

GOD RESTORES OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE LOST

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

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THE GOOD NEWS

Help your child create a collage showing what the good news of the gospel means using old newspapers and magazines. Help your child cut out words like redemption, forgiveness, reconciliation, friend, etc. Remind your child that God restores our relationship with the lost when we become followers of Christ.

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

Jonah 1-4.

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

God gave Jonah a specific command to go to the city of Nineveh and warn them to turn away from their wickedness and follow God. Nineveh was a very wicked place and Jonah did not want to go to them. Instead of obeying God and going to Nineveh, Jonah boarded a boat headed to Tarshish. While Jonah was on the boat, a great storm came up and threatened the boat. The sailors on the boat were afraid and questioned why the storm was about to destroy their boat. Jonah confessed to the sailors that God was judging him by causing the storm to come up. The sailors threw Jonah over the side of the boat and a great fish that God had prepared swallowed Jonah up. Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days before God caused the fish to spit Jonah up on shore. After Jonah was in the fish's belly, he chose to obey God and went to Nineveh to warn them. Jonah warned the people of Nineveh to turn away from their wickedness or God would destroy them and the people did turn away. God spared the people of Nineveh. God has given every person who is His child the ministry of reconciliation. God reconciles those who repent and believe to Himself and then He commands His followers to share the good news of Jesus with those who do not know Him. God does not depend upon His followers to share the news, but He allows them to be a part of His work on the earth. Those who follow Christ get the privilege of sharing the good news with those who haven't heard and don't yet know Him.

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

- What did God tell Jonah to do? (God told Jonah to go to Nineveh and warn them of His impending destruction of them)
- What did Jonah do when God first told him to go to Nineveh? (He boarded a ship to Tarshish instead.)
- What made Jonah finally obey God? (He was swallowed up by a great fish and spent three days in its belly.)



KNOW



DO



FEEL



WANT

As a family, memorize 2 Corinthians 5:19 by writing the words of the verse on index cards twice to create a matching game. Practice saying all of the verses that you have memorized from 2 Corinthians 5.

Do a word search of the word "reconciliation" with your child. Help your child find other verses that talk about reconciliation. Use a dictionary to define the word and then remind your child that followers of Jesus are given the ministry of reconciliation.

Help your child think of someone or a few people who possibly have never heard the good news of Jesus. Help your child brainstorm ways to share the gospel with this person and share ways that you have shared the gospel yourself. If your child is not a follower of Christ, take this opportunity to share the good news with him or her.

Spend some time this week praying, asking God to help your family share the good news of the gospel with others.