

GOD OFFERS A NEW RELATIONSHIP

STORY: NEW CREATION / YEAR: KINGDOM

BIG TRUTH: GOD OFFERS A NEW RELATIONSHIP

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 11:19-20; 36:22-28; Romans 5:1-5; 6:17-18; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Ephesians 2:19; Colossians 1:19-22

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 separates us from God.
- Jesus rescues us from our sin and restores our relationship to God.
- Through Jesus we become ambassadors instead of rebels.

BIBLE STORY: MARK 5

In our sin, we are all separated from God. We do not have a relationship with Him because we are separated by our sin. The demon-possessed man was separated from society. Jesus saw him and cast out the many demons possessing the man. The man was free to live his life among others. He was free to have relationships with others. Jesus sets us free from our sin and enables us to have a relationship with God.

STORY: NEW CREATION

Part of the beauty of the gospel is that God does not just rescue us from the power of sin, but He is also making everything new. God offers new creation to those who place their faith in Jesus. This newness comes in two ways. The first is that by breaking the power of sin, Jesus is making men and women into brand new people with new identities. Second, God is not only making people new, but He is also going to make a new heaven and a new earth for us to live on and worship Him in.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- God is making all things new



Every child should:

- Thank God for fixing what sin has broken and making a new creation



Every child should feel:

- Wonder at how God takes the brokenness of creation and makes it new



Every child should want:

- To see creation be made new by God

FAMILY DEVOTION: A RESTORED RELATIONSHIP

Our relationship with God is made possible through the blood of Jesus Christ. Jesus makes it possible for each person who believes in Him to be reconciled to God. We no longer have to live as outcasts, but can live in communion with Him.

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."

Jesus is our redemption.

- Jesus redeems us from our sin.
- With His blood, He purchased our freedom from sin.
- When we have saving faith in Jesus, we are set free from our sin.
- It is only through Jesus that we are redeemed.
- Jesus is the only way to know God and to have our sins forgiven.
- Jesus is the only way to freedom from our sin nature.

When we are in Christ, we are new creations.

- Our old selves are sinful and keep us from God.
- Our sin separates us and alienates us.
- When we repent, or turn away from our sin and believe in Jesus, we are no longer separated from God.
- Jesus makes us new people. He gives us new lives.

God offers us a new relationship through Jesus.

- Because of our sin, we are separated from God.
- We do not have a relationship with God while we are sinners.
- God makes a way for us to have a relationship with Him through Jesus.
- God reconciles us to Him through the sacrifice of Jesus.
- We can have a relationship with Him when we follow Jesus.

BIBLE STORY: MARK 5

Jesus and the Demon-Possessed Man

Opening Illustration:

Bring in several different colored pom-poms. Divide the children into small groups and toss the pom-poms all together onto the floor. Have the groups race one another to gather a specific color of pom-pom. For example, one team will gather only red pom-poms. Once they are finished, talk with the children about how we are separated and alone because of our sin, just like they separated the pom-poms, but God offers us a new relationship through Jesus and adopts us into His family, which brings us peace.

BIG IDEA: OUR SIN SEPARATES US FROM GOD.**We are alienated from God because of our sin.**

- Our sin causes us to reject God.
- We reject God and move away from Him.
- We choose our sinful way instead of God's way.
- Because we sin, we are separated from God.
- We move away from God and do not seek Him or His will.

God is holy and righteous and we are not.

- God is the holiest of holies.
- He is perfect and without sin.
- We are sinful and imperfect.
- Because of God's holiness and our sinfulness, we are separated from Him.
- The demon-possessed man was separated from everyone, including God.
- The demons kept him from having any relationship because they controlled him.
- Our sin keeps us from having a relationship with God.¹
- We are controlled by our sin and isolated from God.



Have the children stand in a line and explain that they are going to divide themselves based upon their characteristics, such as eye color, hair color, age, clothing, etc. After you call out a specific characteristic, the children will divide into their specific groups. Play several times and then talk with the children about how our sin separates us from God.

Why are we separated from God? (Our sin separates us from God.)

What controlled the demon-possessed man? (The demons controlled him and kept him isolated.)

What controls us before we believe in Jesus? (Our sin controls us.)

1. Isaiah 64:6: *We are all impure and sinful. Even when we do seemingly good things, they are polluted by our selfishness and desire to glorify ourselves.*

BIG IDEA: JESUS RESCUES US FROM OUR SIN AND RESTORES OUR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD.**Jesus is the only way to have a relationship with God.**

- We are separated from God by our sin, but through Jesus, we can have a restored relationship.
- There is no other way to have a relationship with God except through Jesus.
- We cannot be good enough to earn a relationship with God.
- Anything good we do apart from God is tainted by our sin.



Bring in community helper dress-up clothes, such as fireman, policeman, nurse, etc. Let the children take turns dressing up as a community helper. Talk with them about how community helpers, like firemen, rescue us from danger. Remind them that Jesus rescues us from our sin when we have saving faith in Him.

Jesus paid our sin debt and sets us free.²

- Jesus is the perfect sacrifice and paid for our sin completely.
- He died on the cross for the sin of all people.
- His death makes us clean when we have saving faith.
- The demon-possessed man was set free by Jesus.
- The demons left his body and he was restored to society.

Saving faith in Jesus restores us to God.

- Sin took us away from God, but repentance and faith in Jesus bring us back.
- The demon-possessed man was set free of his demons and he was restored to a real life again.
- He was no longer an outcast living in the tombs wandering day and night.
- He gained a relationship with Jesus and was restored back to his friends and family.

Who rescues us from our sin? (Jesus rescues us from our sin through His sacrifice on the cross.)
What happens when we have saving faith in Jesus? (We have a relationship with God.)

2. 1 Peter 2:24: Jesus bore our sins on the cross and enables us to be righteous before God.

BIG IDEA: THROUGH JESUS WE BECOME AMBASSADORS INSTEAD OF REBELS.**Faith in Jesus joins us to His mission.**

- Our faith in the saving work of Jesus means more than just having our sins forgiven.
- Our faith means a restored relationship with God and we join His mission.
- We become part of God's team and His desires become our desires.
- When we follow Christ, we become the hands and feet of His gospel.
- He includes us in His mission to take the gospel to all of the world.



Help the children create a banner that says "Jesus Saves." Use markers and stickers to decorate the banner. Talk with the children about how Jesus' mercy causes us to share the gospel with others.

Before our faith in Jesus, we are in rebellion.

- In our sin, we are not part of God's mission.
- We are separated like the demon-possessed man was separated from society.
- Our sin causes our rebellion.
- Our lives do not point people to God, but away from Him.
- We are headed down a destructive path.

Jesus' mercy causes us to share His gospel.³

- The demon-possessed man wanted to share what Jesus had done.
- He had experienced Jesus' mercy and his life was forever changed.
- We will want to share the gospel when we have experienced the mercy of Jesus ourselves.
- The demon-possessed man was overjoyed because his life was restored.
- He wanted to follow Jesus and when Jesus told him to go and tell others in town, he did so joyfully.
- We will want to share joyfully with others when we've experienced Jesus' mercy in our lives.

What do we join when we have saving faith in Jesus? (We join God's mission.)

What causes us to want to share the gospel? (When we experience Jesus' mercy in our lives, we want to share the gospel with others.)

3. Acts 8:5: Philip was one of Jesus' disciples. He experienced Jesus' mercy and he joyfully shared with others.

STORY: NEW CREATION

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HOOKS

**Free From Sin**

Ask the children to help you make a list of sins that we commit each day. As they name sins, write them on index cards. Next, ask for a volunteer and use masking tape to tape the cards to his body. (Create enough cards to cover him all over.) Ask the children to take turns “setting him free” from the sin by removing the index cards. Use the same index cards and play a few more rounds with different children. When finished, talk with the children about how Jesus set the demon-possessed man free and He sets us free as well.



- Jesus saw the demon-possessed man and He set him free from the demons.
- Jesus sets us free when we have saving faith in Him.
- He paid our sin debt and we can be free from our sin when we believe in Him.

**Blocking Our Way**

Bring in a small container of water, a small amount of vegetable oil and a medicine dropper. Tell the children that the water represents God and the oil represents us while we are sinners. Use the medicine dropper to place some oil in the water. Show the children how the oil stays separate from the water, just like our sin separates us from God. Remind them that Jesus rescues us from our separation and restores our relationship to God.



- While we are sinners, we are like the oil; we are separated from God.
- Once we have saving faith, we are no longer separated and our relationship with Him is restored.