

BIG TRUTH: WE REJECT GOD'S LOVE

Judges 2:11-12; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jonah 2:8; Malachi 1:2-5; Matthew 23:37; John 3:16-20; Acts 7:51-53; 2 Timothy 3:1-5

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 1:21

"For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened."

BIG IDEAS

- God is love.
- Sin is an intentional and willful rejection of God's love for us.
- Sin makes us dishonorable, unthankful, and deceived.
- We cannot love others rightly because we have rejected love.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 15:11-32

The parable of the prodigal son shows the way we reject God's love and the way He continues to love us steadfastly. Our sin is a rejection of God's love and His care for us just like the prodigal son rejected his father's love and care.

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 want:**

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

A PRODIGAL HEART

Help your child draw and cut out a heart from cardstock. Spend time identifying the attitudes or behaviors that show that your hearts reject God. Remind your child that we all have a prodigal heart that rejects God's love and care.

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

Luke 15:11-32.

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

Jesus shared a parable, or story about a man who had two sons. The man's younger son went to his father one day and asked to receive his inheritance now instead of waiting. After the younger son received his inheritance, he decided to leave his father's house to seek his own way. He went to a country far away. Although the father loved his sons very much, he did not stop his younger son from leaving. The younger son wasted all of his money until he had nothing left. When the younger son was out of money, a great famine arose in the land. Now the son had no money and nothing to eat. The younger son hired himself out to a citizen of the country and began working in the fields feeding the pigs. The son was so hungry that he longed to eat the pods that the pigs were fed, but no one gave him any. He realized that his father had a lot of food and was wealthy. The younger son decided to go home to his father to ask for his father's forgiveness. When he was still a little distance away, the father saw his son. The father ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. The father was overjoyed to see his son again. The son asked for his father's forgiveness and the father gave it willingly. The father ordered that a great feast be prepared to celebrate his son's return. The younger son at first rejected his father. Sin is our rejection of God, our heavenly Father. We reject Him and turn away from Him, but God continues to love us steadfastly.

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

- Why did the younger son ask for his inheritance? (He wanted to make his own choices and live his own life.)
- What happened when the younger son went to the far away land? (He spent all of his money on reckless living and ended up hungry and homeless.)
- What happened when the son returned home to his father? (The father welcomed him home and forgave the son after he asked for forgiveness.)



As a family, memorize Romans 1:21 by creating a puzzle from the verse. Write the verse on a piece of paper and cut it into puzzle pieces. Take turns putting the puzzle together. Talk about how we dishonor God in our sin.



Create a scavenger hunt for your child. Include things that are usually rejected by people, such as broken toys, dying flowers, ugly clothes, etc. Remind your child that we reject God because of our sin.



Share with your child how knowing God personally has helped you know how to love others rightly. Remind your child that we cannot rightly love others unless we know God.



Help your child create a comic strip of the story of the prodigal son. Help your child include the important parts of the story and remind him or her that we reject God, too, like the prodigal son rejected his father.

As a family, spend time talking about the ways that you learn how to love from God. Remind your child that we cannot know how to love rightly if we do not know God.

Spend some time as a family praying that God would help your family love Him and others.