

JESUS IS OUR SUBSTITUTE

STORY: REDEMPTION

BIG TRUTH: JESUS IS OUR SUBSTITUTE

Isaiah 53:5-6; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 5:6-11; 8:1-4; 1 Peter 2:22-24; 3:18; 1 John 2:1-2; 4:9-10

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

BIG IDEAS

- In our sin, we are guilty before God, deserving of His righteous punishment.
- In His love, God sent His Son, Jesus, fully man and fully God, to take our place.
- Jesus became our substitute on the cross, living the life we should have lived, and dying the death we should have died.

BIBLE STORY: HEBREWS 9:11-10:18

Our sin required a blood sacrifice as payment. Prior to the coming of Jesus, God's people made animal sacrifices to atone for their sins as they looked toward the coming of Jesus. After Jesus came, He fulfilled God's requirement for a blood sacrifice and paid for our sin completely. He is the perfect and good sacrifice for our sin. He is our substitute.

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: THE GREAT SUBSTITUTION

We are all in need of someone to save us because we are all sinful. God requires a blood sacrifice to atone for our sin. Before Christ came, God's people sacrificed animals to pay for their sins. Jesus came and took our place on the cross. He is our substitute and He fully paid for our sin.

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

God's sacrificial love is for all the world.

- God's love is perfect.
- He loves generously and completely.
- His love of the all the world was great and He gave His Son for the world.
- God loves all people, even those who seem unlovable.
- He loves all nations. There is no person or people group who is loved above another.

God's sacrifice of His Son is for whoever believes.

- God willingly gave up His only Son for all the world.
- He sacrificed His Son so that anyone in the world who believed in the power of the sacrifice would be saved from eternal death.
- God's sacrifice isn't just for certain people who are good enough or special enough.
- His sacrifice was perfect and complete. It fully paid the sin debt of every person in the world who had lived and would ever live.

Those who believe receive the gift of eternal life.

- God gave His Son to pay the sin debt of every person.
- The sacrifice was and is for those who believe in the salvation that God offers.
- God's salvation involves a turning away, or repentance of sin, and a belief that Jesus died for our sin.
- Those who believe in God's salvation receive eternal life with Christ in Heaven.
- Not only do those who believe receive eternal life, they receive a relationship with God now that continues into eternity.

BIBLE STORY: HEBREWS 9:11-10:18

Jesus The True And Greater Sacrifice

Opening Illustration:

Use craft sticks or small wooden dowels to create a scepter. Cut a crown out of cardstock and connect the ends and then attach it to the top of the scepter. Before attaching it, allow the children to decorate their crowns. Next, attach streamers to the scepter. Talk with the children about how God is the ruler of everything. He is fixing our broken creation, showing us grace and mercy and rescuing us through Jesus.

BIG IDEA: IN OUR SIN, WE ARE GUILTY BEFORE GOD, DESERVING HIS RIGHTEOUS PUNISHMENT.¹

We are all guilty before God.

- God has revealed Himself through His creation.
- His visible and invisible traits can be seen in His creation.
- Because He has made Himself known to the world, no one stands without an excuse for believing that God exists.
- Not only does creation remove our excuse, but our own sinful choices render us guilty before God.
- We are all born with a sin nature that makes us guilty before God and deserving of punishment.



Write the words “punishment” and “guilty” on the board. Ask the children to come up with their own definitions of these words. Next, ask the children to name some things that make us guilty before God. Remind the children that we all deserve God’s righteous punishment.

We all practice sinful, wicked things.

- Because we are all born with a sin nature, we sin.
- Our sinfulness is not limited to our thoughts, but it plays out in our actions.
- We do not naturally seek God and we do not desire to do the things that please Him.
- Instead, we seek to please ourselves. We live in rebellion to God.
- Our sinfulness makes us guilty before God.
- God is the ruler of the world and it is against Him that we sin.

God is just in condemning us.

- God has condemned our sin.
- We stand condemned before God because of our sinfulness.
- We cannot stand before Him innocent or with an excuse for our sin.
- God is not harsh or mean in condemning our sin.
- He provided us with a perfect world and a right relationship with Him.
- We rejected Him and chose instead to fulfill our own desires.
- God is righteous to condemn us. He is right to make the wages of our sin death.

Why do we deserve God’s punishment? (We are all guilty of our sin against Him.)

1. Romans 1:32: *We are all guilty of committing wicked and sinful actions. We are all sinners.*

BIG IDEA: IN HIS LOVE, GOD SENT HIS SON, JESUS, FULLY MAN AND FULLY GOD, TO TAKE OUR PLACE.²

Jesus took on humanity to become like us.

- God required a blood sacrifice for our sin.
- In order for our sin to be completely atoned for, someone like us would have to die.
- Jesus came to the earth as a baby taking on flesh.
- He became human like us so He could be our substitute.
- His humanity makes Him like us so that He might live a perfect life for us.



Divide the children into small groups and give each group a blank piece of paper and markers. Ask the groups to draw a picture that shows Jesus as fully man and fully God. Remind the children that Jesus became like us to die for us.

Jesus was fully God and fully man.

- Jesus is God. He is fully God. There is no part of Him that is not God.
- He set aside His rights and privileges as God to become like us.
- When He took on human flesh, He did not lose His divinity. He is fully God and fully man.
- He has two natures—a divine nature and a human nature.
- He lived on earth as fully man and fully God.
- He never sinned though He faced every temptation known to man.
- He always chose obedience to God and lived a perfect life.

Jesus took our place and died the death we deserve.

- When Jesus came to the earth, He came to become our substitute.
- We could not live a perfect and sinless life; therefore, we could never pay our sin debt.
- God did not leave us in our sin and expectant death.
- He sent Jesus to live the perfect life that we couldn't live and to die the death that we deserve to die.
- We deserve death, but we do not have to die. Jesus died in our place.

Why did Jesus become fully man? (He became like us that He might live the perfect life that we couldn't and die for us on the cross.)

2. Hebrews 2:9: Jesus became man that He might die the death we deserve.

BIG IDEA: JESUS BECAME OUR SUBSTITUTE ON THE CROSS, LIVING THE LIFE WE SHOULD HAVE LIVED, AND DYING THE DEATH WE SHOULD HAVE DIED.³

Jesus lived a perfect and sinless life.

- When Jesus came to the earth, He came taking on humanity.
- Even though He was human and faced every temptation known to man, He never sinned.
- Jesus lived a perfect life of obedience to God in every way.
- He never disobeyed His parents or mistreated any person.
- He always obeyed God, the Father in every way.
- His life was marked by a perfection that only He could attain.



Help the children create a stained glass cross using construction paper, contact paper, and tissue paper. Cut the tissue paper into small pieces. Help the children cut the outline of a cross from the construction paper. Place the outline of the cross on one piece of contact paper. Next, help the children place the tissue paper inside the outline of the cross. Next, place another piece of contact paper over the cross and tissue paper to seal it. As the children make their crosses, remind them that Jesus lived the life we should have and died the death we deserve.

Jesus took our place in life and in death.

- Jesus lived the life that we should have lived.
- He lived the life that God created us to live.
- He lived on earth in perfect harmony with the Father.
- He never disobeyed or sinned against God, the Father.
- Instead, He lived a perfect life.
- Jesus not only lived the life that we should have lived, He died the death that we deserved.
- Jesus did not deserve to die because His life on earth was perfect.

Jesus paid the price for our sinfulness.

- When Jesus went to the cross, He paid our sin debt.
- We deserved death on the cross. We deserved to die for our sinfulness and rejection of God.
- Jesus took our place on the cross. He died in our place.
- When He died in our place, He paid the price for our sin completely and fully.
- There is no need for more death sacrifices for our sin because Jesus has paid the price.

How is Jesus our substitute in life and death? (He lived the perfect life that we should have and died the death that we deserved.)

3. 1 Peter 3:18: Christ died on the cross for our sins once and for all. No other death is needed because Christ paid the price in full.

HOOKS

**Highest High Priest**

Divide the children into pairs and give each pair one of the following verses: Psalm 110:4, Hebrews 5:6, Hebrews 6:20, Hebrews 7:11, Acts 3:26, and Zechariah 6:13. Ask the pairs to look up the verse and share what it says about Jesus being our high priest. Lead the children in a discussion about how Jesus is the true and perfect sacrifice and high priest for us.



- The high priests would serve as the person who made the sacrifice for the people.
- These people were not perfect and would have to follow strict rules and guidelines for making sacrifices.
- They would also have to make these sacrifices more than once.
- When Jesus came, He was the perfect and final high priest.
- When He died on the cross, His sacrifice was complete and final.
- He is the perfect and true high priest.

**What Should Have Been**

Read Genesis 1 with the children. Ask the children to name the things that God created and whether they were good or not. Lead the children in a discussion about how God's creation was perfect and man was without sin. Talk with the children about what our lives should have been like.

- God created us to be in a perfect relationship with Him.
- He created us perfectly and the world around us was perfect.
- Our sin broke God's creation and caused sin to enter the world.
- Our lives would have been without sorrow, sickness, strife and hurt if we had not sinned.
- Jesus came to the earth and lived the perfectly obedient life that we should have lived. This made Him able to die for us as the perfect sacrifice.