

GOD OFFERS THE PROMISE OF A NEW BODY

STORY: NEW CREATION / YEAR: KINGDOM

BIG TRUTH: GOD OFFERS THE PROMISE OF A NEW BODY

Romans 8:23; 1 Corinthians 15:42-44; 2 Corinthians 5:1-5; Philippians 3:20-21

BIBLE VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:53-54

“For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’”

BIG IDEAS

- God created us to live for eternity.
- Sin leads to death and death comes to everyone.
- Jesus defeated sin and death and rose again with a new body.
- Every believer will receive a new body one day without the effects of sin.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 24:36-53

After Jesus’ resurrection, He appeared to His disciples, revealing His glorified body. Jesus’ resurrection from the dead means that He rules over death. It also means that those who believe in Him will receive glorified bodies that are not subject to death and disease. We will be like Him when He returns.

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 feel:

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



Every child should:

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



Every child should want:

- To see creation be made new by God

FAMILY DEVOTION: CREATED FOR ETERNITY

We were created to glorify God and to be with Him forever. Our sin caused a separation between God and us, but Jesus’ death made a way for us to be with Him again. We are made for eternity and we will see that eternity one day.

GOD OFFERS THE PROMISE OF A NEW BODY

BIBLE VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:53-54

“For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’”

Sin brought death to the world.

- Death entered the world when sin entered man’s heart.
- Sin brought death and destruction.
- It brought disease, heartache, and great sorrow.
- Our bodies changed when sin entered the heart of man.
- Our bodies are perishable and subject to disease and decay.
- We experience sickness and grow old.
- Every person experiences death unless Jesus returns in his or her lifetime.
- Death is part of God’s creation now because of the sin of man.

Because of Christ’s resurrection, His followers will be resurrected.

- Christ’s death and resurrection paid the sin debt of man and gave man the promise of new life.
- When we repent and believe, we receive a new nature that is not enslaved to sin.
- We also receive the promise of a resurrection to a new, glorified body.
- Christ was the first fruit of this new body.
- When He rose from the dead, He rose in a new body, not affected by disease and death.
- He conquered death when He died and rose to life again.

When we rise again to eternity with Christ, we will rise in new, glorified bodies.

- Our new bodies will not be subject to the effects of disease and death.
- We will not get sick, suffer injuries, or grow old and weak.
- Our bodies will be new and imperishable.
- We will put on immortality and those who have repented and believed in Jesus will spend eternity with Him.
- When we rise again in our glorified bodies, death will be finished.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 24:36-53

Jesus Appears To The Disciples

Opening Illustration:

Divide the children into small groups. Give each group construction paper and pencils. Have each group trace one another’s hands. After they finish, have the children write their names on the hands and then write something that God offers to us, such as hope, new life, and friendship. Help the children glue or tape their hands to a paper plate to make a wreath around the edge of the paper plate. Talk with the children about how God offers us many things, but all of these things are offered to us only through Jesus.

GOD OFFERS THE PROMISE OF A NEW BODY

BIG IDEA: GOD CREATED US TO LIVE FOR ETERNITY.

In the beginning, we were made to live forever.

- God's creation was perfect and without sin in the beginning.
- Adam and Eve had a perfect relationship with God.
- They were in daily communion with God.
- Sin entered God's perfect creation and broke it.
- Adam and Eve rejected God's perfect home for them by choosing to disobey Him.
- This sin caused death to enter the world.

Before Adam and Eve's sin, our bodies were eternal bodies.¹

- Because God is the Creator and Sustainer of all life, the bodies He gave to Adam and Eve were eternal bodies.
- When Adam and Eve sinned, God made physical death the consequence, or wage, of their sin.
- Disease and decay entered the world after sin entered the heart of man.
- This disease and decay would bring sorrow to man.
- God sent Adam and Eve out of the garden and made death the wage of sin as a way of keeping mankind from living forever as sinful beings.
- We are all made for eternity. Eternity is in our hearts.



Bring in several hoola-hoops. Let the children play with the hula-hoops for a little while. As they play, talk with them about how we were made for eternity or to live forever. Show them how a circle has no end; it just continues to go around and around. Eternity is similar to the circle in that, our lives will just continue forever.

What are we created to live for? (We are created to live for eternity.)

1. Romans 5:12: Death entered the world after sin entered the world and the heart of man.

GOD OFFERS THE PROMISE OF A NEW BODY

BIG IDEA: SIN LEADS TO DEATH AND DEATH COMES TO EVERYONE.

The wage of sin is death.

- Prior to sin entering the heart of man, death was not part of life on earth.
- Adam and Eve had not experienced death.
- When God placed them in the Garden, He gave them an abundance of things to sustain their life and to make it enjoyable.
- He gave them work that was pleasurable and any food they would like to eat, except for one.
- God commanded them not to eat the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.
- God warned them that if they did, they would die.



Bring in a several bananas at different stages of ripeness. Make sure one banana is a little past the green stage and one is very, very ripe. Show the bananas to the children and talk about the differences in each one. Tell the children that just like the bananas are decaying, our bodies and all of creation decay as well. We all experience death because of our sin.

All have sinned and all have and will experience death.²

- When Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate of the forbidden fruit, they experienced spiritual death for the first time.
- Their perfect relationship with God was broken.
- They no longer walked in joyful communion with Him.
- Instead, they hid in fear.
- Their bodies began to decay after they ate the forbidden fruit because death entered God's creation, too.
- God's perfect creation was broken now, causing death, disease, and decay to come to it.
- All of creation would be affected by death.

Why did death enter the world? (Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit causing death to enter the world.)

2. Romans 3:23: No one is without sin. We are all born with sin natures and we all reject God from the very beginning.

GOD OFFERS THE PROMISE OF A NEW BODY

BIG IDEA: JESUS DEFEATED SIN AND DEATH AND ROSE AGAIN WITH A NEW BODY.³

Jesus' death on the cross defeated sin.

- Jesus came to earth and lived a sinless, perfect life.
- Because He is perfect, He became the perfect sacrifice for our sin.
- Sin required death as payment, but no person could pay that price because no person is without sin.
- Jesus went to the cross and became sin for our sake. He took on our sin and paid the price of death for us.
- When He died on the cross, the wage of sin was considered paid in full.
- Sin no longer reigned because Jesus had defeated it.



Bring in enough balloons for every child. Tell the children that the balloons represent death and sin. Have the children pop the balloons by stomping on them. Tell the children that when Jesus rose from the grave, He defeated death and sin just like the popped balloons are defeated.

When Jesus rose from the grave, He defeated death.

- Jesus willingly gave up His life on the cross.
- He chose the exact moment that He would die and when He breathed His last breath, sin lost.
- He was buried in a tomb and on the third day, He rose to life again.
- No person had ever raised himself from the dead.
- Jesus showed His divine power over all things when He came to life again and left the tomb.
- He defeated death that day.
- He appeared to His disciples in His glorified body after His resurrection.
- They saw firsthand that He had overcome death.
- His body was not subject to decay and death again.
- His new body was an eternal body.

How did Jesus defeat sin? (He took our sins on at the cross and died for us.)

How did Jesus defeat death? (He rose to life again after He had been buried.)

3. Romans 6:8-10: Christ died and was raised to life again. He was raised to life in a new body that will not die again.

GOD OFFERS THE PROMISE OF A NEW BODY

BIG IDEA: NEW LIFE IN CHRIST MEANS A NEW BODY WITHOUT THE EFFECTS OF SIN ONE DAY FOR EVERY BELIEVER.⁴

Christ's death on the cross makes a way for us to have new life.

- When Jesus died on the cross, His death paid our sin debt.
- Because He paid our sin debt, we no longer have to be held captive to sin.
- This freedom is available to us if we repent of our sin and believe in Jesus.
- When we believe in Jesus, we receive new life through Him.
- He gives us a new heart that is no longer captive to sin.
- He gives us His Spirit to live inside of us, guiding us to become more like Him.



Gather a large roll of paper and have the children take turns tracing one another. Allow them to decorate their bodies and discuss with them how our old bodies are affected by sickness and injury, but our glorified bodies will be perfect and eternal.

Christ's sacrifice gives us new life and, one day, a new body unaffected by sin.

- Sin affects everything in our world. It affects creation itself, causing disease and decay.
- It causes fighting and disagreements among people.
- It causes physical death to come to every living thing.
- When Christ died on the cross, He was buried in a tomb, but rose to new life on the third day.
- He appeared to His disciples after His resurrection in His new, or glorified, body.
- His new body was still a body, but it was not affected by the sin of the world.
- It was eternal and unaffected by the constraints of this world.
- For every person who repents and believes in Jesus, a new, glorified body is promised to them.
- We can hope in the promise that one day, we, too, will receive a new body free from the effects of sin.

What is promised to every believer? (A new, eternal body that is not affected by sin is promised to every believer.)

4. 1 Corinthians 15:42-44: Our resurrection bodies are different from our earthly bodies. They are not affected by sin and death.

GOD OFFERS THE PROMISE OF A NEW BODY

HOOKS



Old Made New

Bring in a bowl, white vinegar, salt, old pennies, and a brush. As you prepare the vinegar solution, talk with the children about how our old bodies are affected by sin. We get sick and feel pain and sorrow. Pour some of the vinegar and salt into the bowl. Set the pennies in the solution and let them sit for a minute or two. While you wait, ask the children to name some of the things that affect our bodies now, such as sickness, hurt feelings, etc. After a few minutes, use the brush to clean the pennies. Talk with the children about how every person who believes in Jesus will receive a new body that won't be affected by sin and death.



- Our new bodies will not feel the effects of sin and death.
- We will have a body that is free from sin and doesn't feel pain and sorrow.



Surprise

Allow the children to take turns surprising one another by having them sit in a circle with their eyes closed. Choose one child to walk around the circle and tap another child on the shoulder to say, "Surprise!" Continue until each child has had a turn to walk around the circle. Explain to the children that the disciples were sad after Jesus' death, but He surprised them when He appeared before them in the upper room.

- Even Jesus' disciples did not believe that He could bring Himself back to life.
- Jesus proved victory over sin and death when He rose from the grave and appeared to His disciples.
- He encouraged them with His presence and promised His Spirit would come to live in their hearts forever.



Feelings Match

Play a game of charades with the children and have them act out different emotions. Afterwards, let the children share what things in this world make them happy or sad. Help them identify which emotions won't affect our new bodies.

- When Jesus died on the cross and was raised to new life, He defeated death and sin.
- This means that, one day, we will not be affected by sorrow, sickness, or death.
- We will have new bodies that are free from sin and death.