

JESUS IS OUR VICTOR

STORY: REDEMPTION

BIG TRUTH: JESUS IS OUR VICTOR

Isaiah 25:8; John 16:33; Romans 5:18-21; Colossians 2:13-15; Hebrews 2:14-15; Revelation 1:18

BIBLE VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:56-57

"The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

BIG IDEAS

- We are defeated by our sin.
- Jesus fights and wins the battle against sin and death.
- Sin and death have no power over those who are in Jesus.
- Jesus is our victor forever.
- Every day Jesus followers fight from victory to victory.

BIBLE STORY: 2 CHRONICLES 20

When the Moabites, Ammonites, and some of the Meunites rose up against Judah, their king, Jehoshaphat went in prayer to the Lord. Jehoshaphat confessed that he and the nation of Judah were nothing without God. God fought the battle against the Moabites, Ammonites, and Meunites for Judah. God fights our battle against sin and we have victory through Jesus.

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:

- Talk about why we need a substitute and how Jesus is our substitute



Every child should feel:

- Awe at Jesus's willingness to sacrifice Himself as our substitute



Every child should want:

- To believe in Jesus's work on their behalf to pay their sin debt

FAMILY DEVOTION: GOD'S VICTORY

Though we are defeated by our sin, we can have victory through Jesus. Every day those who follow Jesus can fight through His power and victory.

BIBLE VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:56-57

"The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Sin leads to death, but Christ defeated death and sin.

- The consequence of sin is death. Because we are all born sinful, we are all born spiritually dead.
- Physical death was introduced into the world when Adam and Eve sinned.
- We all experience this physical death unless Jesus returns in our lifetime.
- Though our sin leads to death, Jesus defeated death and sin.
- Jesus died on the cross in our place and now we have victory over our sin.

We have victory over sin and death because Christ defeated them.

- Nothing we've done or could do leads to our defeat of death and sin.
- We cannot defeat our own sin or defy our own death.
- We have victory over our sin because Jesus took on our sin when He died on the cross.
- Jesus paid our sin debt and now we are free to live again through Christ.
- We also have victory over death because Jesus rose again on the third day.
- Because Jesus defeated death, we can live in His victory and we know we will live again, too, after our bodies die.

We have victory because God allows us to have victory through Jesus.

- We do not deserve victory over our sin.
- We are all sinful and we all rebel against God.
- There is nothing we can do to deserve or merit victory.
- God allows us to have victory over our sin through Jesus.
- Because God chose to accept Jesus' death on the cross as payment for our sin debt, we are seen as righteous and victorious over our sin.
- Because Jesus rose from the dead, we have victory over death.
- It is only through Jesus that we have any victory over sin and death.

BIBLE STORY: 2 CHRONICLES 20

God Fights For Judah

Opening Illustration:

Give each child a blank piece of paper and then small strips of paper. Ask the children to create a cross out of the strips of paper. Use tape or glue to attach the cross to the blank piece of paper. Next, give the children stickers and markers to decorate their crosses. Talk with the children about how Jesus is the way that God fixes our brokenness and takes away our separation from Him.

BIG IDEA: WE ARE DEFEATED BY OUR SIN.¹**Through Adam, sin entered the heart of every person.**

- When Adam made the choice to disobey God in the Garden of Eden, his choice affected every human being everywhere.
- When Adam disobeyed God, sin entered his heart and death entered the world.
- Because Adam is the first man, everyone born after Adam is born with a sin nature.
- Adam's choice changed his nature and made it sinful.
- Every person inherits this sin nature when he or she is born.
- There is no way around inheriting the sin nature because we all descend from Adam.



Write the word “defeated” on the board. Ask the children to define the word “defeated” in their own words. Talk with them about different things that defeat us or others. Next, talk with them about how our sin defeats us.

Sin rules in the heart of everyone.

- We are all born with a sin nature and that sin nature leads us to sin against God again and again.
- We are enslaved to our sin nature and are not able to overcome it on our own.
- We cannot choose not to sin before we know Christ.
- Sin rules in our hearts and blinds us to the truth about Jesus.
- We choose to follow our own hearts instead of following God.

Our lives are defeated because of our sin nature.

- We live in defeat because of our sin nature. We cannot overcome our sin nature in our own power.
- We have no power over sin and death before we know Christ.
- We are weak and blinded by the sin that rules our hearts.
- Our minds are darkened to the light and truth of Jesus.
- Our lives are really defeated lives because of the sin that rules in our hearts.

How are we defeated by our sin? (Our hearts are ruled by our sin nature and we live enslaved to our sinfulness.)

1. Romans 5:18-21: One sin led to the sin of all mankind and one man's victory over sin gives all victory over sin.

BIG IDEA: JESUS FIGHTS AND WINS THE BATTLE AGAINST SIN AND DEATH.²**Jesus defeated sin through His life and death.**

- God sent His only Son to pay the sin debt of the world.
- When Jesus came to the world, He took on flesh and became like man so that He could die for mankind.
- When Jesus died on the cross, He defeated sin.
- Sin was defeated because Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life and died in our place fulfilling the requirement for our sin debt.



Use cardstock and markers or colored pencils to help the children create a sword. On the sword ask the children to write 1 Corinthians 15:56-57. Talk with them about how Jesus fought our sin battle and defeated sin and death.

Jesus defeated death through His death and resurrection.

- When Jesus died on the cross, He was buried and remained in the grave for three days.
- On the third day, Jesus rose to life again and overcame the power of death over the world.
- Jesus' resurrection means that those who follow Him will be resurrected from their earthly death to new life with Him in eternity.
- Death is a consequence of sin, yet we no longer have to be enslaved to it because Jesus overcame it when He died and rose again.
- Jesus went before us to pay our sin debt, to die the death we should die, and He rose to new life as we are raised to new life through faith in Him.

How has Jesus fought and won our sin battle? (He lived the perfect life as a man and then died the death required for our sin debt.)

2. Isaiah 25:8: Jesus takes away the reproach of the world. He paid our sin debt and set us free.

BIG IDEA: SIN AND DEATH HAVE NO POWER OVER THOSE WHO ARE IN JESUS.³

Jesus became like man to defeat sin and death.

- God's just requirement for payment for our sin was our death.
- Our sin is so wicked that we justly deserve to die.
- Our sin is blatant rebellion and rejection of the one true God who is just, holy and mighty.
- Jesus chose to take on flesh and become a man so that He could fulfill the requirement for our sin debt.
- He became a man with a human nature and He lived the perfect life on this earth. He did so that He might defeat our sin and death.



Bring in a pair of toy handcuffs. Let the children take turns wearing the handcuffs while attempting to tie their shoes. Talk with the children about how difficult it is to complete the task while handcuffed. Take the handcuffs off and ask the children to tie their shoes. Remind them that we have victory over sin and death when we believe in Jesus and are able to resist sin.

We have victory over sin and death because of Jesus.

- Because Jesus set aside His place in Heaven and came to earth, we have victory over our sin.
- His choice to live as a man and to die on the cross saves any person who places his or her faith and trust in Him.
- Jesus overcame sin when He lived sinless on the earth. Sin had no power over Him and He became the perfect sacrifice for our sin.
- His death on the cross paid our sin debt in full and forever.
- We can no longer be held accountable for our sin debt when we have saving faith in Jesus.
- Anyone who follows Jesus is set free from the hold that sin and death have on the world.

How do those who have saving faith in Jesus have victory over sin and death? (Because Jesus lived perfectly and died for our sin, those who believe in Him get to experience the freedom He purchased for them.)

3. Hebrews 2:14: Jesus became like us that He might defeat our sin and overcome Satan.

BIG IDEA: JESUS IS OUR VICTOR FOREVER.⁴**Jesus holds the keys to death and hell forever.**

- When Jesus died on the cross, He was buried in the grave and lay there for three days.
- When He rose from the grave, He did so in His own divine power.
- His resurrection defeated the power that death has over the world because it could not stop Jesus from overpowering it.
- Because Jesus lived a perfect life on earth, He defeated the power that sin has on the world.
- He has the keys to death and hell because He is the only man to defeat sin and death.
- He is the way for any person who believes in Him to escape the enslavement of sin and death.

We have victory forever because of Jesus.

- Jesus' victory over sin and death is forever.
- He paid our sin debt once and for all. God sees it as fulfilled.
- We can have victory always through Jesus when we repent of our sinfulness and believe that it is through Jesus that we are forgiven.
- When we have saving faith in Jesus, we are forever victorious over sin and death just like Jesus.
- We can resist the temptation to sin because of Jesus.
- We need not fear death because of Jesus' resurrection and defeat of death.

Who is our Victor forever? (Jesus is the Victor over sin and death forever.)

4. Revelation 1:18: Jesus died and overcame death and hell. He now holds the keys to death and hell.

BIG IDEA: EVERY DAY JESUS FOLLOWERS FIGHT FROM VICTORY TO VICTORY.⁵

Believers fight a battle every day.

- Because we still have a sin nature, we fight the battle against sin every day.
- Every day we must resist the temptation to sin by becoming more like Jesus.
- The battle we fight is not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual things.
- Until we are in eternity, our sin nature remains with us, but it does not have power over us if we are Jesus followers.
- This battle can be won every day through the power of Jesus.



Lead the children in a discussion about what it means to have victory. Help them think of a list of sins that tempt people every day and then find a verse that could be used to overcome that temptation.

Every day believers can have victory in Jesus.

- Though people fight a battle against their sin nature every day, they can have victory every day through Jesus.
- Jesus gives them power to resist any temptation to sin they face.
- Because Jesus is the Victor forever, a follower of His can be a victor every day.
- We can overcome sin and become more like Jesus when we walk and live in His power.
- He is more powerful than sin and death and it is only through His power that we can be victorious over our sin.

How can Jesus followers have victory every day? (Jesus followers can have victory every day through the power of Jesus. Jesus has power over sin and death and this gives His followers power over it as well.)

5. Isaiah 54:17: There is no weapon that can defeat a follower of Jesus because we fight in the power of Jesus.

HOOKS

**Victory Forever**

Have children look up the following verses: 1 Corinthians 10:13, John 16:33, Ephesians 6:13, and Ephesians 6:10. Ask the children to read the verses and then discuss what they mean. Lead the children in a discussion about how those who follow Jesus have victory through Him every day.



- Because Jesus overcame death and sin, those who follow Him have victory over death and sin, also.
- When Jesus followers face temptation, they can overcome that temptation because they have power through Jesus.

**A Mighty Sword**

Help the children make a collage that shows how the Bible is the Sword of the Spirit. Print different verses about God's Word and its power and allow the children to put them together to create a collage of words showing the power of the Word. Talk with the children about how we can overcome sin and death through Jesus because He has power over sin and death. When we follow Him, we can resist temptation to sin through His Word.

