

# WE REJECTED GOD'S HOLINESS

## STORY: FALL

### BIG TRUTH: WE REJECT GOD'S HOLINESS

Isaiah 30:8-11; Matthew 11:20-24; Luke 10:11-13; John 1:9-11; 3:19-20; 8:12-30; 8:42-47; 15:18-20; Romans 1:32

### BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 1:19-20

*"For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For His invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse."*

### BIG IDEAS

- God is holy.
- God's holiness is on display and visible to us through creation.
- Sin is an intentional and willful rejection of a holy God for lesser things.
- We pursue sin instead of holiness.

### BIBLE STORY: LEVITICUS 6:8-18; 9:22-10:7

God instructed His people how to offer the burnt offering to Him. The fire on the altar for the burnt offering was to burn continually and required special handling. Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, did not follow God's commands, but attempted to make an offering their own way. God killed them instantly by burning them with the fire from the altar. God's holiness will not be violated.

### 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: HOLINESS VIOLATED

God is holy and righteous and requires holy worship. His holiness was violated by Nadab and Abihu and they lost their lives because of it. We violate His holiness when we rebel against Him.

**BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 1:19-20**

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**God chose to reveal Himself through His creation.**

- God has made Himself known through the heavens and earth that He created.
- He willingly revealed certain attributes about Himself in creation, such as His eternal power and divine nature.
- Creation exists to declare God's glory so that people will look at creation and know that God exists.
- All of creation is proof of the existence of God.
- God did not keep Himself hidden from man; instead, He chose to reveal Himself in such a way that man cannot miss Him.

**Anyone can know that a divine power exists because God has revealed His existence through nature.**

- Nature has God's imprint all over it.
- God has revealed Himself in great detail in the natural world around us.
- Whether a person looks casually or closely at nature, he can see proof of the existence of a divine power.
- The earth cries out that God exists through its intricate and complex design.
- God purposefully created the heavens and the earth in such a way as to show man He exists.

**Anyone who rejects God's existence is without excuse.**

- When we reject God, we are without excuse.
- Even if we have never been told that God exists, God has revealed Himself through nature.
- We will stand before Him without an excuse because He chose to show us that He exists when He created the heavens and the earth.
- It is our sin that causes us to reject Him and deny His existence.

**BIBLE STORY: LEVITICUS 6:8-18; 9:22-10:7**

*Nadab and Abihu*

**Opening Illustration:**

Give each child a paper plate with the center cut out making a ring. Next, give the children a marker or crayon and ask them to draw a picture of themselves on one side of the ring and on the opposite side to write GOD. Next, give them little small slips of paper and string. On the papers they should write ways they've sinned and then use the string to attach these to the top of the ring so that they hang between GOD and the picture of the child. Remind the children that we reject God and our relationship with Him because of our sin.

**BIG IDEA: GOD IS HOLY.<sup>1</sup>****God alone is truly holy.**

- God is the only sinless being.
- God is the only being who has never sinned and will never sin.
- Every other person is sinful.
- God is perfect and righteous.
- His perfect righteousness means that He is holy.
- He is without blemish or spot.
- He is pure and good.



Divide the children into pairs and ask the children to define the word “holy”. Next, ask the pairs to write down ways that God is holy. Remind them that He is the holiest of all beings.

**God's holiness results in praise by His people.**

- When God's people encounter God's holiness, they praise Him for His holiness.
- When the people saw God consume the burnt offering Aaron offered on their behalf, they fell down praising God.
- When we see God's holiness, our response is praise because we understand that we are encountering the one true God who is holy and righteous.

**God's holiness results in worship by His people.**

- God's holiness causes His people to worship Him.
- God's people worship Him with their hearts and their lives.
- The Israelites worshiped God because they saw His holiness.
- We should worship because of His holiness. Our lives should be lives lived as a worship offering to Him.

*Who is the holiest of beings? (God is the holiest of all beings.)*

1. Psalm 99:5: God is holy and worthy of worship and praise from His people.

**BIG IDEA: GOD'S HOLINESS IS ON DISPLAY AND VISIBLE TO US THROUGH CREATION.<sup>2</sup>****God revealed Himself in creation.**

- When God created the world, He revealed Himself to man.
- The intricate design of creation shows that God exists.
- It reveals His attributes such as His limitless creativity.
- The heavens and the earth declare His glory through their beauty and majesty.
- Just like God's power was revealed through the fire that consumed the burnt offering, it is revealed through His creation.



Play a game of musical beanbag. The person holding the beanbag when the music stops gets to name one thing about creation that reveals God's glory. Remind the children that all of creation declares God's glory.

**Man can see God's glory in the world around him.**

- God's glory is not hidden from man.
- God's glory is visible in the world around man.
- The glorious nature of the sunset and sunrise reveal God's glorious nature.
- The way the sun rises and sets shows God's power and might.
- The Israelites saw God's glory in the fire that consumed the burnt offering.
- They saw the way in which He accepted their offering and approved of their sacrifice.
- Man can see God's glory in the way life is sustained and mankind continues to live on the earth.

**God's knowledge and wisdom are visible in creation.**

- When we look at creation, we can see God's infinite knowledge.
- Creation is intricate and detailed. God's knowledge is revealed in this intricacy.
- God's supreme knowledge is shown in the design of life on earth and the way in which life continues to exist.
- God's great wisdom is seen in His design of life on earth.
- It is not accidental that life exists the way that it does.
- God, in His wisdom, designed the world to function as it does.
- God's glory is seen throughout all of His great creation.

*How is God's holiness on display in creation? (Creation shows His glory, knowledge and wisdom through its creativity and design.)*

2. Psalm 19:1-2: Creation reveals God's glory. It shows His great wisdom and knowledge.

## BIG IDEA: SIN IS AN INTENTIONAL AND WILLFUL REJECTION OF A HOLY GOD FOR LESSER THINGS.<sup>3</sup>

### Man's sin is within him, not something that happens to him.

- We are all born sinful and with a sinful nature.
- Our sinful nature leads us to choose darkness over light.
- Our sin is not something that happens to us. It is something that is within us.
- Our very hearts and natures are dark and sinful.
- We are not born good and then progressively become bad.
- We are born sinful.



Divide the children into small groups and give each group a set of index cards. Ask the groups to make a list of the things we choose instead of a holy God. Ask the groups to share their lists and then remind them that we intentionally choose to reject a holy God.

### Our wicked hearts leads us to disobey God and to reject Him.

- We are not forced or coerced into sinning against God.
- We are born with a sin nature. When we are faced with the choice of sinning or choosing God, we choose to sin.
- Our hearts are full of wickedness. They lead us to disobey God. When we are faced with the choice of obeying or disobeying, we choose to disobey without the help of the Holy Spirit.
- Nadab and Abihu were choosing to sin against God. Their wicked hearts led them to reject God's holiness and to seek their own.

### We choose to sin against God.

- Wickedness is written on our hearts because we are born into darkness.
- Our hearts choose to rebel against God.
- Even as creation reveals the holiness of God, we still choose to deny His very existence.
- Nadab and Abihu saw God's glory when He consumed the burnt offering, yet they rejected it and chose to create their own offering.
- We are like Nadab and Abihu. We reject what God has revealed of Himself and we choose instead to create our own glory and offer our own sacrifices.

*How do we intentionally reject God? (We see His glory revealed through creation and still deny His existence.)*

3. Mark 7:20-23: What defiles a person is what is inside of a person. Every person has a sin nature inside of him.

**BIG IDEA: WE PURSUE SIN INSTEAD OF HOLINESS.<sup>4</sup>****What is right and true has been revealed in the world.**

- Because creation declares the glory of God, what is right and true is known to man.
- God not only revealed Himself in creation, He sent His Son to proclaim the truth to the world.
- All the world can know what is true because God has sent the light into the world to shine the truth in the darkness.
- No one is without excuse because the truth has been revealed.
- Nadab and Abihu knew the right thing to do because they had seen their father offer an acceptable offering and they had seen God's approval.



Lead the children in a discussion about choices. Help the children see that the choices we make reveal that we pursue sin instead of God.

**Man loves what is evil over what is right.**

- Our hearts are wicked and we desire wickedness over righteousness.
- We do not naturally seek to do what is right or what pleases God.
- Instead, we are led by hearts that are set on darkness and wickedness.
- We love what is in the dark over what is revealed in the light.
- When God sent His Son to this world to reveal our own wickedness and need for a Savior, the world rejected Him.
- Nadab and Abihu saw the very glory of God, yet they chose to pursue their own righteousness over accepting the righteousness of God.

**Man does not choose to pursue holiness.**

- We are controlled by our sinful hearts.
- Our sin natures blind us to the truth that has been revealed through creation.
- Man pursues what is wrong over what is right.
- Man does not naturally pursue holiness. Instead, man chooses to live in the darkness.

*Why does man pursue sin instead of holiness? (Mankind rejects the Light that God sent into the world.)*

<sup>4</sup> John 3:19-20: Even though God sent the Light into the world, people still loved the darkness. Our hearts are sinful and lead us to reject a holy God.

## HOOKS

**God's Glorious Wonders**

Before class, gather pictures or information on each of the following natural wonders of the world: Mt. Everest, Victoria Falls, Grand Canyon, Great Barrier Reef, and the Northern Lights. Divide the children into groups and give each group the information you gathered on the five natural wonders. Ask the groups to share their ideas of how these wonders declare God's glory. Lead them in a discussion about how God's glory and holiness is revealed in creation.

**A Holiness Revealed**

Give each child a blank piece of paper and colored pencils. Ask the children to create a comic strip telling the story of Nadab and Abihu. Help them include the main points from the story. Allow the children to share their comic strips. Lead them in a discussion about how God revealed His holiness, yet we still reject it.



- God's holiness is revealed in creation.
- He revealed His glory and holiness to Nadab and Abihu, yet they rejected His holiness.
- We reject His holiness, too!