

GOD RESTORES OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

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

GOD RESTORES OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

A RIGHT RECONCILIATION

Write down different sinful behaviors and attitudes we may have towards others on index cards. Hide these throughout your house. Ask your child to hunt for the hidden cards. When he finds one of the cards, ask him to think of a way that the behavior would change because of Christ. Remind him that we are reconciled to others through Jesus.

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

Genesis 37, 42-44.

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

Jacob favored Joseph above his other eleven sons, which made the other sons were jealous of Joseph. They became even angrier when Joseph shared two of his dreams with them. In his dreams, his brothers bowed down to him and he ruled over them. One day, the brothers plotted to kill Joseph. Reuben, the oldest brother, didn't want to kill him, so he convinced the others to just throw Joseph in a pit. Reuben planned to return and rescue Joseph, but while Reuben was away, his brothers saw a group of Ishmaelites who were traveling to Egypt. They sold Joseph to them and he became a slave. Joseph spent many years in Egypt. He suffered many trials, but he found favor with the Lord and was eventually promoted to a high ranking position in Pharaoh's house. Joseph helped Egypt store food for seven years in preparation for the famine that Joseph saw coming in a dream. When the famine years happened, Joseph's father sent his brothers to Egypt to buy food. His brothers made it to Egypt and encountered Joseph, but they did not recognize him. When Joseph saw his brothers, he was immediately overcome with emotion. He was faced with the choice of punishing them or forgiving them. Joseph chose to forgive his brothers and was reconciled to them. Joseph had a right view of his brothers because he followed God. When we have a relationship with Christ, we can rightly love others.

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

- Why did Joseph's brothers want to kill him? (Their father favored him and they were jealous. He had told them about a dream in which he ruled over them.)
- What choice did Joseph make when he was faced with his brothers again? (He chose to forgive them and was reconciled to them.)



KNOW

As a family, memorize 2 Corinthians 5:16 by creating a puzzle from the verse. Talk about how sin breaks our relationships with others, but in Jesus these can be restored.



DO

As a family, come up with a list of the relationships you have. Next to the names of the people you have relationships with, write one way that you can rightly relate to them this week. Remind your child that God restores our relationships and helps us relate to people as we should.



FEEL

Spend time as a family discussing your family relationships. Allow each person to name a way that he or she relates to a family member sinfully and a way he or she relates rightly. Talk with your child about how it is only through knowing Jesus that we can truly relate and love one another.



WANT

Spend time as a family making tie dye shirts. Talk with your child as you're making them about how Joseph was able to forgive his brothers and was reconciled to them because of God's power in him. Share with your child how your relationship with Christ helps you love him or her as you should. Talk with your child about how a relationship with God gives us the power to love others as we should.

Spend time as a family praying and thanking God for the relationships you have in your lives.