

BIG TRUTH: WE ARE SINNERS

Psalm 51:5; 130:3; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Isaiah 53:6; 64:6; Romans 3:10-12; 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3; 1 John 1:8-10

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 3:23

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

BIG IDEAS

- Sin is disobedience.
- Sin is rejection.
- I have disobeyed and rejected God.

BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 3

God prepared a home for Adam and Eve. He placed them in the Garden of Eden and gave them everything they needed to live. Because of His love for them, He gave them boundaries. They could eat anything in the Garden except for one thing. The only thing they could not eat was the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. God set this boundary to protect Adam and Eve, but Adam and Eve disobeyed God. When they ate the fruit, they chose to break away from God's plan. Their disobedience was sin and their hearts became sinful. Every person born after them is born with a sinful heart. We are all disobedient.

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

DISOBEDIENCE IS SIN

Gather together a solution of $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of vinegar. With your child, use a cotton swab dipped in the vinegar to try to clean a penny. The vinegar alone will not clean the penny. Tell your child that you didn't follow the directions and you need to add 1 tsp. of salt. Stir the salt in the vinegar until the salt is dissolved. Next, drop the pennies in the solution and use the cotton swab to clean them until they are shiny. When we don't follow God's Word and disobey, our lives are full of trouble because we are sinning.

DISCOVER IT: *(Use the passage to illustrate the Big Truth.)*
Genesis 3.

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

Often we like to think that our way of doing something is the best way. We may even think that we know more about something than someone else. God's Word tells us how to live our lives in such a way that we glorify Him. When we follow His Word and obey Him, our lives are better, but we don't always do this. Sometimes, we disobey His Word. We think we know better.

Adam and Eve thought they knew better than God. They knew that God had given them their home and everything they would ever need. He had set up rules and boundaries to keep them safe, but they didn't obey His rules. God told them they could eat the fruit of any tree in the Garden, except for one. This tree would give them knowledge of good and evil and God was protecting them from that. Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate the fruit from the forbidden tree. When they did, sin entered their hearts and the heart of every person born after them. Disobedience is sin. Disobedience is not listening to God's Word and doing what He tells us to do.

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

- What did God tell Adam and Eve they could eat? (They could eat the fruit from any tree except the forbidden tree.)
- Did Adam and Eve obey God? (They did not obey Him.)
- How did Adam and Eve sin? (They disobeyed God.)

**KNOW**

As a family, memorize Romans 3:23 by writing the verse on a strip of paper and placing it somewhere it can be easily seen. Take turns saying the verse out loud throughout the week.

**DO**

Ask your child to help you make chocolate milk. Instead of following the directions and using chocolate syrup, use water instead. When you finish, ask your child to try the milk. Talk with him or her about how we all sin and make poor choices when we don't obey God. Just like the milk doesn't taste like chocolate milk, our lives don't look like they're supposed to because of our disobedience.

**FEEL**

Use an empty paper towel holder and green and red tissue paper to create a tree. Ball the green and red tissue paper into small balls and use as the leaves and fruit on the tree. Talk with your child about how Adam and Eve disobeyed God and we all have sin in our hearts now. We all disobey.

**WANT**

Set aside a special time to spend with your child. Share with him or her a time when you were not obedient and explain the consequences. (Choose an appropriate story for your child's age.) Talk with him or her about how when we disobey God, we are sinning, just like Adam and Eve's disobedience was sin against God.

As a family, spend some time singing praises to God for sending His Son to pay our sin debt because of our disobedience.