

GOD IS OUR SUBSTITUTE

STORY: REDEMPTION

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS OUR SUBSTITUTE

Isaiah 53:4-6; John 1:1-3; 18; Romans 5:6-11; 8:1-4; Galatians 3:13-14; Ephesians 5:1-2;
1 Peter 2:22-24; 3:18; 1 John 2:1-2; 4:9-10

BIBLE VERSE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

"For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."

BIG IDEAS

- We cannot save ourselves.
- God sent His Son to be our sinless sacrifice.
- Jesus died in our place.
- Substitution is final and forever.

BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 22

Abraham was God's servant. God had promised to make a great nation through Abraham and He began by giving Abraham a son named Isaac. God tested Abraham's faith when He asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. Abraham obeyed God and set out to give Isaac as a sacrifice, but God stopped him before he killed Isaac. God provided a ram in a thicket nearby to take the place of Isaac as the sacrifice. Jesus is our substitute just as the ram was Isaac's substitute. Jesus took our place and paid our sin debt.

STORY: REDEMPTION

Thankfully, God does not just leave us in the broken world, but is repairing the brokenness through His Son. From the very beginning of time, God promised He would fix creation, and He kept His promise by sending Jesus to rescue us from our sin. Jesus came to live on the earth and willingly died on the cross so that sin's power over creation would be broken forever.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- By grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, we can be reconciled to God.



Every child should feel:

- Thankful that God would send His Son so that we could be reconciled to Him



Every child should:

- Pursue reconciliation in their relationships with friends and family because God has made a way for them to be reconciled back to Him



Every child should want:

- To honor God and live in restored relationship with Him

FAMILY DEVOTION: FINALLY FOREVER

When God provided a substitute for us, the substitution was final and forever. We cannot undo what God has done on our behalf. God provided a ram in place of Isaac and He provided His Son in place of man.

BIBLE VERSE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

“For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”

Christ knew no sin.

- Jesus was born as a baby and took on flesh to live on the earth.
- Jesus was fully God and fully man.
- He came to the earth to live as a man and He did so perfectly.
- He never sinned, even as a child.
- He always obeyed God and His earthly parents.
- He obeyed His heavenly Father perfectly.
- Jesus was completely holy even as a man living on earth.
- There was no spot or blemish in Jesus; He owed no sin debt.

Jesus took on the sin of all of mankind.

- Jesus came to earth to be our substitute.
- He took our place and paid our sin debt so we wouldn't have to.
- He became like us so that He could pay our sin debt.
- He became a man so He could live perfectly and become our perfect sacrifice.
- We could not save ourselves because no person is without sin, except for Jesus.
- Only Jesus' death could pay our sin debt.
- He took our place and died to pay for a sin debt that He didn't owe.
- Jesus stood in our place and took on our sin.
- When God looked at Jesus on the cross, He saw the sin of all of mankind.
- Because Jesus was perfect and blameless, God accepted Jesus' death as payment for the sin of the world.
- Our sins are paid for through Jesus's death in our place.
- He was our substitute on the cross.

BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 22

Abraham and Isaac

Opening Illustration:

Bring in a bag of pretzel sticks, Twizzlers, or red yarn if you don't want to use candy, and blank pieces of white paper. Give each child a piece of paper, a handful of pretzel sticks and a piece of yarn or a string of Twizzler. Ask the children to use all but two of their pretzel sticks to make a bundle of "sticks". Use the red yarn or Twizzler to tie the bundle of "sticks" together. Tell the children that the bundle of sticks is what is used to build an altar to offer a sacrifice to God. Next, ask the children to use the remaining two pretzel sticks to create a cross on their white paper. Tape or glue the pretzels to the paper. Tell the children that Jesus came to earth to be our substitute. He died on the cross in our place. Allow the children to eat the bundle of "sticks" to show that the altar isn't needed because Jesus took our place.

BIG IDEA: WE CANNOT SAVE OURSELVES.

What does it mean to save something? (It means to set it aside or keep it back.)

No person is without sin.

- We are all born with a sinful heart.
- We all keep sinning.
- We do the opposite of God's Word. We don't obey His commands.
- No person is blameless before God.
- We all are in need of salvation, yet none of us can save ourselves.
- There is no man or woman who lives without sinning.
- When God asked Abraham to offer Isaac as a sacrifice, God was painting a picture of what He was going to do when He sent His Son, Jesus.



Have the children read Romans 5:12. Talk with them about how sin entered the heart of every person through Adam and this means no one is without sin. Because no one is without sin, no one can save himself or herself.

God requires a perfect sacrifice to pay our sin debt.¹

- God, the Creator of all things, required the Israelites to make sacrifices to atone for their sins before Jesus came.
- These sacrifices would satisfy the debt they owed each year.
- The animals that were sacrificed had to be perfect and without blemish or spot.
- The sacrifice to pay the sin debt of the world once and for all had to be perfect and without blemish or spot.
- No person on earth fit this requirement because all people are sinful.
- None of us can save ourselves because none of us are perfect.
- We have all sinned in some way; we are all flawed and broken people.
- Only a perfect man can save all of mankind and that was Jesus.

What kind of sacrifice does God require for the sin of mankind? (He requires a perfect sacrifice.)

1. Psalm 49:7: No one has the power to redeem themselves or someone else. God required a perfect sacrifice and only Jesus was perfect.

BIG IDEA: GOD SENT HIS SON TO BE OUR SINLESS SACRIFICE.²

What is a sacrifice? (A sacrifice is when we give up something that is very important to us.)

God made a way for man to be saved.

- Because every person is sinful and no person is able to pay their own sin debt, God made a way.
- God is sovereign, or all-powerful over everything and He is all-knowing.
- He knew that man would sin and He knew that man would need a substitute.
- God made a way for mankind to be saved by sacrificing His Son for us.
- Abraham obeyed God when he took Isaac to the mountain to sacrifice him.
- Abraham could not save Isaac, but God could.



Give the children a blank card and envelope. Have the children write a letter to someone about God's substitution for us. Help the children include in their letters that Jesus took our place. God provided a sacrifice for us. Allow the children to decorate their letters and envelopes.

God provided a substitute for every person.

- God knew every person would be sinful.
- He knew we would all need a substitute.
- God sent His Son, Jesus to the earth so He could take our place and pay our sin debt.
- God provided a ram in the thicket to take Isaac's place.
- God knew Jesus would die on the cross when He sent Jesus to the earth.
- Jesus became our substitute just like the ram became the substitute for Isaac.
- Jesus took our place.

How did God make a way for every person to be saved? (He sent His Son, Jesus to pay our sin debt.)

2. 1 John 4:9: God sent Jesus while we were still sinners because no person is able to pay his or her own sin debt. We all need Jesus to be our substitute.

BIG IDEA: JESUS DIED IN OUR PLACE.**We all needed someone to take our place.**

- Every person is sinful.
- No one is able to pay his or her own sin debt.
- We are all in need of someone to save us from our sin.
- Our sin holds us captive and separates us from God.
- Our sinful hearts lead us to continue sinning against God, even when we don't want to.



Give each child a piece of paper and markers. Ask the children to draw a heart on their paper and then to fill in the heart with some of their sinful behaviors. Help the children think of some sinful behaviors that we are all guilty of. Next, give each child a larger heart that is white and without mark. Tell the children that the larger heart represents Jesus and how He took our place on the cross.

God made a way for us to be set free from our sin.³

- God did not leave us in our sin.
- Just like God didn't leave Abraham to carry out the sacrifice of Isaac, God didn't leave us in our sin.
- God made a way for us to be forgiven.
- He gave His Son, Jesus to die in our place.
- God provided a ram to take Isaac's place when Abraham showed his willingness to obey God.
- Jesus died on the cross for our sin debt.
- He died in our place.
- We can live forever in Heaven when we repent, or turn away from our sin, and believe in Jesus.
- When we turn away from our sin and follow Him, we have saving faith.
- Jesus died to give us this chance to place our faith in Him and be saved from our sin debt.
- He died in our place so we would not have to die for our sins.

How did God make a way for our sin debt to be paid? (He sent His Son to pay our sin debt.)

What did Jesus do for us so we would not have to pay our sin debt? (He died on the cross in our place.)

3. Romans 4:25: Jesus took our place and took on our sin so we would not have to die for our sins. He died in our place.

BIG IDEA: SUBSTITUTION IS FINAL AND FOREVER.

What is something that is forever? (Examples might be the sky seems to last forever, time seems forever at this age.)

What does forever mean? (It means that it never ends. It's always and never-ending.)

Jesus' death paid our sin debt completely.

- Our sin debt was paid in full when Jesus died on the cross.
- God only required one perfect sacrifice for the sin of every person.
- We do not need to continue sacrificing because God provided the perfect and complete sacrifice for our sins.
- Jesus' death paid our sin debt completely.
- Jesus' death was enough to satisfy God.
- His death was enough to pay for the sin of every person who ever lived and would ever live.



Lead the children to count to the highest number that they can. Talk with the children about how numbers are considered infinite because they never end. Remind the children that Jesus' substitution for us is final and forever.

God sees Jesus' righteousness now when He looks at His followers.⁴

- When we have saving faith, God doesn't see our sin anymore.
- God sees Jesus' righteousness when He looks at those who have saving faith.
- Jesus completely took our place and when we have saving faith, God sees Jesus' righteousness instead of our sinfulness.
- God doesn't require a new sacrifice every time we sin; He requires repentance and He is faithful to forgive when we ask.
- Jesus' death was enough.
- We don't need another substitute because Jesus fully paid the sin debt of every person.
- We cannot undo Jesus' substitution for us.
- The work He did on the cross is final and forever.

How long does Jesus' sacrifice for us last? (It lasts forever.)

Can Jesus' substitution for us be undone? (No, it is final and complete.)

4. Romans 3:22: God sees the righteousness of Christ when He looks at believers. He applies Christ's righteousness to us.

HOOKS

**For Forever and Ever**

Divide the children into groups. Give each group a piece of poster board and markers. Set a timer. Ask the children to take turns drawing pictures of as many things they can think of that last do not last forever before the timer goes off. Once the timer goes off, ask the groups to share their pictures. Talk with the children about how many things don't last forever. Lead the children in a discussion about how Jesus' selfless sacrifice of Himself on our behalf is forever.



- When Jesus took our place on the cross, His payment of our sin debt was final and forever.
- His substitution for us lasts forever and ever.
- Once we repent and believe in Him, we cannot lose our salvation. We are His forever.

**Final Substitution**

Divide the children into small groups. Set a timer. Give each group Lego blocks and ask them to build an altar before the timer goes off. Lead the children to discuss how Abraham and Isaac built an altar, but God provided a substitute.



- Even though God told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, God substituted a ram in place of Isaac.
- We all owe a sin debt to God for our sinfulness, yet God sent Jesus to be our substitute.
- Jesus' substitution in our place is final and forever.