

# GOD PROVIDES RECONCILIATION

## STORY: REDEMPTION

### BIG TRUTH: GOD PROVIDES RECONCILIATION

2 Corinthians 5:18-19; Romans 5:10-11; Colossians 1:16-20

### BIBLE VERSE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:18

*"All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation"*

### BIG IDEAS

- Our sin destroys our relationship with God.
- Sin ultimately separates us from God.
- We need reconciliation.
- The only way we can be reconciled to God is through Jesus.

### BIBLE STORY: LUKE 17:11-17

On His way to Jerusalem, Jesus encountered ten lepers. They cried out to Him and He healed them. Only one leper, a Samaritan, turned back and praised Jesus for healing him. The Samaritan expressed his faith in Jesus and was healed from his sin, reconciled to God again through Jesus.

### 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: THE GREAT RECONCILIATION

Our sin separates us from God. There is no way for us to heal ourselves of our sinfulness. We are all in need of saving and God sent Jesus to save us. It is only through Jesus that we can be reconciled to God.

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:18**

*“All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation”*

**Through Jesus, God made a way for us to know Him.**

- Sin separates us from God.
- Because man is sinful, man does not have harmony with God.
- Instead, our sin leads us away from God and toward death.
- God didn't leave us on this path to destruction.
- He made a way by sending Jesus to pay our sin debt for us to be reconciled to Him.
- When we believe in the work of Jesus on the cross, we can know God because Jesus is the way to know God.

**Because of Jesus, God does not count our sin against us.**

- Before Jesus came to the earth and died on the cross, we were under the wrath of God.
- God's wrath was stored up for us and we deserved to experience His wrath in full.
- Jesus came to the earth and took our place on the cross.
- He took on our sin and God poured His full wrath out on Jesus.
- Jesus paid our sin debt and now God does not count our sin against us when we repent and believe.

**God makes us part of His ministry of reconciliation.**

- We are not merely saved to be saved from death.
- We become part of God's family and His plan to share the truth of Jesus with the world.
- God gives us the ministry of reconciliation to share with others how God has reconciled us to Himself.
- We have a part in God's great plan of salvation for the world.
- We have the opportunity to tell others how God sent Jesus and through Jesus we can know God personally.

**BIBLE STORY: LUKE 17:11-17**

*Jesus Heals The Ten Lepers*

**Opening Illustration:**

Use craft sticks or small wooden dowels to create a scepter. Cut a crown out of cardstock and connect the ends and then attach it to the top of the scepter. Before attaching it, allow the children to decorate their crowns. Next, attach streamers to the scepter. Talk with the children about how God is the ruler of everything. He is fixing our broken creation, showing us grace and mercy and rescuing us through Jesus.

**BIG IDEA: OUR SIN DESTROYS OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.<sup>1</sup>****Our sin alienates us from God.**

- We are created to be in a relationship with God.
- We are created to live for Him and to bring Him glory with our lives.
- Our sin broke our relationship with God.
- Because of our sin, we are separated from God.
- We do not have the relationship with Him that we are supposed to have.
- We are alienated from Him and that involves being in a relationship with Him.

**Our sin makes us enemies of God.**

- Not only are we alienated from God, but we are His enemies.
- We are not just living a life separate from Him, but we are warring against Him.
- When we give in to our sinful desires, we are committing acts and behaviors that are opposite of what God desires for us.
- Because of our rebellion, our hearts are set against God and we live as enemies of Him.



Divide the children into pairs and then use a piece of rope or string to tie one hand from each child to one another. Give the pairs a piece of paper and ask the children to use the hands that are connected to write their own names at the same time. Talk with the children about how it's hard to work together when they are trying to write their own names. Remind them that our sin keeps us from having a relationship with God because we are seeking our own way instead of seeking God's way.

**Because we are alienated and enemies, we have no relationship with God.**

- Our separation from God keeps us from having a relationship with Him.
- We cannot know Him when we are at odds with Him.
- When we are seeking to fulfill our sinful desires, we are moving away from God and not toward Him.
- Our sinful actions keep us from knowing God and building a relationship with Him.

*What destroys our relationship with God? (Our alienation and warring against God keeps us from having a relationship with Him.)*

1. Colossians 1:21: *Our sin alienates us from God, but Christ reconciles us to Him.*

**BIG IDEA: SIN ULTIMATELY SEPARATES US FROM GOD.<sup>2</sup>****Our sin has caused a great chasm to form between God and man.**

- Because our sin is so great and it is rooted in our rejection and rebellion against God, a great divide exists between God and us.
- Our sin is not small thing. It is a willful and knowledgeable rejection of God and His commands.
- Because we have so openly denied God's way, we are greatly separated from Him.
- We cannot have a relationship with someone that we consistently reject and rebel against.
- This chasm is too great for us to cross ourselves.



Give the children narrow strips of paper. Give each child a different color of paper. Ask the children to write down a sin that they are guilty of on their strip of paper. Next, make a paper chain, connecting the strips of paper together using tape or a stapler. Remind the children that our sin enslaves us and keeps us from having a right relationship with God. It separates us from God.

**God hides His face from sin.**

- God is not overpowered by or controlled by sin, but He makes a choice to not look on our sin.
- He is so holy and righteous that He chooses to not look on our sin.
- Just as He sent Adam and Eve out of the Garden and away from His presence, He does not associate with our sin.
- This sin separates us all the more from God because we are living separately from Him, heading down the path of death and destruction.

**Our sin is a barrier to a relationship with God.**

- Without seeing our sinfulness and repenting of it, we cannot begin to have a relationship with God.
- Our sin blinds us to the truth about God and leads us away from God.
- Our sin causes us to focus on ourselves and not on glorifying God.
- Because of our sin, we cannot have a right relationship with God.

*Why does our sin separate us from God? (God chooses not to look on our sin and our sin leads us away from God. Our sin is a willful rejection of God and this causes us to be separated from Him.)*

2. Isaiah 59:2: We are separated from God by our sin. We cannot have a right relationship with Him while we are in our sin.

**BIG IDEA: WE NEED RECONCILIATION.<sup>3</sup>****Our seemingly good works fall short of saving us.**

- We are all born with a sin nature and hearts that are sinful.
- Because we are sinful, we seek to please ourselves and not God.
- Even when we do things that seem to be good, they are tainted by our sinful heart.
- Our motives are not pure while we are in our sin. Even when it seems we are doing something good, we are seeking our own glory and not God's.
- These good works can't save us. We are all in need of a salvation that we cannot provide for ourselves.



Write the word "reconciled" on the board. Ask the children to write their own definition of the word. Talk with them about what it means to be reconciled and then remind them that we all need to be reconciled to God.

**No one is without sin.**

- When Adam and Eve sinned, sin entered their hearts. Their natures changed from sinless to sinful.
- Because they were the first people, every person born after them is born with a sin nature that is inherited.
- We choose to sin against God even when we know the truth. We suppress the truth and seek our own way instead.
- Every person is born with a sin nature and chooses to sin.
- No one can stand before God without sin.
- We are all in need of the salvation that God provides through Jesus.

**We all need to be reconciled to God.**

- Because we are all sinful, we all are separated from God.
- Our separation cannot be fixed by anything that we do ourselves.
- In order for us to have a relationship with God, we need to be saved from our sin debt.
- God provided a way for our sin debt to be paid in full when He sent Jesus to die in our place.
- Jesus took our place and offers us a way to be reconciled to God.
- We all need this reconciliation in order to have a relationship with God.

*Why do we need reconciliation? (We have all sinned and cannot save ourselves, so we need to be reconciled to God.)*

3. Romans 3:23: All have sinned against God and fall short of His glory.

## BIG IDEA: THE ONLY WAY WE CAN BE RECONCILED TO GOD IS THROUGH JESUS.<sup>4</sup>

### Salvation comes only through Jesus.

- We are all sinners and we all owe a sin debt to God.
- Our sin debt is great and we are unable to pay it.
- Because we are all sinful, there is no person who can pay our sin debt.
- The only way for us to be saved is through the salvation that God offers to the world.
- God sent His Son, Jesus to pay our sin debt and this is the salvation He offers the world.
- Salvation from our sin only comes through belief in Jesus.



Set a timer and ask the children to pair up and find out as much about the person who is their partner as they can before the timer goes off. Allow the children to switch partners several times, setting the timer each time. Allow the children to share some of the information they learn about their different partners. Remind the children that the only way to know God and to be saved is through Jesus.

### God has ordained Christ to be the way to Him.

- Though the world may say that there are many ways to God, God's Word is clear that there is only one way to know God.
- The only way to know God and to be with Him forever is through His Son, Jesus.
- God is the ruler of the world and He has determined that the way to know Him is through Jesus.
- Because Jesus is God Himself, the only way to know God is through God.

### We cannot know God apart from Jesus.

- God is not separate from Jesus.
- God and Jesus are one being.
- We cannot have a relationship with God without having a relationship with Jesus.
- We cannot be reconciled to God without knowing Jesus and following Him.
- Our belief in God cannot be separate from our belief in Jesus.

*What is the only way to be saved and to know God? (The only way to be saved and to know God is through Jesus.)*

4. Acts 4:12: Salvation only comes through belief in the work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

## HOOKS

**To Know Or Not To Know**

Write the words “God” and “Jesus” on the board. Ask the children to list the characteristics of God and Jesus. Show the children that Jesus and God are the same. Lead the children in a discussion about how salvation only comes through knowing Jesus and God.



- God has declared that the only way to know Him is to know the Son.
- Because Jesus is God, to know Jesus is to know God.
- We cannot know God without knowing Jesus and we won't know Jesus without knowing God.

**Reconciliation Relay**

Give the children small pieces of paper and ask them to write down different sins that we each struggle with. Divide the children into two groups. Place the pieces of paper with sins written on them on one side of the room. Set a timer and have the groups race one another to see who can collect the most pieces of paper. Once they are all collected, lead the children in a discussion about how our sin separates us from God, but Jesus reconciles us to God.



- Our sin destroys our relationship with God.
- Because we are sinful, we do not have a relationship with God.
- God sent Jesus to pay our sin price and to reconcile us to Himself.
- When we repent and believe in Jesus, we are reconciled to God.