

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.

A LESSER GLORY

Use cardboard and aluminum foil to create stars to hang in your house. Help your child cut out a star shape from cardboard and then over it in aluminum foil. Take the stars that you make outside one night and ask your child which stars are more glorious? The ones he made or the ones in the sky. Tell your child that when we seek a lesser glory it is like choosing the cardboard stars over the real stars.

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

Daniel 4.

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

King Nebuchadnezzar was a mighty king, but he was not a follower of God. He chose instead to worship himself. He wanted the people of his kingdom to worship him, too. Nebuchadnezzar created statues for people to worship and he wanted all the glory for himself. One day he had a dream about his future. None of his wise men could explain the dream. They suggested Nebuchadnezzar bring Daniel in to interpret his dream. Daniel heard Nebuchadnezzar's dream and was very concerned. God had revealed that Nebuchadnezzar was going to be humbled. He was going to lose the kingdom and he was going to live in the fields like a beast of the field. Nebuchadnezzar heard the dream, but he did not turn to God. Instead, he continued to worship himself and seek his own glory. God caused Nebuchadnezzar's dream to come true and Nebuchadnezzar was greatly humbled. As Nebuchadnezzar was living as a beast in the field, he turned to God and realized he had been wrong. We are like Nebuchadnezzar. We seek our own glory and we seek to worship ourselves. We choose lesser glories over the glory of God. Our sin leads us to deny God and worship ourselves.

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

- Why was Nebuchadnezzar humbled by God? (Nebuchadnezzar was worshipping himself and not seeking God's glory.)
- How are we like Nebuchadnezzar? (We seek our own glory instead of seeking God's glory. We worship ourselves instead of worshipping God.)

**KNOW**

As a family, memorize Romans 1:22-23. Practice saying all of the verses from Romans 1 that you have learned over the past weeks.

**DO**

Take your child for a walk through your neighborhood or your local park. Ask your child to point out the things that can be known about God in creation. Remind your child that God has revealed Himself in creation and no one has an excuse for rejecting Him.

**FEEL**

Help your child make a list of lesser glories that he or she seeks after instead of God. Remind your child that it is our sin that leads us to choose lesser glories over God. Share with your child a time when you pursued a lesser glory than God's glory and tell him or her how it turned out.

**WANT**

Spend some time this week praying and thanking God for revealing His glory to us.