

WE REJECTED GOD'S PLAN

STORY: FALL

BIG TRUTH: WE REJECTED GOD'S PLAN

Genesis 6:5-6; 2 Kings 17:15; Psalm 81:11-13; Jeremiah 10:1-15; Amos 2:4; Habakkuk 2:18-20; John 3:17-20; Romans 1:18-23; 3:23-24

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 1:18

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth."

BIG IDEAS

- God created us as image bearers designed to reflect His glory with our lives.
- Our sin is an intentional and willful rejection of God.
- Our sin is a suppression of the truth.
- We need a rescuer.

BIBLE STORY: 1 SAMUEL 8

God's people, called Israel, were not satisfied with God being their King. They wanted an earthly king and even though they were warned that the king would not be their savior, they still wanted a king.

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

FAMILY DEVOTION: TO BE THE KING

We willfully reject God as our Savior and King. We are sinful and rebel against Him and because we do, we need a Rescuer.

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 1:18

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth."

God's wrath is evident in the growing sin and death in the world.

- God's creation was perfect in the very beginning.
- There was no sin or death in the world.
- Man did not have sin in his heart when God first created him.
- After man sinned, rejected and rebelled against God, the perfect creation broke.
- It began to die. Sin entered the heart of every person.
- God is a holy and righteous God. Our sin is against Him and His wrath is right and justified.
- We can see the evidence of His wrath in the world through the death and destruction and the growing sinfulness in the heart of man.

God shows His wrath because we have suppressed the truth.

- Creation reveals God's existence.
- God purposefully created the world in such a way that it could be known to men that He exists.
- Because of our sinfulness, mankind has suppressed this truth about God.
- Instead of recognizing God in His creation, man looks for other explanations that do not involve God.
- Man suppresses the truth about God by denying His hand in creation or the world today.

Our rejection of God causes His wrath to be more and more evident in the world.

- God's wrath is being revealed in this world because of man's rejection of God's truth.
- Man has rejected God's Word and His truth. Our sin is a rejection of God and a rebellion against Him.
- He is just and holy and deserves all the praise and honor.
- Because we rejected God, we see wickedness, destruction, and death which all reveal God's wrath.

BIBLE STORY: 1 SAMUEL 8

Israel Wants A King

Opening Illustration:

Give each child a balloon and a marker. Ask the child to draw the world on their balloon. You may need to blow the balloons up and tie them first if they aren't stretchy. After the children have drawn the world on their balloons, if they aren't already blown up, blow them up and tie them. Tell the children that the balloons represent God's perfect creation and our feet represent the sin of man. Lead the children to pop their balloons by stomping on them. Once the balloons are popped, ask the children to collect the popped pieces of their balloons. Lead them in a discussion about how our world is broken like the balloon. Everything about our world is broken because of our sin.

- Once our balloons pop, they do not function the same way, do they? (No, they can no longer be tossed back and forth and they no longer hold air.)
- This is what sin did to God's perfect creation. It broke it. Now it doesn't act or exist like it once did when God first made it.

BIG IDEA: GOD CREATED US AS IMAGE BEARERS DESIGNED TO REFLECT HIS GLORY WITH OUR LIVES.¹

God created every person in His image.

- When God created the world, He made man and woman in His own image.
- God is the Creator of all people. He fashions them and numbers their days.
- God breathes life into people and He sustains their lives.
- Every person who has ever lived, lives now and will live is the image of God.
- We all reflect God's image because God created us to reflect Him.



Bring in a small mirror and ask the children to look at themselves in it. Ask the children to identify similarities and differences between their classmates. Remind them that we are all made in God's image and we're created to bring Him glory.

God created people with the purpose of bearing His image.

- We each have a purpose given to us by God.
- We are created to bear His image as a reflection of God to the world around us.
- People are not God, but they bear His image and share some of His traits. Our purpose isn't to live for ourselves, but to bear God's image.

We are made to glorify God with our lives.

- God made us in His image so that we could bring Him glory with our lives.
- Every person reflects God's image even if they do not follow God.
- People are a reflection of who God is.
- Our purpose is to live lives that bring God glory.
- When we properly reflect who God is, we bring Him glory.
- Our sin has distorted the image of God in us.

Why did God create man? (He made us to bear His image and reflect His glory.)

1. Genesis 1:27: God made man in His image. Man is a reflection of God.

BIG IDEA: OUR SIN IS AN INTENTIONAL AND WILLFUL REJECTION OF GOD.²**We have turned away from the one true God.**

- Sin first entered the world because of Adam and Eve.
- Though we were not present when they sinned, we are still feeling the effects of their sin.
- Because their sin is passed down to us, we are born with a sin nature.
- Even as young babies, we begin to rebel against our parents. We choose to do the opposite of what they ask or we defy them.
- Sin is written into our hearts.
- Though the reason we have a sin nature is because of Adam and Eve, we still sin ourselves.



Play a game of Follow the Leader. Allow the children to take turns being the leader. Remind the children that our sin is an intentional choice to disobey God.

Our hearts willfully rebel against God.

- Every day we face the choice of doing what is right and doing what is wrong, but our hearts choose to do what we want rather than obeying God.
- Our hearts are set on wickedness. We seek to please ourselves and willfully choose to disobey God.
- We live in rebellion to God because we are sinful and we give into our sin nature.
- The people of Israel heard God's warning through Samuel, yet they still chose to reject God. They chose instead to please themselves by being like other nations.

Our sin is a choice to reject God.

- God has established from the beginning a way that is right and true.
- This way is His truth and when we follow His way, we bring Him glory.
- Our sin is an intentional choice to reject God and His way.
- We choose instead to follow our wicked hearts and to please ourselves.
- The Israelites rejected God as their King.
- They wanted someone else to rule over them instead of submitting to the one true King.

How do we intentionally reject God? (We follow our wicked hearts instead of submitting to God's way.)

2. Deuteronomy 32:18: *The people rejected God and chose to live for themselves. They willfully rebelled against Him.*

BIG IDEA: OUR SIN IS A SUPPRESSION OF THE TRUTH.³**God has made Himself known on the earth.**

- When God created the heavens and the earth, He revealed Himself in them.
- The heavens and the earth declare God's glory.
- They show the world that He exists.
- We can recognize God's majesty and might when we look at the world around us.
- God has purposefully made Himself known through creation.
- There is no way to truthfully deny His existence because He is visible in creation.



Divide the children into small groups or pairs. Ask the groups to create a comic strip that explains the seven days of creation. Allow the children to share their comic strips and then help them think of the different ways the world tries to explain creation. Remind them that it is our sin that suppresses truth and exchanges it for a lie.

From the beginning, man has rejected the truth about God.

- In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve knew the truth about God.
- They had an intimate relationship with God, yet when they were faced with the choice to believe the truth or a lie, they chose to reject the truth about God.
- God's people, the Israelites, chose to reject the truth that God relayed to them through Samuel.
- Instead, they chose to suppress the truth.
- We reject the truth about God and suppress what He has revealed.

We exchange the truth for a lie that we make up.

- Though God has revealed Himself to creation through creation, we still exchange the truth for a lie.
- Instead of acknowledging God as Creator, we write our own narrative explaining our existence.
- The Israelites suppressed the truth about God. They rejected that He is the true King and exchanged that truth for the lie that a human king would be a better king for Israel.

How do we suppress the truth? (We deny God's existence and His hand in the world.)

3. Romans 1:20: We are without excuse because God has revealed Himself through creation.

BIG IDEA: WE NEED A RESCUER.⁴**We are all guilty of rejecting God's truth.**

- None of us is innocent in this world.
- We are all born with sin in our hearts.
- This sinful heart leads us to continue sinning against God.
- We reject Him and the truth He has revealed through creation and in His Word.
- We deny His existence. Even if we do not verbally deny His existence, we deny Him by lives that aren't lived by His Word or to bring Him glory.



Divide the children into groups. Give the groups a set of verses to look up that talk about man's sin. Here are some examples of verses you can use: Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Psalm 51:5, Jeremiah 17:9, and Galatians 5:17. Use any others that you'd like to add. Ask the children to explain what the verses mean and how they show that we are all sinful. Remind the children that we are all in need of being rescued.

We cannot save ourselves.

- We are all sinful. No one is free from sin.
- No one lives on earth and chooses not to sin.
- We all reject God and rebel against Him. We make choices that deny His power and right to rule over our lives.
- The Israelites denied God as their king. Instead, they chose to follow an earthly king.
- We are like the Israelites. We reject God and seek to rule our own lives.

We all need to be rescued.

- We are blind to our sinfulness and we are blind to the condition of our heart.
- Because we cannot save ourselves, we need someone to save us.
- God sent Jesus to be our Savior.
- The Israelites were blind to their condition. They rejected God and they were in great need of someone to rescue them.

Why do we need a rescue? (We are all sinful and blind to our sinful condition.)

4. Romans 3:23-24: We are all in need of being rescued. God sent Jesus to rescue us.

HOOKS

**Rejection Check**

Divide the children into two groups. Give each group a beanbag. Mark two spots on the floor. Ask the groups to line up and take turns tossing the beanbag. Every time someone misses the spot marked on the floor, the group has to decide to keep the person or send them to the other group. Once you've played a few times, lead the children in a discussion about how we all reject God's truth.



- We all make a choice to rebel against God and His Word.
- We are all sinful and reject Him.

**That Rebellious Feeling**

Play a game of musical beanbag with the children. The child left holding the beanbag when the music stops has to take his or her chair and sit outside of the group. Once you've played several times, lead the children in a discussion about how we are all in rebellion to God and separated from Him.

