

# GOD RESTORES OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OURSELVES

**STORY: REDEMPTION****BIG TRUTH: GOD RESTORES OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OURSELVES**

Ezekiel 36:22-28; Romans 6:4-8; Romans 8:11-13; Ephesians 4:20-24; Colossians 3:1-5

**BIBLE VERSE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17**

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away, behold, the new has come."*

**BIG IDEAS**

- Our sin makes us broken on the inside.
- Through Jesus, God can heal the brokenness within us.
- Through Jesus, God helps us to rightly relate to ourselves.
- God is making us new.

**BIBLE STORY: DANIEL 4**

When King Nebuchadnezzar went mad, his sin oppressed his relationship with himself. Our sin breaks us on the inside, just like Nebuchadnezzar was broken. Only God's gift of Jesus can make us whole.

**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: BROKEN WITHIN**

Our sin leads us away from God and causes us to be broken on the inside. We can do nothing to heal ourselves, just like Nebuchadnezzar could not heal himself. God's gift of Jesus as our Savior heals us and makes us whole. God restores our relationship with our own person.

# GOD RESTORES OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OURSELVES

## BIBLE VERSE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away, behold, the new has come."*

### We are spiritually dead and hopeless without Christ.

- We are all born sinful and that means we are all born spiritually dead.
- Our sin leaves us spiritually dead because it separates us from God.
- God is the only source of life and to be separated from Him is to be separated from life.
- Because we are spiritually dead, we have no real hope.
- We are hopeless to save ourselves because we are sinful and God requires a sinless sacrifice to pay our sin debt.

### When we have saving faith, we are no longer spiritually dead.

- Jesus went to the cross to pay our sin debt.
- Because we are so sinful, we have no way of saving ourselves.
- When we repent of our sin and believe in Jesus, we have saving faith.
- Having saving faith means we are no longer spiritually dead because our sin is forgiven us.
- We receive new life through Jesus Christ.

### A relationship with Christ leads to our sanctification.

- When we have saving faith and enter into a relationship with Christ, God continues to grow us more like Jesus.
- This process of becoming more and more holy is called sanctification.
- We can only be sanctified if we have a relationship with Christ.
- Without a relationship with Christ, we cannot be holy.
- Knowing Christ means we have received new life and His Spirit. With the help of His Spirit, we grow more like Him every day.

## BIBLE STORY: DANIEL 4

*Nebuchadnezzar's Madness*

### Opening Illustration:

Give each child a shield cut out of cardstock and crayons. Help the children write their name on the shield and then give them crayons, glitter, and stickers to decorate their shields. Talk with the children about how God rescues us and fixes our relationships with Him and others.

# GOD RESTORES OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OURSELVES

## BIG IDEA: OUR SIN MAKES US BROKEN ON THE INSIDE.<sup>1</sup>

### We are born sinful.

- Because of the sin of Adam and Eve, we are born with a sin nature.
- Adam and Eve's sin in the Garden of Eden changed their very nature and the nature of every person born after them.
- We are all born sinful. We choose sin over obeying God.
- We are blinded by our sinfulness.
- We do not see God's truth because we are so enslaved to our sin nature.



Have the children define the word "broken". Ask them to give examples of things that are broken and cannot be fixed. Next, remind them that our hearts are broken because of our sinfulness. We cannot fix our hearts. Only Jesus can fix our hearts.

### Our sinfulness leads us into further brokenness.

- Because we are born sinful, we are born broken.
- Because we continue to choose to sin, we continue to grow more broken every time we sin.
- We cannot truly know ourselves because we are broken.
- Our perspective is skewed by our sin nature. We cannot assess ourselves correctly or even understand our own hearts.

### Our hearts are sinful and broken.

- Our hearts are wicked and evil. They are full of sin and sinful desires.
- Our hearts cannot be trusted. When we follow our hearts, we are following our broken sinful nature.
- Our hearts lead us away from God and towards ourselves.
- We seek to please ourselves over pleasing God.
- We seek to bring ourselves glory over bringing God glory.

*What does our sin do to our insides? (It makes us broken and leads us away from God.)*

1. Jeremiah 17:9: The heart of man is wicked and deceptive above all else.

# GOD RESTORES OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OURSELVES

## BIG IDEA: THROUGH JESUS GOD CAN HEAL THE BROKENNESS WITHIN US.<sup>2</sup>

### We cannot heal our brokenness.

- We are sinful. Everything we do is sinful.
- Even the good things we do are not truly good because everything we do is tainted by our sinful hearts.
- Because we are so broken and sinful, we cannot fix our own brokenness.
- We are too sinful and too deceived to fix ourselves.



Have the children share a time when they have broken something that belonged to someone else or they have had something broken. Next, ask the children how they would feel if someone fixed the thing that was broken. Remind them that Jesus heals our brokenness.

### Jesus paid our sin debt to heal our brokenness.

- Jesus came to the earth to pay our sin debt.
- He lived the perfect life that we could not live.
- He obeyed God perfectly and then went to the cross to take on our sin.
- He paid our debt and our sins can be forgiven us.
- Not only did He pay our debt, but when we follow Him, He heals our brokenness.
- We can be healed through Jesus.

### When we have saving faith, our brokenness is healed.

- Having saving faith in Jesus means we understand our own brokenness.
- In order to have our brokenness healed, we have to understand that we are broken.
- Jesus is the only one who can heal our brokenness.
- He took care of our sin debt and He works in our hearts to heal them of our brokenness.
- He makes all things new and He makes beauty from ashes.

Who heals our brokenness? (Jesus is the only one who can heal our brokenness.)

2. Revelation 21:5: God will make all things new through Jesus.

# GOD RESTORES OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OURSELVES

## BIG IDEA: THROUGH JESUS GOD HELPS US TO RIGHTLY RELATE TO OURSELVES.

### A relationship with Christ gives us an understanding of our sin.

- When we encounter Jesus, we gain an understanding of ourselves.
- First, we understand that we are sinners and in need of salvation.
- Secondly, we understand that our sin nature no longer enslaves us and we have freedom through Christ to resist sinning.
- We understand the gravity of our sin and the ways in which we disobey God.
- Nebuchadnezzar realized his sin when he came to his senses.

### A relationship with Christ helps us live as forgiven.

- Before we have a relationship with Christ, we are under the wrath of God.
- We have the weight of our sinfulness on us and we are bound to the death that we deserve.
- When we have a relationship with Christ, we are no longer under the wrath of God.
- We are set free to live as forgiven because God accepted Christ's sacrifice on our behalf.
- When we know Christ, He helps us live in the freedom that He died for us to have.

### A relationship with Christ helps us boast only in Christ.<sup>3</sup>

- The only thing we can boast in is Jesus.
- Because we are not able to save ourselves or make ourselves righteous, we really have nothing to boast in except Jesus.
- Jesus is the only person who could save us and set us free.
- It is only God's Spirit that can grow us and guide us, so we have nothing to boast in except God.
- When we have a relationship with Jesus, the more we get to know Him, the more we understand we have nothing to boast in except Him.

*How does Jesus help us relate to ourselves? (When we know Him, we understand our sinfulness and that His power is the only power in which we can do anything for God.)*

3. Jeremiah 9:23-24: The only person we can boast in is Jesus. He alone is the only source of power and grace to live for Him.

# GOD RESTORES OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OURSELVES

## BIG IDEA: GOD IS MAKING US NEW.<sup>4</sup>

### God changes us on the inside.

- Before we know Christ, we are dead inside.
- Before we have saving faith, we are broken and sinful.
- When we meet Christ and put our faith and trust in Him, God makes us new.
- We get new hearts that are set free to serve God and bring Him glory.
- God is the only being who can change us on the inside. We cannot even change ourselves in our own power.



Bring in an old coin, like a penny, a glass bowl, a ¼ cup of white vinegar, and 1 tsp. of salt. Pour the vinegar into the bowl and add the salt. Stir the vinegar and salt to dissolve the salt. Next, drop the penny in the solution and let it sit for a few minutes. Take the penny out and dip it in a cup of water. Show the children how the solution cleaned the penny. Remind them that God makes us new on the inside when we have saving faith.

### When we have saving faith, our old selves fade away.

- Even though our sin nature does not go away while we are on this earth, we are daily changed to look more like Jesus.
- When we have saving faith, we are not enslaved to our sin nature.
- Instead, we have freedom through Christ and in the power of God's Spirit to resist temptation.
- Our old selves, or flesh natures fade away as we put on the fruit of the Spirit and become more like Christ.
- The more we know Christ, the more we become like Him.

### God gives us a new life in Him.

- When we have saving faith, we are new creations in Christ.
- God no longer sees us as sinful, but He sees the righteousness of Christ.
- We are continually made new as we grow in our relationship with Him.
- God is the source of all life, physical and spiritual.
- When we are believers, He gives us new life through Him in every way.
- We are made spiritually alive and when we die, we are united with Him for all of eternity.

*How does our life change when we know God? (We are made new. Our sin nature no longer controls us and God gives us new spiritual life.)*

4. Psalm 40:3: When we know God, He makes us new. He puts a new song in our mouths.

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## HOOKS



### Which Animal Are You?

Play a game with the children in which they take turns acting out a particular animal. The rest of the children have to guess which animal the child is. Play several times and then lead the children in a discussion about how Nebuchadnezzar lived like the beasts in the field, but then his life changed when he acknowledged who God is.



- Nebuchadnezzar didn't follow God, and God humbled him by making Nebuchadnezzar live like an animal.
- When Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged God, his life was transformed.
- Our lives change when we have saving faith. When we are saved, God makes us new on the inside.



### A New Song For You

Give each child paper with lines on it and markers. Play a short clip of several praise songs and ask the children to guess which song you're playing. Allow the children to share their answers and then lead the children in a discussion about how God makes us new on the inside and He gives us a new song when we have saving faith.

