

WE REJECT GOD'S TRUTH

STORY: FALL / YEAR: HOPE

BIG TRUTH: WE REJECT GOD'S TRUTH

Genesis 3:1-6; Romans 1:18, 24-25; 2 Timothy 3:1-5

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 1:25

"Because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen."

BIG IDEAS

- In our sin we deny the truth.
- In our sin we choose to believe lies.
- In our sin we put our hope in false saviors.
- In our sin we reject the true author of life.

BIBLE STORY: ACTS 7

Stephen addressed a group of religious men called the Sanhedrin. He spoke God's truth to them, but they rejected it. They became very angry with Stephen and they had him stoned to death. They believed lies instead of God's Truth and they placed their hope in false saviors.

STORY: FALL

Everything was perfect in the world until we broke it. When humanity chose to sin, the world that was once perfect became messed up and broken. Sin is ultimately a rejection of God Himself. Because of sin bad things happen, we experience all types of pain, and death has come into the world. All of creation groans and wishes that the world could be perfect and good like it was before.

BIG AIMS



KNOW

Every child should know that:

- Our sin is a rejection of God that separates us from Him



FEEL

Every child should feel:

- A need to have a right relationship with God



DO

Every child should:

- Trust what God tells us about the depth of our sin and brokenness



WANT

Every child should want:

- A restored relationship with God

FAMILY DEVOTION: A DENIAL OF THE TRUTH

Our sinful hearts will lead us to believe lies and we will reject the truth of God for lies. This will cause us to seek out false saviors instead of believing in the true Savior, Jesus Christ.

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 1:25

“Because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.”

All of creation declares who God is.

- God is evident in all of creation.
- His mark was left on His creation.
- When we see created things, we can see God in them.
- We have no excuse to think there isn't a God because of nature.
- God's truth is in creation and we can see Him in created things.

Our sinful hearts don't accept God's truth.

- God's truth is visible to us in creation.
- We choose not to believe it out of the sin in our hearts.
- We replace God's truth with lies.
- We reject God and His truth and create our own truth.

We exchange the truth for lies.

- We don't believe God's truth, which can be seen in nature itself.
- Instead of believing the truth, we choose to believe lies.
- When we believe lies it leads us to sin against God.
- Because we believe lies, we look for salvation from places other than God.

BIBLE STORY: ACTS 7

The Stoning of Stephen

Opening Illustration:

Have each child make his or her own scepter using empty paper towel holders. You can use different colors of wrapping paper, stickers, and markers to decorate the “scepters”. After the children make their own “scepters”, talk to them about what a scepter symbolizes (power and authority) and then talk about how we want to rule ourselves. We reject God and His joy, power, and rule and desire to rule ourselves.

BIG IDEA: IN OUR SIN WE DENY THE TRUTH.**Our sinful hearts blind us to the truth.**

- The sin nature in every person darkens our sight and keeps us from seeing the truth.
- Our sinful choices take us farther away from God.
- Stephen spoke to a group of men who were considered very religious.
- They were known as the Sanhedrin and they were important among other religious people.
- Stephen told them all that God had done beginning with Abraham all the way to Solomon.
- The people rejected the truth of Stephen's words.
- They denied the truth of God and His work.
- Our sin natures blind us to God's truth.



Call out several true statements and false statements, such as “the earth is round”, “the moon can be seen best during the day” and ask the children to stand up if the statement is true and sit down if it is false. After calling out several statements, talk with the children about how in our sin, we reject God's truth.

When we deny the truth, we may persecute others.¹

- Stephen was persecuted for the truth.
- All that Stephen spoke was the truth, yet he was persecuted.
- Stephen lost his life because he shared the truth and it angered people.
- Our sin blinds us and causes us to reject the truth of God.
- When we deny the truth, we may turn away from those who love us or even hurt others with our words and actions.

What did the religious men deny? (They denied the truth of Stephen's words.)

What does our sin cause us to deny? (We deny God's truth.)

1. Matthew 10:22: We will be persecuted for the truth just like Stephen was. We may even persecute others because of the truth.

BIG IDEA: IN OUR SIN WE CHOOSE TO BELIEVE LIES.**The truth is offensive to our sinful hearts.**

- God's truth angers our sinful hearts because we don't like the truth.
- Stephen's audience didn't like the things he was saying.
- They were angry because of the truth.
- Instead of repenting and believing, they rejected the truth and killed Stephen.
- Our hearts cause us to reject, or turn away from God's truth.
- When we turn away, we believe lies.

Our sinful hearts believe lies instead of the truth.²

- Stephen's words were truth.
- The people didn't want the truth.
- They chose instead to believe lies.
- They chose to believe that Jesus wasn't the Messiah.
- They chose to believe that Stephen was blaspheming God instead of speaking the truth about Him.
- They didn't want to believe that they were sinners.
- Instead, they believed Stephen was a sinner.
- Our hearts believe lies over the truth because we reject God's truth.



Play a game of "telephone" with the children. Say a phrase in one child's ear and ask the children to pass the phrase along until it gets all the way through the children. The last child should say what they heard. Talk with the children about how the truth can get mixed up and we can believe lies instead of God's truth.

Why don't we like God's truth? (We don't like to think that we are sinners.)

2. Romans 16:17-18: *We trade the truth for lies and we believe in the deceit of the world.*

BIG IDEA: IN OUR SIN WE PUT OUR HOPE IN FALSE SAVIORS.**Our blindness to the truth causes us to not see the true Savior.**

- When we are blind to God's truth, we are blind to the true Savior.
- Our hearts seek salvation in false gods and false saviors.
- Stephen shared about the true Savior, yet the people rejected Him.
- They sought after a god of their own making, not the true God.

Our hearts are full of idols.³

- Our sinful hearts seek after other gods, gods who are false.
- Stephen's audience sought other gods. They didn't accept the true God.
- We are like Stephen's audience; we seek false saviors.
- We deny the truth and believe lies instead of believing in the true Savior.
- When we reject the truth, we believe lies and seek to find other ways to save ourselves.
- The people Stephen was speaking to didn't want to hear that they were sinners.
- They placed their hope in themselves and their own good works.
- Our hearts make our own good works idols and we look for salvation in other places besides in Jesus, God's Son.



Divide the children into small groups and ask them to name as many superheroes as they can think of. When they are finished, talk with them about each superhero they name and compare the superhero to Jesus. Remind them that only Jesus can save us from our sins.

3. James 4:3-4: *Our hearts are full of idols and wicked things. We don't ask God for the right things because of the idolatry in our hearts.*

BIG IDEA: IN OUR SIN WE REJECT THE TRUE AUTHOR OF LIFE.**God is the Creator and Author of life.**

- All things are from God and for God.
- In our sin, we reject His truth, which means we reject Him.
- We have what we do because of God.
- God gives us all things and keeps us alive.
- Stephen's audience rejected their Creator when they rejected Jesus.
- There is nothing we have that we didn't receive from God because He is the Author of all life.



Draw a large world on paper and give each child several small slips of paper. Ask the children to draw pictures of the different things that God created and then stick them on the world. Remind them that God is the Author of life.

When we reject God's truth, we reject Him.⁴

- Stephen's audience didn't just reject him and his story.
- They rejected God because Stephen was sharing God's truth.
- Their sinful hearts caused them to turn away from God, to reject Him and His truth.
- Our hearts cause us to do the same.
- We reject God and His truth.
- We reject the Author of life.
- When we reject the Author of life, we try to write our own story.

Who is the Creator of life? (God is the Creator of all life.)

Who is the Author of our lives? (God is the Author of our lives.)

Whom do we reject when we reject God's truth? (We reject the Author of life.)

4. 1 Peter 2:4: *We reject Jesus the cornerstone when we reject the truth of God. Jesus is the truth of God.*

HOOKS

**Two Lies And A Truth**

Play a game where you tell two false things and one true thing and have the children guess what the true thing is. Do this several times. Lead the children in a discussion about how in our sin, we deny the truth and believe lies.

**Only One Author**

Give each child a blank piece of paper and a marker. Ask the child to draw pictures of some important events and people from their lives. Give each child a chance to share his or her drawing. Talk with the children about how God is the Author of our lives. He writes our stories and is the Creator of all things. Talk about how our sin leads us to reject God as the Author of our lives.

