

**BIG TRUTH: GOD IS OUR SUBSTITUTE**

Isaiah 53:4-6; John 1:1-3; 18; Romans 5:6-11; 8:1-4; Galatians 3:13-14; Ephesians 5:1-2; 1 Peter 2:22-24; 3:18; 1 John 2:1-2; 4:9-10

**BIBLE VERSE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21**

*“For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”*

**BIG IDEAS**

- We cannot save ourselves.
- God sent His Son to be our sinless sacrifice.
- Jesus died in our place.
- Substitution is final and forever.

**BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 22**

Abraham was God’s servant. God had promised to make a great nation through Abraham and He began by giving Abraham a son named Isaac. God tested Abraham’s faith when He asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. Abraham obeyed God and set out to give Isaac as a sacrifice, but God stopped him before he killed Isaac. God provided a ram in a thicket nearby to take the place of Isaac as the sacrifice. Jesus is our substitute just as the ram was Isaac’s substitute. Jesus took our place and paid our sin debt.

**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:**

- God fixes our relationships with Him and with others through Jesus

**Every child should feel:**

- Hope that God is fixing creation

**Every child should:**

- See Jesus as God’s plan for our brokenness

**Every child should want:**

- To be made new through faith and hope in Jesus

**WANTED: A SINLESS SACRIFICE**

As a family create a “Want Ad” seeking a sinless sacrifice. Help your child think of the many things we need forgiveness for, such as bad attitudes, lying, stealing, disobeying, etc. Remind your child that God provided a sinless sacrifice when He sent Jesus to pay our sin debt.

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

Genesis 22

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

Abraham followed and obeyed God for many years before God promised to give him a son and to make a great nation through him. Abraham believed God and God gave Abraham a son, Isaac. God asked Abraham to do a difficult thing for Him one day. He asked Abraham to take Isaac to the top of the mountain and to offer Isaac as a burnt offering to God. A burnt offering is an offering that is burned up completely. Abraham loved Isaac. Abraham proved that he loved God more. He trusted God and so he obeyed God. Abraham took Isaac to the top of the mountain and they built an altar together. Abraham laid Isaac on the altar and prepared to sacrifice him to God, but God’s voice broke through the Heavens and stopped Abraham. God tested Abraham’s faith in Him and when Abraham showed that he really did trust God, God stopped him from sacrificing his son. A sacrifice was still needed for the offering. God provided a ram caught in a thicket nearby for Abraham and Isaac to offer to Him. Abraham and Isaac offered the ram to God with thanksgiving. He had provided a substitute for Isaac. God provided a substitute for all of His people when He sent Jesus to pay our sin debt. We are all sinful and owe a great sin debt that we cannot pay ourselves. God didn’t leave us in need. Instead, He sent His only Son, Jesus to die on the cross in our place. Jesus took our place and became our substitute. Because of Jesus we don’t have to pay our sin debt when we choose to have saving faith in Him.

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

- What did God ask Abraham to do? (He asked Abraham to offer Isaac as a burnt offering to God.)
- How did Abraham respond to what God asked Abraham to do? (He obeyed.)
- How did Abraham show he trusted God? (He took Isaac to the mountain and prepared to sacrifice him.)
- What substitute did God provide for Isaac? (He provided a ram caught in a thicket.)
- Who did God send to be our substitute? (He sent His only Son, Jesus.)
- Why do we need a substitute? (We are all sinful and in need of someone to save us.)



KNOW



DO

As a family memorize 2 Corinthians 5:21 by writing the verse on small pieces of paper and hiding them throughout your house. Help your child hunt for the papers and then tape them together on a large sheet of paper. Say the verse out loud several times to memorize it.



FEEL



WANT

Spend some time in the morning or at night praying with your child and thanking God for sending Jesus to be our substitute. Talk with your child about how we don’t have to pay our sin debt because Jesus paid it for us.

Use sticks, twigs, or large rocks to build an altar in your yard. As you build the altar together talk with your child about how God provided a substitute for Isaac and He provided a substitute for us when He sent Jesus to die on the cross.

Throughout this week at different mealtimes give your child the option of substituting something they don’t like for something they do like. Use this week to allow your child to pick something like candy that you normally would not allow them to have. Remind your child every time that God sent Jesus to be our substitute just like you’re allowing them to substitute.