

GOD RESTORES OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH HIM

STORY: REDEMPTION

BIG TRUTH: GOD RESTORES OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH HIM

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 11:19-20; 36:22-28; Romans 5:1-2; 6:17-18; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Ephesians 2:13-19; Colossians 1:21-23

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

- Our sin creates a chasm of separation between God and us.
- He is holy, holy, holy, and we are not.
- In His love and mercy, God provides a means to cleanse us from our sin.
- We can be reconciled to God because Jesus took our separation.

BIBLE STORY: ISAIAH 6:1-8

Isaiah's vision of God is one of God's holiness. Isaiah saw God seated upon a throne. He also saw the seraphim praising God, crying 'holy, holy, holy'. God is holy and mighty. He is worthy of all praise. We are not holy. We are sinful.

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 HOLY AND UNHOLY

God is perfect and holy. He alone is worthy of all praise. He sent Jesus to pay our sin debt and therefore, we are reconciled to Him. We are not holy like God and we are unable to save ourselves.

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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."

It is for our sin that God sent Jesus.

- Because of our sin nature, God sent Jesus to the earth to take on flesh.
- He sent Jesus to the earth because of our sin debt.
- We owed a debt we could not pay.
- We needed to be rescued from our sin.
- Jesus came for our sake so that we could be set free from our sin debt.

Jesus was innocent when He died on the cross.

- Jesus lived the perfect life as a man on the earth.
- He never sinned or rebelled against God.
- He had committed no wrong when He was tried and found guilty.
- When He went to the cross, He was innocent.
- He took on our sin on the cross and died the death we deserve to die.
- He paid the price for our sin debt.

We receive Christ's righteousness when we repent and believe.

- Because Jesus' death on the cross fulfilled the requirement for our sin debt, His righteousness is credited to us.
- When He died on the cross, His death paid our sin debt in full.
- We no longer owe the debt when we repent and believe in Jesus as our Savior.
- When we repent and believe in Jesus, God no longer sees us as sinful.
- Instead, God sees the righteousness of Christ. We are made righteous because we receive His righteousness.

BIBLE STORY: ISAIAH 6:1-8

Isaiah's Vision of The Lamb

Opening Illustration:

Give each child a piece of art paper and paint. On the board write the words "God is..." Talk with the children about the different things that God is. He is Savior. He is Father. He is Merciful. He is Gracious. He is our Rescuer. Ask the children to draw pictures with their paint of one of the things that God is. Tape the pictures together when they are dry to make a paper quilt. Place the quilt on the wall under the phrase "God is..." written on a long piece of paper.

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BIG IDEA: OUR SIN CREATES A CHASM OF SEPARATION BETWEEN GOD AND US.¹

In our sin, we are separated from God.

- Because God is holy and we are sinful, we are separated from Him.
- Our sin keeps us from having a right relationship with Him because He chooses not to look on sin.
- We are blinded by our sinful hearts and we do not even seek to know God.
- Instead, we seek our own sinful ways and move away from God.
- The chasm that our sin creates is too great for us to overcome ourselves.
- We cannot have a right relationship with God because we continue to sin and rebel against Him.



Help the children come up with a list of things that don't mix together, such as oil and water, green beans and Skittles, etc. Talk with the children about how we keep certain things separate from other things. Remind the children that we are separated from God because of our sin.

While in our sin, we are not part of God's family.

- We are orphans while we are still sinners.
- When Adam and Eve sinned against God, they were cut off from Him.
- We are cut off from Him, too, because of our sin.
- Our sin keeps us blinded to God's truth and leads us away from God.
- We are followers of the ruler of this world and not followers of God.
- Not being a part of God's family contributes to the chasm that our sin makes between God and us.

We are strangers to God in our sin.

- We are enemies of God while we are sinners.
- Because our sin is rebellion against Him and a rejection of Him, we are not His friends.
- We are strangers because we are serving the ruler of darkness and not God.
- We are not in a relationship with God while we are sinners.
- We are living lives that please ourselves and not Him.

What creates a great chasm between God and us? (Our sin creates a separation between God and us and keeps us from having a relationship with Him.)

1. Ephesians 2:12: While in our sin, we are strangers and outcasts. We are not in a right relationship with God.

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BIG IDEA: HE IS HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, AND WE ARE NOT.²

God is the holiest of holies.

- God is the highest being of all beings.
- He is unlike any other being. He is more powerful, more knowledgeable, more understanding and wiser than any other being.
- God is perfect in every way. He does no wrong.
- He is holy and pure. There is no sin in Him.
- No one is as holy as God is.



Lead the children in a discussion about the holiness of God. Read Isaiah's vision to the children and talk about the ways God shows His glory and holiness to us through His creation. Remind the children that we are not holy.

His glory fills all the earth.

- There is nothing else as glorious as God.
- His glory is so great and mighty that it fills the whole earth.
- In Isaiah's vision, he saw God's glory as it filled all the earth.
- God is magnificent and mighty. His holiness is overwhelming and amazing.

Man is not holy.

- We are the opposite of God. We are not holy.
- God is righteous and holy and we are sinful and rebellious.
- Man is wicked and sinful when compared to God.
- Man rebels against God and rejects God.
- We do not seek God, nor do we seek to bring God glory.

Who is the holiest of holies? (God is the holiest of holies.)

2. Isaiah 6:3: God is the holiest of holies. No one is as holy as God.

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BIG IDEA: IN HIS LOVE AND MERCY, GOD PROVIDES A MEANS TO CLEANSE US FROM OUR SIN.³

God's loving kindness provides salvation to man.

- God loves us and He cares for us.
- It is His love that caused Him to send His only Son to pay our sin debt.
- Because He paid our sin debt, we can be united with God.
- God's love and kindness made a way for man to be saved from his sin.
- Without God's love and kindness, man would be destined for eternal spiritual death.



Have the children write their own definitions of the words "loving" and "mercy". Allow the children to share their definitions and then help them come up with actions that are merciful and loving. Remind the children that it is God's mercy and love that offers us salvation

God's mercy makes a way for us to be righteous.

- Not only do we have salvation from our sins, but we are also seen as righteous in the eyes of God.
- Because God shows us mercy, He doesn't give us what we deserve.
- Instead of giving us eternal spiritual death, He gives us eternal life with Him.
- His mercy is a gift of spiritual life to all those who believe.
- God's mercy allows us to be seen as righteous in His eyes.

We do not deserve God's mercy and love.

- There is nothing we can do to deserve God's mercy and love.
- We cannot do enough good things to earn God's mercy.
- God's love is perfect and it is not conditional, so we cannot do enough good things to earn His love.
- God loves us just because He chooses to love us.
- God shows us mercy just because He chooses to show us mercy.

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

3. Titus 3:4-5: We are not saved because of our works. We are saved because of God's love and mercy.

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BIG IDEA: WE CAN BE RECONCILED TO GOD BECAUSE JESUS TOOK OUR SEPARATION.⁴

We are justified through our faith in Jesus.

- Before Jesus paid our sin debt on the cross, we had no way of being justified before God.
- We were enemies of God and outcasts.
- Because of Jesus' death on the cross, we have the chance to stand justified before God.
- When we repent and believe in Jesus, we are justified through Jesus' actions. His sacrifice justifies us.
- Nothing we do justifies us before God.



Have the children define the words "peace" and "reconcile". Ask the children to give examples of things that are peaceful and things that are reconciled. Talk with the children about how Jesus' death gives us peace with God and reconciles us to Him.

Jesus' willingness to take on our sin removes our separation.

- Because Jesus took on our sin, we are no longer held responsible for it.
- Jesus' death on our behalf paid our sin debt and makes us clean before God.
- His death cleanses us and gives us right standing before God.
- Because Jesus takes our place, we are no longer separated from God when we repent and believe in Him.

We have peace with God because of Jesus' death on the cross.

- While we are sinners, we are at war with God.
- We rebel against Him and reject Him as the true Lord.
- Our hearts are antagonistic towards Him.
- After Jesus' death on the cross, our sin was atoned for.
- We no longer have to be at war with God when we have faith in Jesus.
- We can have peace with God that is eternal and everlasting when we repent and believe in Jesus.

How are we reconciled to God? (When we have faith in Jesus, we are no longer separated from Him. We have peace with God.)

4. Romans 5:1: Our faith in Jesus brings us peace with God that is eternal.

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HOOKS



A Vision of Holiness

Give the children a blank piece of paper and have them create a comic strip highlighting Isaiah's vision. Help the children make a list of the important things included in the vision. Allow the children to share their comic strips. Lead them in a discussion about how God is holy and we are not.



- God is the holiest of holies.
- No one is as holy as God is because He is perfect in every way.
- We are not holy.
- We sin and rebel against God. We reject Him and His Word.



The Great Chasm

Divide the children into small groups and ask the children to write their own definition of chasm. Next, give each group a blank piece of paper and pencils. Ask the groups to draw a picture of what a chasm may look like. Lead them in a discussion about how our sin creates a great chasm between God and us.



- We are separated from God by our sin.
- Our sin creates a great space, or chasm between God and us.
- It is so great that we could never overcome it.
- Only through Jesus' death could the chasm be overcome and we be reconciled to God.