

# GOD RESTORES OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OURSELVES

## 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

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## BROKEN WITHIN

Place several broken toys or other items inside of a container that you cannot see inside. Show the container to your child. Ask your child if the container is broken. Next, allow your child to hold the container and to shake it. Ask your child if what is inside of the container is broken or whole. Open the container and show your child the broken contents on the inside. Remind your child that we are all broken on the inside and when we have saving faith, we are made new.

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

Daniel 4.

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

While Daniel was in captivity in Babylon, he interpreted two dreams for King Nebuchadnezzar. King Nebuchadnezzar was an arrogant and prideful king. He worshiped himself and asked the people of Babylon to worship him also. King Nebuchadnezzar was so prideful he had a statue of himself made and then erected in the city so people could bow down and worship his statue. He had dreams warning him to repent of his pride and worship the one true God. Daniel warned Nebuchadnezzar that one day, he would be chased out of the city and into the fields with the beasts. This is exactly what happened. His hair grew so long that it looked like the feathers, his nails grew so long they looked like claws, and he ate grass like oxen. After a year passed, Nebuchadnezzar returned to the city. He confessed his sin and praised the one true God. His kingdom was returned to him and he reigned once again. We are like Nebuchadnezzar; we are broken because of our sin. When we repent of our sin and believe in Jesus, we are made new. Because we are made new, we gain a true understanding of ourselves. God restores our relationship with ourselves by helping us see ourselves as we really are and making us new through Jesus.

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

- Why was Nebuchadnezzar living in the fields with the beasts? (He was being punished by God for his sin.)
- How did God change Nebuchadnezzar? (He humbled him and caused him to regain his kingdom by confessing his sin.)
- How does God change us? (He makes us new inside when we have a relationship with Jesus.)



KNOW

As a family, memorize 2 Corinthians 5:17. Practice saying this verse along with the others that you have memorized from 2 Corinthians 5.



DO

Spend time together looking through photo albums that show how your family has changed over the years. Talk with your child about how God changes us when we have a relationship with Jesus.



FEEL

As a family, create a list of sinful behaviors, or the works of the flesh. Help your child find different verses that describe the works of the flesh. Next, help your child find verses that talk about fruit of the Spirit and how our lives change when we have saving faith.



WANT

Share with your child how you have changed on the inside since repenting and believing in Jesus.

Spend some time this week praying with your child and thanking God for making us new on the inside.