only son. Abraham loved God more. He trusted God and so he obeyed God. Abraham took Isaac to the top of the mountain and they built an altar together. Abraham laid Isaac on the altar and prepared to sacrifice him to God, but God's voice broke through and stopped Abraham. God had tested Abraham's faith in Him and when Abraham showed that he did really trust God, God stopped him from sacrificing his only son. A sacrifice was still needed for the offering. God provided a ram caught in a thicket nearby for Abraham and Isaac to offer to Him. Abraham and Isaac offered the ram to God with thanksgiving. He had provided a substitute for Isaac. God provided a substitute for all of His people when He sent Jesus to pay our sin debt. We all are sinful and owe a great sin debt that we cannot pay ourselves. God didn't leave us in need. Instead, He sent His only Son, Jesus to die on the cross in our place. Jesus took our place and became our substitute. Because of Jesus we don't have to pay our sin debt when we have saving faith in Him.

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

- What did God ask Abraham to do? (He asked Abraham to offer Isaac as a burnt offering to God.)
- How did Abraham respond to what God asked Abraham to do? (He obeyed.)
- How did Abraham show he trusted God? (He took Isaac to the mountain and prepared to sacrifice him.)
- What substitute did God provide for Isaac? (He provided a ram caught in a thicket.)
- Who did God send to be our substitute? (He sent His only Son, Jesus.)
- Why did we need a substitute? (We are all sinful and in need of someone to save us.)



KNOW



DO



FEEL



WANT

As a family, memorize 2 Corinthians 5:21 by playing a game of Hangman using the verse as the phrase to guess.

Role play the story of Abraham and Isaac with your child. Talk with your child about how God provided a substitute for Isaac when He provided a ram. Remind your child that God provided a substitute for us when He sent Jesus to pay our sin debt.

Spend some time in the morning or at night praying with your child and thanking God for sending Jesus to be our substitute. Talk with your child about how we don't have to pay our sin debt because Jesus paid it for us.

Spend some time this week sharing your own salvation story with your child. Talk about how Jesus paid for your sins and took your place as your substitute. Share with your child how this substitution is forever and always.

Spend some time this week in the mornings as your child gets ready for the day about how God sent Jesus to be our substitute. Talk with your child about what it means to you that Jesus is your substitute.