

GOD RESTORES OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

STORY: REDEMPTION

BIG TRUTH: GOD RESTORES OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

Romans 12:9-13; Ephesians 4:1-3; 4:25-29; Colossians 3:8-11

BIBLE VERSE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:16

"From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard Him thus no longer."

BIG IDEAS

- Our sin distorts and destroys our relationships with others.
- Through Jesus, we can be reconciled to one another.
- The gospel gives us new eyes and a new heart.
- We only rightly relate to others through Jesus.

BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 37, 42-44

Joseph suffered greatly by the hands of his brothers. He faced many trials after he was sold into slavery by his brothers, yet when he was faced with the choice of retaliating against them or forgiving them, he chose to forgive them. The gospel enables us to have right relationships with others.

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: A RIGHT RECONCILIATION

Joseph was beaten and sold into slavery by his brothers. He was taken to Egypt, facing several trials before he was elevated to a high position. When he was faced with forgiving his brothers or not, he chose to forgive them because his heart sought to please God. Jesus enables us to have right relationships with others.

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BIBLE VERSE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:16

"From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard Him thus no longer."

We become new people through saving faith in Christ.

- Our sin separates us from God. It makes us enemies of God and it severs our relationship with Him.
- Our hearts are sinful and dark before we know Christ.
- When we repent of our sin and believe in Jesus, we are given a new nature.
- God no longer sees us as sinful. Instead, He sees us through the righteousness of Christ.
- We are new people in His eyes. Our hearts are no longer enslaved to our sin nature.
- We have God's Spirit to help us resist the temptation to sin.

Our saving faith helps us see others in grace and mercy.

- It is God's grace and mercy that give us new life through Christ.
- It is because of God's mercy and grace that Christ came to the earth to be our penalty bearer.
- When we have saving faith and become new creatures in Christ, we, too, can show others grace and mercy.
- We see them through different eyes because we have God's Spirit inside of us guiding us and teaching us.
- We no longer view others in the same sinful way because we have received God's grace and mercy.

Our saving faith makes our relationships better.

- When we have saving faith, we are reconciled to God and have access to Him through Christ.
- We have a new relationship with God.
- We can also have better relationships with others.
- Because we are no longer enslaved to sin, we can choose to love others as Christ loves us.
- We can respond to others with love and mercy because we know we have been loved and shown great mercy.
- We can forgive because we have been forgiven.

BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 37, 42-44

Joseph And His Brothers

Opening Illustration:

Gather together clear contact paper, different colored tissue paper (torn and balled up), and black construction paper. Draw a cross on the construction paper and then cut the inside of the cross out leaving a 1" edge. Next place the contact paper over the cross and place it sticky side up. Give the children different colored tissue paper to place on the contact paper. Once they finish filling in the contact paper with tissue paper, place another piece of contact paper on the back of the cross. Remind the children that the cross shows us that God rescues us from our sin and brokenness. He fixes our brokenness by sending Jesus to pay our sin debt.

GOD RESTORES OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

BIG IDEA: OUR SIN DISTORTS AND DESTROYS OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS.¹

The works of the flesh are sinful.

- We are born with a sin nature that leads us to sin every day.
- Our flesh nature, or sin nature is jealous, angry, rebellious, and rejects God's commands.
- Our flesh chooses to please itself. It does not seek to bring God glory.
- It chooses to follow the prince of this world into even greater darkness.
- The works of our flesh separate us from God and hinder our relationships with others.



Play a game of musical beanbag. The person holding the beanbag when the music stops should name one way our flesh hurts our relationships. Remind the children that our sin nature distorts our view of others and hurts our relationships.

Our sin nature causes us to live sinfully with others.

- When we are living according to our sin nature, we do not treat others as we should.
- We lie to others. We deceive them. We are unkind and unloving.
- We put ourselves before them and seek to please ourselves at any cost.
- Our sin nature leads us to hurt others out of our selfishness.
- We do not put others first or consider how we can glorify God through our interactions with others.

Our relationships are distorted because of our sin nature.

- We experience bickering and strife with others because of our sin nature.
- We are jealous of others and have disagreements because our view is distorted.
- We see through a sinful perspective and we think badly of others when we shouldn't.
- We make choices based upon our distorted view and this leads us to hinder our relationships with others.

How does our flesh hurt our relationships with others? (It distorts our perspective and causes us to put ourselves above others.)

1. Colossians 3:6-9: Our flesh leads us to lie to others and distorts our relationships.

GOD RESTORES OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

BIG IDEA: THROUGH JESUS, WE CAN BE RECONCILED TO ONE ANOTHER.²

Saving faith produces a right love for God.

- When we repent of our sin, we turn away from it.
- We say with our actions that we do not want to follow our old way of living.
- When we have saving faith, we are no longer separated from God.
- We are reconciled to Him and we receive His Spirit, which helps us become more like Christ.
- Because we have God's Spirit, we can love God as we should.
- We have a true love for God that causes us to love others.



Give the children a blank piece of paper and small pieces of different colored paper. Ask the children to create the outline of a coat using the pieces of paper you gave them and glue. Talk with them about how a relationship with Jesus helps us have right relationships with others.

Saving faith compels us to love others rightly.

- Just like our saving faith helps us love God rightly, our saving faith helps us love others as we should.
- When we love God and have a relationship with Him, His Spirit guides us to live on this earth as we should.
- Because His Spirit is guiding us, we can love others just as God commands us to.
- We can put others before ourselves and show them grace and mercy.

Saving faith helps us put to death our sin nature.

- When we repent of our sin and believe in Jesus, we receive the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit lives inside of us. He is our teacher, guide, reminder, and comforter.
- Because we have Him, we can resist the temptation to sin.
- Because we have the Holy Spirit, we can put to death the works of our flesh and put on the fruit of the Spirit.

How does Jesus help us be reconciled to others? (His Spirit guides us to love others as God commands us to love them.)

2. Colossians 3:14: When we know Christ, we can put to death the old self and put on the new self which brings God glory.

GOD RESTORES OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

BIG IDEA: THE GOSPEL GIVES US NEW EYES AND A NEW HEART.³

Saving faith changes our perspective on ourselves.

- When we come to know Christ through saving faith, our view of ourselves changes.
- We no longer think only of ourselves because we have God's Spirit guiding us.
- We do not always put ourselves before others or think more highly of ourselves.
- We view ourselves as forgiven and redeemed because we have God's Spirit reminding us of all that Christ has done for us.



Divide the children into pairs and ask each pair to come up with a list of ways to love their fellow classmates. Allow the pairs to share their lists and then remind them that knowing Jesus helps us see people rightly and helps us love people as we should.

Saving faith changes our perspective of others.

- When we have saving faith, we no longer have to feel threatened by others.
- We can have a right view of others and see them as God sees them—valuable and created in His image.
- Our saving faith helps us see others as fellow humans and not as enemies.
- Our view changes because our hearts change.
- Jesus transforms us from sinful to righteous.

Saving faith allows us to love with a renewed heart.

- While we are still sinners, it's difficult or impossible for us to truly love others as we should.
- Everything that we do or feel is tainted by our sinfulness before we have saving faith.
- When we have saving faith, our hearts are made new. We are no longer enslaved to our sinful selves and we are able to love like God commands us to.
- Because we are made new, we can love others as we should.
- Our relationships are deeper and better because we know Christ.

How does having new eyes and a new heart help our relationships? (Having a new perspective and a new heart helps us love others as we should.)

3. Colossians 3:2: When we have saving faith, we set our minds on the things of Christ and not on the things of this world.

GOD RESTORES OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

BIG IDEA: WE ONLY RIGHTLY RELATE TO OTHERS THROUGH JESUS.⁴

A relationship with Jesus helps us relate to others.

- When we know Jesus and have a relationship with Him, we will become more like Him.
- We will learn each day how to live like Christ. God's Spirit living inside of us will guide us and teach us how to be like Christ.
- Because we become more like Christ, we can truly know the right way to relate to other people.
- We will see people as we should. We will value people as we should.
- Knowing Christ will teach us how to love others as He does.



Ask the children to look up 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. Help the children make a list of what Godly love looks like. Talk with them about how knowing Jesus helps us relate to people rightly and to love them as we should.

With the Holy Spirit we can rightly love others.

- In our flesh, we cannot rightly love other people.
- We are blinded by our flesh, or sin nature, so we do not have the ability to truly love others as we should.
- When we have saving faith and receive the Holy Spirit, we receive the power to love others as God commands us to love them.
- Not only can we love others, we can understand others and treat them as God would have us treat them.
- Joseph was able to forgive his brothers and be reconciled to them because he followed God and obeyed God.

Saving faith helps us love the world as God does.

- God loves the world. He loves the world so much that He sent His only Son to die for the world.
- When we are living according to our sin nature, we do not love the world as we should. We love it for its sinfulness and not as God wants us to love it.
- When we have saving faith, we can love the world and seek to share the good news of the Gospel with people.

How does Jesus help us relate to others rightly? (He guides us and teaches us how to see others and how to love others.)

4. Hebrews 10:24: We should stir one another up to do good works. When we know Christ, we will relate to others as we should.

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HOOKS



Many Colors

Use a large piece of paper to draw the outline of one of the children. Next, give the children markers and ask them to draw Joseph's colorful coat on the outline. Talk with the children about how Joseph was able to forgive his brothers because of God. Lead them in a discussion about how we can love others as we should when we know Christ.



- God restores our relationships when we have saving faith in Jesus.
- Before we know Jesus, we live for ourselves and cannot truly love others as we should.
- When we have saving faith in Jesus, we receive the Holy Spirit who guides us and teaches us how to love others.



A Distorted View

Bring in an old pair of sunglasses and some plastic wrap. Allow each child to take a turn wearing the sunglasses. Next, wrap the lenses of the sunglasses in plastic wrap and give the children another turn. Discuss with the children the differences in what they see with and without the plastic wrap. Lead them in a discussion about how our sin distorts our view of others.



- When we are living according to our sin nature, our view of others is not what it should be.
- We don't see others with grace and mercy as we should.
- When we have saving faith in Jesus, we can see others with grace and mercy because we understand the grace and mercy that has been shown to us.