

WE REJECT GOD'S GLORY

STORY: FALL

BIG TRUTH: WE REJECT GOD'S GLORY

Deuteronomy 4:16-20; Psalm 106:20; Isaiah 40:18-23; Jeremiah 2:11; John 1:9-11; Acts 17:26-29

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 1:22-23

"Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things."

BIG IDEAS

- God is glorious.
- Sin is an intentional and willful rejection of God.
- In our sin, we are captured by lesser glories.
- We live for our glory instead of God's glory.

BIBLE STORY: DANIEL 4

King Nebuchadnezzar was a proud and arrogant king. He did not worship God and one day he had a prophetic dream about his end. None of Nebuchadnezzar's wise men could interpret his dream, so he called for Daniel to interpret it. Nebuchadnezzar's dream revealed that he was going to be cast out of his kingdom into a pasture to live like a beast of the field. These things happened to Nebuchadnezzar and his heart turned toward the one true God. Our sin leads us to reject God's glory for our own glory.

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:

- All people are broken in sin and suffer consequences because of sin.



Every child should:

- View sin as disobedience against God and His plan.



Every child should feel:

- Burdened by the reality of sin.



Every child should want:

- To be rescued from a life of sin and brokenness.

FAMILY DEVOTION: A LESSER GLORY

Our sin is a willful rejection of God. In our sin, we not only reject God, but we reject His glory for things of lesser glory. Our lives are meant to be lived bringing God glory, but we exchange that purpose for a less glorious purpose and we live lives of lesser glory.

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 1:22-23

"Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things."

The only true wisdom is from God.

- God is the beginning of all things. He alone gives wisdom.
- God has revealed Himself through His creation. That He exists and that He is control of this life is evident in creation.
- We can look for wisdom in other places, but we will not find it.
- The only real wisdom is found in knowing God.

Rejecting God is a foolish thing to do.

- Because God has revealed Himself in creation, every person is without excuse.
- Rejecting the one true God is very foolish because it leads to death and destruction.
- Rejecting God leads to eternal separation from the Creator of all things.
- Those who are foolish turn away from God and seek to explain life and the world through their own foolish ways.
- Rejecting the one true God leads a person away from wisdom.

Man exchanges the truth for a lie.

- When man exchanges the truth about God for a lie, he begins to worship idols.
- We are created to worship and when we do not worship God, we will worship something else.
- Those who suppress the truth about God and replace it with a lie will create idols to worship.
- It is foolish to worship anyone other than the one true God.
- In our sin we reject God's glory. We choose instead to worship lesser glories.

BIBLE STORY: DANIEL 4

King Nebuchadnezzar

Opening Illustration:

On small cards write out several commandments from God's Word, such as "Children, obey your parents", "Love one another", etc. Make sure you have enough cards for every child in your class. Place the chairs in your room in a circle for musical chairs and put the cards on the floor in the center of the circle. Play a game of musical chairs. Every time the music stops and a child is without a chair, he or she gets to pick a card from the center. Have the child read the card or read it for them and ask the children to raise their hands if they have ever disobeyed the command. Play enough times so that every card gets read. Talk with the children about how our sinful hearts cause us to disobey God and reject Him. They cause us to be jealous and to get angry with others and even hurt others.

BIG IDEA: GOD IS GLORIOUS.¹**God's glory is most glorious.**

- No one is as glorious as God is because He is the most holy of a people.
- There is nothing else as glorious as God.
- He is more radiant than even the sun. He created the sun and commands it; therefore, He is more radiant and brighter than the sun.
- He is the most holy of all beings and His glory shines brighter than any star.
- His glory is so great no man can see it fully and still live.



Ask the children to define the word 'glorious'. Ask the children to name some things they find glorious in the world. Remind them that nothing is as glorious as God.

His glory will fill the earth one day.

- When Jesus returns, His glory will fill all of the earth.
- He is so glorious His glory will outshine even the sun and the moon.
- There will be no need for the sun because of His glory.
- God's glory is an expression of His holiness and His power.
- He is the mightiest of beings and His glory shows that.
- Even when He reveals a little of His glory, it is overwhelming to man.

There is no one like God and His glory is unique.

- There are many glorious and beautiful things in the world, but none compare to the glory of God.
- There is beauty that moves people in a great way, but it does not compare to God's glory.
- No one is glorious like God.
- No thing is as glorious as God is.
- We get only a glimpse of God's glory on this earth.

How glorious is God? (He is the most glorious being of all. His glory will fill all of the earth.)

1. Isaiah 6:1-4: God is glorious and mighty. His glory will fill all of the earth.

BIG IDEA: SIN IS AN INTENTIONAL AND WILLFUL REJECTION OF GOD.²**Our rejection of God is willful.**

- No one will be able to stand before God with an excuse for rejecting Him.
- Because God's glory is revealed in creation, we can look at the world around us and know that He exists.
- When we reject Him, we are not being forced to do so.
- We are blinded by our sin, but we are blinded because we willingly choose to suppress His truth.
- We seek other ways to explain life and our own existence instead of following the one true God.



Lead the children in a discussion about the ways that God is revealed in creation. Remind the children that creation declares God's glory. He can be seen in all of creation and that means we knowingly reject Him.

Because God has revealed Himself, we knowingly deny Him.

- The world around us shows us that God exists.
- We can see proof of His existence in the creation of mankind and the way the world continues to work.
- Because God has made Himself known to mankind, when we deny Him, we are intentionally rejecting Him.
- We are making a conscious choice to say He does not exist or He is not who His Word says He is.
- Nebuchadnezzar knew the truth about God, yet he chose to continue worshiping himself instead of turning to God.

Our sin leads us to reject God.

- Because we turn away from God and exchange the truth about Him for a lie, our minds are darkened.
- We are led further and further into darkness and our sinful nature enslaves us.
- Our sin causes us to turn away from God and worship other things.
- It causes us to reject His glory and to seek our own instead.
- Nebuchadnezzar rejected God and sought his own glory instead.

How is our rejection of God intentional? (God has revealed Himself in creation and made Himself known.)

2. Romans 2:8: We exchange the truth about God for a lie and we knowingly choose to deny God.

BIG IDEA: IN OUR SIN WE ARE CAPTURED BY LESSER GLORIES.³**God's glory is the only glory we should seek.**

- We are created to glorify God.
- Our purpose is to bring Him glory so when we seek to glorify something else or someone else, we are seeking lesser glories.
- Anything other than God is a lesser glory.
- Even when we seek our own glory, we are seeking a lesser glory.
- Nebuchadnezzar sought a lesser glory when he sought to glorify himself.
- Even though Nebuchadnezzar was king of Babylon, he was still pursuing a lesser glory than the glory of God.



Divide the children into small groups and ask them to come up with a list of things that we worship that have lesser glory than God. Remind the children that we seek lesser glories because of our sin nature.

We reject God for false gods.

- Because we are created to worship God, we will worship something or someone if we are not worshipping God.
- When we worship something other than God, we are worshipping idols or false gods.
- We create false gods to worship because we reject God.
- Nebuchadnezzar rejected God and sought to worship the god of self.
- He made himself a god and sought his own glory instead of God's glory.

We seek the glory of lesser beings because of our sin.

- Our sinful hearts seek our own glory.
- We turn away from God and seek to please ourselves.
- From the very beginning man has been seeking his own glory instead of God's.
- Our sin leads us to focus on ourselves and to deny the existence of the one true God.
- We turn farther and farther away from Him and seek after false gods.

What causes us to seek lesser glories? (Our sin leads us to worship false gods and create idols.)

3. Hosea 4:12: We continually seek other gods and create idols to worship instead of worshipping God.

BIG IDEA: WE LIVE FOR OUR GLORY INSTEAD OF GOD'S GLORY.⁴**When we seek our own glory, we are enemies of God.**

- When we are living for ourselves only, we are separated from God.
- When we know God and we will live for Him. We will seek to please Him even though sometimes we may fail.
- When we are seeking to please ourselves, we are not truly submitted to the one true God.
- Nebuchadnezzar was an enemy of God because he was seeking his own glory instead of God's.



Give each child a paper heart. Ask the children to write down the ways they seek their own glory like Nebuchadnezzar did instead of seeking God's. Help the children see that our sin leads us to live for our glory instead of living for God's.

Seeking our own glory leads to death and destruction.

- When we set out to please ourselves, we can never truly be happy.
- Seeking our own glory is a denial and rejection of our Creator and our created purpose.
- Living for ourselves does not really bring us happiness. Instead, it leads us to spiritual death and eternal separation from God.
- Nebuchadnezzar lived for himself, yet he ended up humbled and living as an animal in the fields.
- We live unfulfilled lives when we seek our own glory instead of seeking God's.

We are blinded by our sin and seek to please ourselves over glorying God.

- Nebuchadnezzar was about pleasing himself. He wanted people to worship him and glorify him.
- Our sinful hearts lead us to glorify ourselves instead of seeking God's glory.
- We don't truly love God and live for Him when we are pursuing our own way and our own glory instead of His.
- We will live a life of death and destruction because of our sinful choices.

Whose glory does our sin cause us to seek? (It causes us to seek to glorify ourselves instead of God.)

4. Philippians 3:18-19: Our sinful choices lead us away from God and cause us to seek our own glory instead of His.

HOOKS



KNOW

Beauty or Beast

Set up two bowls in the room. Divide the children into two groups and give each group a ball. Ask the children to take turns seeing who can hit the bowl with the ball first. When one team hits the bowl first, that team gets to name a lesser glory that we seek instead of seeking God's glory. Help the children think of things that we choose to worship instead of God. Lead them in a discussion about how we choose lesser glories over God's glory.



DO

- God is the most glorious being.
- There is no one like Him, yet we choose to worship lesser glories.
- When we seek to worship created things instead of our Creator, we are seeking lesser glories.



FEEL

Living For His Glory

Play a game of musical beanbag. When the music stops, the child holding the beanbag gets to name a way we can live for God's glory rather than living for our own. When every child has a chance to name a way, lead them in a discussion about how God is glorious and we should seek to live for His glory.



WANT

- Our sin leads us to live for our glory.
- We exchange the truth about God for a lie and we seek to bring ourselves glory instead of glorifying God.
- We should seek to glorify God because that is why we are created.