

WE BROKE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

STORY: FALL / YEAR: KINGDOM

BIG TRUTH: WE BROKE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Genesis 3:8-9; Psalm 81:11-13; Isaiah 1:1-4; 59:2; Jeremiah 4:22; Romans 3:23

BIBLE VERSE: JEREMIAH 2:13

“For my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns that can hold no water.”

BIG IDEAS

- Our sin causes us to doubt God’s goodness.
- Our sin causes us to choose fear instead of faith.
- Our sin causes us to disobey God’s commands.

BIBLE STORY: NUMBERS 13-14

The Israelites were God’s chosen people. He set them apart to be His children, yet they disobeyed Him and turned away from. For many years, God’s law was lost because they did not seek Him or follow Him. When Josiah became king, the Law was found and read to the people. The Israelites had broken God’s law. They had turned away from Him.

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 be perfect and good like it was before.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- We have broken God’s creation and our relationship with God by our sin



Every child should feel:

- Sorrow over breaking God’s creation



Every child should:

- Seek forgiveness for breaking God’s creation



Every child should want:

- To be forgiven for breaking God’s creation and their relationship with Him

FAMILY DEVOTION: FAITH INSTEAD OF FEAR

When we turn away from God in disobedience, we are separated from Him. Our relationship with Him is broken. This separation causes us to fear instead of having faith in the Almighty God. Even though we do this, we can always make the choice to trust God.



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171 Promise Land Dr. Gray, TN 37615

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BIBLE VERSE: JEREMIAH 2:13

“For my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns that can hold no water.”

Man has turned away from God.

- Adam and Eve’s sin meant they had turned away from God.
- Man’s sinful heart doesn’t seek after God.
- Man rejected God and turned away from Him.
- Even God’s chosen people, the Israelites, rejected God.
- Our sin causes us to turn away from God.
- We have forsaken, or rejected God.
- We have chosen our sin over God.

We have turned away from the source of all life.

- Jeremiah describes God as the fountain of living waters.
- God is the source of all life and the sustainer of all life.
- Our sin causes us to reject Him and to turn away from Him.
- We refuse to drink from His fountain of living waters.
- Instead we separate ourselves from Him.
- We turn to our own ways and seek to please ourselves.

BIBLE STORY: NUMBERS 13-14

The Israelites Reject God’s Promised Land

Opening Illustration:

Give each child a paper plate with the center cut out making a ring. Next, give the children a marker or crayon and ask them to draw a picture of themselves on one side of the ring and on the opposite side to write GOD. Next, give them little small slips of paper and string. On the papers they should write ways they’ve sinned and then use the string to attach these to the top of the ring so that they hang between GOD and the picture of the child. Remind the children that we reject God and our relationship with Him because of our sin.

WE BROKE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

BIG IDEA: OUR SIN CAUSES US TO DOUBT GOD'S GOODNESS.¹

Sin makes us doubt that everything God does is good.

- Our sinful hearts make us think that all God does or allows isn't good.
- We are blind to truth, so it is hard for us to know what is really good and what is not.
- The Israelites were promised by God to receive a special land.
- When they sent men into the land to spy it out, they discovered a land full of mighty men and many people.
- Their discovery caused them to doubt God's promise and His goodness.
- We may think that God isn't good.
- Our relationship is broken with God because of our doubt and sinful hearts.



Play a game of "Simon Says" with the children. Allow the children to take turns being the one giving the commands. Remind the children that we must obey God's Word just like we do what "Simon" says.

Our doubt causes us to turn away from God.

- When the Israelites doubted God, they turned away from Him.
- They refused to follow Him and chose to disobey Him.
- God had prepared the way for them, but they had turned away because they didn't trust Him.
- We doubt God's goodness and it causes us to turn away from Him.
- We separate ourselves from Him.

What does our sin cause us to doubt about God? (It causes us to doubt His goodness.)

How did the Israelites disobey God? (They didn't obey His command to go into the Promised Land.)

1. Numbers 14:36-38: The men who doubted God and grumbled against Him did not see the Promised Land. Their sinful hearts caused them to doubt that God was good and intended good for them.

WE BROKE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

BIG IDEA: OUR SIN CAUSES US TO CHOOSE FEAR INSTEAD OF FAITH.²

Our sin makes us blind to God's might and power.

- When the spies gave their report to the people, they told of a land full of many people.
- They also told of a land with giants.
- Even though their report was true, God's might and power are greater.
- The Israelites chose their fear over faith when they heard the report.
- They didn't remember the many ways God had shown His power to them.
- We forget God's power when we are blinded by our sin.
- When we allow fear to take our faith in God, we sin.



Sing "He's Got The Whole World In His Hands" with the children, reminding them that God is mightier and more powerful than all.

Sin keeps us from trusting the Almighty God.

- The Israelites had seen God work in miraculous ways, yet their sin caused to forget.
- They chose their fear and didn't believe that God would take care of them.
- Our sin stops us from trusting God who is more powerful than any other.
- Instead, we believe the lies that are based in our fear.
- This keeps us from trusting God no matter our circumstances.
- God is more powerful and mightier than any obstacle we may face.
- There was nothing in the Promised Land too great for God.
- There was no giant big enough, no people group large enough to overcome God's plan for His people.

What did the spies find in the land that frightened them? (They found giants and many, many people.)

What does our sin cause us to do instead of trusting God? (Our sin causes us to fear.)

2. Psalm 147:5: God is mighty and powerful. There is nothing too great for Him. Our sin causes us to fear and not trust.

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BIG IDEA: OUR SIN CAUSES US TO DISOBEY GOD'S COMMANDS.

When we trust our fear over God, we disobey.³

- The Israelites didn't trust God.
- They saw the people in the land and they were afraid.
- They didn't have faith in God to fight for them.
- Because of their fear, they lacked faith that He would keep His promise to them.
- Not believing and fearing instead caused them to disobey Him.
- When we trust our fear, we take our eyes off of God and we sin against Him.
- This lack of trust separates us from God and causes us to sin.



Use a bandana to take turns blindfolding the children. Ask a blindfolded child to stand in a chair and practice a "trust fall". Only an adult should catch the children. Remind them that trusting God is a lot like being blindfolded because we can't always see how He is providing for us, but He always is.

Our lack of faith causes us to disobey.

- When we don't trust God, we don't believe He is able to take care of us.
- This lack of trust makes us disobey God.
- The Israelites didn't trust God to take care of them, so they disobeyed Him.
- They didn't listen to His command to go into the land.
- They believed their fear and they disobeyed the Almighty God.
- We disobey God when we don't trust Him.
- Our lack of trust can make us disobey His commands.
- It can make us miss what He is giving us like the Israelites missed going into the Promised Land.

What happens when we trust our fears over our trust in God? (We disobey Him.)

3. Isaiah 41:10: We do not have to fear as long as we are following God and obeying Him. He is our strength and refuge. He is able to work through us in mighty and powerful ways.

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HOOKS



I Spy...

Play a game of "I Spy", except use a blindfold. Before each child is blindfolded, ask them to look around the classroom and pay special attention to everything that's in it. Next, blindfold the child and instruct the other children to call out different objects in the room by saying, "Do you spy"? If the child answers correctly, keep playing. If the child answers incorrectly, take the blindfold off and show the object. Once you have played several times, lead the children in a discussion about how the Israelites feared instead of trusting.



- The Israelites didn't trust God because they let their fear control them.
- Even though there were giants in the Promised Land, God had promised to give the land to them.
- We sin when we believe our fear and don't trust God.



Fearless Trust Walk

Divide the children into two equal groups. Next, set up a few obstacles throughout the room. Using a bandana to blindfold a child from each group. Have both blindfolded children cross the room going around the obstacles with the help of their teammates. Their teammates can give them directions and tell them which direction they should turn or shouldn't turn. Lead the children in a discussion about how we should trust God even when we can't see what He is doing.

- The Israelites didn't trust God to give them the Promised Land because they didn't see Him working in the land.
- They sinned against God because of their fear.
- We should trust God even when we can't see all that He is doing.