

GOD RESTORES OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE LOST

STORY: REDEMPTION

BIG TRUTH: GOD RESTORES OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE LOST

Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-16; Romans 12:14,19-21; 1 Corinthians 9:15-27; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20; Colossians 4:2-6; 2 Timothy 2:10

BIBLE VERSE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:19

“That is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.”

BIG IDEAS

- Our sin distorts and destroys our relationships with others.
- God provides forgiveness and reconciliation while we are still sinners through Jesus.
- God not only provides reconciliation to us, but also gives us this same ministry to others.
- God invites and calls believers to carry the good news to those who do not have it.
- God turns enemies into ambassadors.

BIBLE STORY: JONAH 1-4

Jonah did not want to warn the Ninevites about God’s judgment of them, but as God worked in Jonah’s heart, he did obey God. God will give us a heart for the lost and a desire to share His good news with them.

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 GOOD NEWS

In our sinfulness, we often do not want to share the gospel with others, but God works in our hearts to make us more like Him. When He makes us more like Him, we will desire to share the good news with those who do not know Him.

GOD RESTORES OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE LOST

BIBLE VERSE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:19

“That is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.”

God reconciled the world to Himself through Christ.

- When Adam and Eve sinned, their relationship with God changed immediately.
- An immediate and lasting consequence of their sin was spiritual death and separation from God.
- Because every person is descended from Adam, we all are born separated from God because we are all born sinful.
- God made a way for man to be reconciled to Him when He sent Jesus to pay the sin debt of the world.
- Jesus fulfilled the debt that man owed and God reconciled man to Himself.

Our sins are forgiven and we have a right relationship because of Christ.

- Jesus’ life and death fulfilled the debt owed by every person.
- He paid the price once and for all, and now forgiveness is available to those who repent and believe.
- Those who have saving faith in Jesus can have a right relationship with God.
- Our sin no longer separates us from God when we have a relationship with Christ.
- When we follow Christ, the sacrifice He made is credited to us and we are no longer aliens to God.

Believers are called to share Jesus with others.

- Because we have been reconciled to God, we are called to the ministry of reconciliation.
- The ministry of reconciliation that has been given to Jesus’ followers is to share the good news of Jesus Christ with those who do not know it.
- God didn’t reconcile us just for ourselves. He reconciled us for a purpose greater than ourselves—to bring Him glory by sharing the good news of Jesus with others.
- When we know Jesus, our hearts become like His and we desire to share with others the salvation we have experienced and that is available to them.

BIBLE STORY: JONAH 1-4

Jonah and the Ninevites

Opening Illustration:

Give each child a blank piece of paper and then small strips of paper. Ask the children to create a cross out of the strips of paper. Use tape or glue to attach the cross to the blank piece of paper. Next, give the children stickers and markers to decorate their crosses. Talk with the children about how Jesus is the way that God fixes our brokenness and takes away our separation from Him.

GOD RESTORES OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE LOST

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

The works of our flesh destroy our relationships.

- Some of the works of the flesh, like anger, wrath, malice, obscene talk, and slander, destroy the relationships we have with others.
- When we walk in our flesh, our interactions with others are hindered.
- Our flesh leads us to be selfish and self-centered. We think only of ourselves and do not put others before ourselves.
- These works cause arguments and strife with others and negatively affect our relationships.
- Jonah walked in his flesh when he fled to Tarshish instead of going to Nineveh. He thought only of himself and not of the people God commanded him to warn.



Bring in several pairs of sunglasses and ask the children to take turns wearing the glasses. Ask the children to describe how their view with the sunglasses is different from their view without them. Remind them that our sin nature distorts our view of others.

Our sin nature distorts our view of others.

- Our sin nature blinds us to the truth about God.
- Our sin nature skews our perspective of everything, including others.
- We do not see others in a right way. Instead, we view others through the lens of selfishness and jealousy.
- We may view others as less worthy and unimportant.
- We may even hate others in our flesh.
- Because of our sin, we do not live as we should with others and we do not love others as God commands us to love them.

How does our sin affect our relationships with others? (It distorts our view of them and destroys our relationships.)

1. Colossians 3:7-9: Our flesh nature once controlled us, but when we are reconciled to God, we put these things away.

GOD RESTORES OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE LOST

BIG IDEA: GOD PROVIDES FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION WHILE WE ARE STILL SINNERS THROUGH JESUS.²

We do not have to be sinless for God to save us.

- We do not have to be perfect or live right lives in order for God to save us.
- We do not have to follow a set of rules or perfectly obey the law in order for God to save us.
- God saves us while we are sinners. He reaches down from Heaven and meets us in our sinful state and reconciles us to Himself.
- We can do nothing to save ourselves or make ourselves worthy to be saved.
- Our salvation depends entirely upon God's grace and mercy towards us.



Lead the children in a discussion about what it means to be forgiven. Ask the children to define what forgiveness is and then remind them that God offers us forgiveness while we are still sinners.

God calls us to Him even while we are sinners.

- God did not wait for us to become sinless before He sent His son.
- He sent Jesus while we were in the midst of our rejection of Him and rebellion against Him.
- His Spirit draws us to Him and reveals our sinful condition.
- We do not seek God on our own. Instead, He draws us to Himself and opens the eyes of our heart to see the truth about ourselves and what He has done for us.
- God sent Jonah to Nineveh while they were in the midst of their wickedness. He did not wait for them to stop sinning to offer them a way out of their impending destruction.

When does God provide forgiveness to us? (While we are still sinners, He provides forgiveness to us.)

2. Romans 5:8: God showed His love for us by sending Jesus to pay our sin debt while we were still sinners.

GOD RESTORES OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE LOST

BIG IDEA: GOD NOT ONLY PROVIDES RECONCILIATION TO US, BUT ALSO GIVES US THIS SAME MINISTRY TO OTHERS.³

Every Jesus follower is commanded to share Jesus with others.

- Every person who has repented and believed in Jesus is given the command to make disciples of all people.
- Making disciples means to share the good news of Jesus with others and to teach and train them to live like Christ for Christ.
- Every person is given this ministry of reconciliation if they have repented and believed themselves.
- Because Jesus has reconciled believers, they have received this reconciliation ministry.
- Jonah was a follower of God and God gave Jonah the ministry of going to Nineveh and sharing this good news with them.

We are given the ministry of reconciliation because we have been reconciled.

- We are not reconciled to God just for ourselves. God reconciles us to Himself, restoring our relationship with Him.
- He gives us a ministry of reconciliation to share the good news of Jesus with those who do not know Him.
- God commanded Jonah to go to Nineveh to warn the people of His impending judgment of them.
- God commands us to go into the world and share the good news of His salvation with others.
- Jesus gave this command toward the end of His time on earth. When we are reconciled to Him, we will tell others what He has done for us.



Help the children create their own megaphone using cardstock. Help the children cut the sides of the cardstock at a slight angle creating a smaller end on one side of the paper. Next, roll the paper up, creating one wide end and one small end. Use glue or tape to hold the paper together. Allow the children to decorate their megaphone with markers and other craft supplies. Ask the children to share the good news of Jesus through their megaphones. Remind them that we are given the ministry of reconciliation when we become followers of Jesus.

What ministry has God given His followers? (God has given His followers the ministry of reconciliation. This ministry is the sharing of the good news about Jesus with those who do not know Him.)

3. Matthew 28:16-20: God's commanded His followers to carry the gospel to all the nations and to make disciples of all nations and peoples.

GOD RESTORES OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE LOST

BIG IDEA: GOD INVITES AND CALLS BELIEVERS TO CARRY THE GOOD NEWS TO THOSE WHO DO NOT HAVE IT.⁴

The good news of Jesus reconciles people to God.

- Because all people are born separated from God, all people are in need of being reconciled to Him.
- No one can reconcile himself to God. No one can pay his sin debt.
- Because Jesus is the only way that people can be saved from their sin, hearing about Jesus and knowing Him are the most important things that can happen to a person.
- When a person hears the good news of Jesus and believes, he is reconciled to God.
- The good news of Jesus can bring people to the truth about themselves and God and cause them to repent and believe.



Lead the children in a discussion about some of the things they have been invited to do, such as help a friend with homework, go to a party, help their parents around the house. Talk with the children about what it means to be invited to share the good news of the Gospel with the world.

Believers are called by God to proclaim His goodness.

- The goodness of God is that He loves people while they are sinners.
- God's goodness is revealed through His sacrifice of His only Son for sinful people.
- God did not wait until man stopped sinning or asked for forgiveness.
- God sent Jesus to pay the sin debt of the world even while people were sinful.
- When a person understands this and turns away from his sin and believes in Jesus, they are called to proclaim God's goodness to the world.
- Those who have experienced His reconciliation of them will tell others about His work in their own life and what He can do for those who have yet to believe.

What does God invite believers to do? (He invites believers to tell others what Jesus has done for the world.)

4. Psalm 96:3: God's glory will be declared among all the nations. He is worthy to be praised in all the world.

GOD RESTORES OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE LOST

BIG IDEA: GOD TURNS ENEMIES INTO AMBASSADORS.⁵

Because we are forgiven, we forgive others.

- That Jesus died in our place while we were still sinners is a remarkable thing.
- Jesus took our place when we did not deserve it.
- He forgave our sins and made us part of His family.
- This forgiveness will compel us to show others forgiveness as well.
- Even when we do not want to forgive others, because we have been forgiven, we should forgive.
- Those who follow Jesus can have peaceful relationships even with those who betray them because Jesus helps them forgive others.

Jesus joins people together to carry the gospel everywhere.

- We are all enemies of God when we are living according to our sin nature.
- When God reconciles us to Himself, we are no longer His enemy. We become His friend and son and daughter.
- Because of Jesus, we can be in God's family and be at peace with Him.
- This same peace that we receive from God, we can share with others.
- People are joined into one family as followers of God to carry the good news of Jesus to every part of the world.

What does God turn into ambassadors? (God turns enemies into ambassadors.)

5. Colossians 3:13: Those who know Christ will forgive others as Christ has forgiven them.

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HOOKS



KNOW

The Great Invitation

Bring in different styles of stationery, envelopes, colored pencils, and markers. Ask the children to create an invitation to someone that shares the good news of the gospel with them. Lead the children in a discussion about how God invites His followers to share the gospel with those who do not know Him.



DO

- When God reconciles a person to Himself, He gives them the ministry of reconciliation.
- When a person believes in Jesus, he or she is given the job of sharing the good news of Jesus with others.



FEEL

To Go Or Not To Go

Place a large map of the world on a wall. Play a game of Pin The Destination On The Map using small paper people and a bandana as a blindfold. Allow the children to take turns wearing the blindfold and then attempting to pin a person on the world map. Once every child has a chance, lead them in a conversation about how followers of Jesus are invited to share the good news with all of the world.



WANT

- Because we have been forgiven by God, we are commanded to share the good news of this forgiveness with others.
- Jesus commanded His followers to go into all of the world to share the news of His offer of salvation to them.
- When we become followers of Jesus, we receive this same ministry and should share with those who do not know Him that forgiveness of their sins is available to them.