

BIG TRUTH: WE ARE SEPARATED

Genesis 3:23-24; Deuteronomy 31:16-18; Micah 3:4; Romans 1:18-21; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 2:12; 4:18; Colossians 1:19-22

BIBLE VERSE: ISAIAH 59:2

"But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear."

BIG IDEAS

- Sin is lostness.
- Sin is brokenness.
- I am broken and lost.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 15:1-7

Jesus spent His time on this earth seeking out sinners so that He might share the good news with them. The Pharisees and scribes grumbled against Jesus because He spent time with sinners, yet Jesus taught them that even one lost person is of great value to God. Just like a shepherd will leave his flock to find one lost sheep, Jesus came to the earth to save the lost. We are the lost sheep in need of Jesus.

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:**

- Our sin is a rejection of God's plans and purposes

**Every child should:**

- Repent of their rejection of God

**Every child should feel:**

- Sorrowful over their tendency to elevate their plans over God's plans

**Every child should want:**

- To faithfully follow God's plan and purposes for their lives

WE HAVE ALL GONE ASTRAY

Blow up several balloons. Gather two spoons. Place a balloon on each spoon and race your child to a designated spot. You can only use one finger to hold the balloon on the spoon. If it falls off, you have to go back to start and begin again. Once you've raced a few times, talk with your child about how we are like the balloons that fly off the spoon. We go astray or rebel against God. We are all lost and in need of being found by Him.

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

Luke 15:1-7.

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

Jesus was confronted by some of the most important men in His day, the Pharisees and the scribes. These men questioned Him about the way He ministered to sinners. They didn't understand that we are all sinners. They didn't understand that every person is separated from God. Jesus told them a story about a shepherd who had a flock of a hundred sheep. One sheep got lost; it wandered off the path and away from the flock. The shepherd could have left the sheep to wander and take care of itself. The shepherd could have chosen to take care of the ninety-nine sheep left in his fold. The shepherd didn't do that. He chose to leave the ninety-nine who were safe and go look for the lost sheep. Jesus told this story to show the people listening that He left His heavenly home to come to earth to seek us out. We are the lost sheep. We need our heavenly Shepherd to find us. We are all separated from God because of our sinful hearts. Jesus came to earth to seek and save the lost. We are the lost.

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

- What question did the Pharisees and scribes ask Jesus? (They wanted to know why He was letting sinners come near Him.)
- What did the shepherd decide to do when one of his sheep was lost? (He decided to go and look for the lost sheep.)
- How are we like the lost sheep? (We are lost and separated from God because of our sinful hearts.)



As a family, memorize Isaiah 59:2 by writing the verse on a piece of paper. Cut the paper into smaller pieces. Remove one of the pieces of the verse and ask your child to write out the verse filling in the missing piece. Do this several times, changing the missing piece each time.



Help your child create a MISSING poster using a picture of your family. Talk with your child about how we are all lost and in need of being found because of our sinful hearts. We all go astray like sheep.



Gather together many wooden pencils. Make sure some of them are broken. Ask your child to sort the pencils into piles according to their lengths. Place the broken pencils in a pile by themselves. Talk with your child about how we are all broken because of our sin. We are like the broken pencils.



Set aside a time this week to share a time when you were aware of your own brokenness. Share how God found you and made you aware of your brokenness. Remind your child that we are all broken and lost.

Before bedtime each night this week, spend a few moments praying with your child, thanking God for sending Jesus to seek and to save the lost.