

# WE ARE SEPARATED

## STORY: FALL

### BIG TRUTH: WE ARE SEPARATED

Genesis 3:23-24; Deuteronomy 31:16-18; Micah 3:4; Romans 1:18-21; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 2:12; 4:18; Colossians 1:19-22

### BIBLE VERSE: ISAIAH 59:2

*"But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear."*

### BIG IDEAS

- Sin is lostness.
- Sin is brokenness.
- I am broken and lost.

### BIBLE STORY: LUKE 15:1-7

Jesus spent His time on this earth seeking out sinners so that He might share the good news with them. The Pharisees and scribes grumbled against Jesus because He spent time with sinners, yet Jesus taught them that even one lost person is of great value to God. Just like a shepherd will leave his herd to find one lost sheep, Jesus came to the earth to save the lost. We are the lost sheep in need of Jesus.

### 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: LITTLE LOST SHEEP

Our sinful hearts cause us to be separated from God. We are like little lost sheep in need of our shepherd's help. God is our shepherd and He sent His Son to save us.

**BIBLE VERSE: ISAIAH 59:2**

*“But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.”*

**Everyone has a sin nature.**

- No one is born innocent or without sin.
- We are all born with a sin nature, with a heart that desires our way over God’s way.
- Our hearts lead us to rebel against God, to sin against Him.
- No one can stand before God with a clean, pure heart.

**Our sin separates us from God.**

- Sin causes a barrier between man and God.
- Sin does not limit God’s forgiveness, but it separates man from God.
- Sin causes our hearts to turn away from God.
- God is holy and righteous.
- He is without sin.
- We are sinful and we do not seek God on our own.
- Our sin and rebellion break our relationship with God and separate us from Him.

**BIBLE STORY: LUKE 15:1-7**

*The Lost Sheep*

**Opening Illustration:**

Before class hide an object, such as your Bible or another important object in the classroom somewhere. When the children enter the class, tell them that you have lost your object and you need their help to find it. After the children have found the object, lead them in a discussion about how we are all lost because our sin separates us from God.

- Every person has a sin nature and we are separated from God because of it.
- Even though we are lost and need to be found, like my object, God sent Jesus to find us and to pay our sin debt.

**BIG IDEA: SIN IS LOSTNESS.****Lostness means not being on the right path.**

- Jesus shared a story, or parable about a shepherd who had a hundred sheep.
- One of his sheep wandered away and was lost. It was separated from the rest of the herd.
- The sheep was away from the protection and guidance of the shepherd.
- Sin causes us to be lost like this.
- It causes us to be away from God, to be separated from Him.<sup>1</sup>
- Sin causes us to be lost and not on the right path.



Before class blow up white balloons and use a black marker to draw a sheep face on each balloon. Allow the children to take turns “herding” the sheep and keeping up with the wayward sheep using a fly swatter or a stick. Remind the children that just like the balloon sheep get separated from the herd, we are separated from God.

**Lostness means we need to be found.**

- The lost sheep needed to be found by the shepherd.
- It couldn't find its own way back.
- Sin causes us to need to be found.
- Sin keeps us from being able to find our own way back to God.
- Sin means we aren't on the right path.
- It means we've lost our way and are headed in the wrong direction.

*What does it mean to be lost? (You aren't on the right path. You're not headed in the right direction.)*

*What causes us to be lost? (Our sin causes us to be lost and in need of God.)*

1. Hebrews 7:26: Sin separates us from God. Jesus is holy and righteous and separated from sin.

**BIG IDEA: SIN IS BROKENNESS.<sup>2</sup>****Sin breaks our relationship with God.**

- The sheep who lost its way was no longer with the shepherd.
- Our sin breaks our relationship with God.
- It separates us from Him and means we aren't being led by Him.
- Our sin leads us away from God, keeping us from knowing Him.

**Sin breaks us.**

- When God first created man and woman, they were perfect.
- They did not have to experience sorrow or know what it's like to be away from God.
- Our bodies are not perfect and eternal like they once were.
- They are broken now because of our sin natures.
- We experience death and sickness.
- Our hearts are not without sin and our sin breaks us and our relationship with God.



Have the children form a circle by holding hands. Stand on the outside of the circle and try to break through, but tell the children to not let you in. Do this several times, allowing children to volunteer to be on the outside if they like. Remind the students that our sin separates us from God, just like you were separated from their circle.

*What breaks our relationship with God? (Sin breaks our relationship and separates us from God.)*

2. Romans 8:19-22: Sin breaks everything. It broke creation, causing death and decay to enter the perfect world God created. Sin breaks our relationship with God, separating us from our Creator.

**BIG IDEA: I AM BROKEN AND LOST.****No one is on the right path without God's help.**

- We are all broken and lost before we know God.
- When we are born, our broken, sinful hearts lead us down the wrong path.
- Our lives are not what they should be without God.
- We are all like the one lost sheep.
- We are in need of being found by our Shepherd, God.



Divide the children into groups and give each group a container of colored beads. Place one white bead in the container. Ask the children to separate the beads according to color. Remind the children that we are separated from God like the white bead is separated from all the other color groups. Our sin separates us from God.

**We all have broken and sinful hearts.<sup>3</sup>**

- Every person has a sinful heart.
- We don't naturally seek after God.
- Our choices show that we are seeking our own way.
- We are like the one sheep who wandered away from the flock and got lost.
- We need Jesus to find us.
- Our lostness keeps us away from God.
- Our brokenness keeps us from knowing we need God.
- Yet, the shepherd left the flock to look for the one lost sheep and God looks for us.
- God seeks us out and offers us salvation through His Son, Jesus.

*What makes everyone broken and lost? (Sin causes us all to be broken and lost.)*

3. Jeremiah 17:9: Our hearts cannot be trusted. They are sinful and deceitful and will lead us to rebel against God.

## HOOKS

**The Lost Sheep**

Bring in a cane or staff that could be used as a shepherd's hook. Gather the children together and have them act out the story of the lost sheep. Choose a child to be the lost sheep that wanders away and allow the other children to take turns being the shepherd. Talk with them about how we are like the lost sheep. We are lost and separated from God.



- Every person is like the little lost sheep.
- We are all separated from God. We've all lost our way.

**Lost and Broken**

Give each child a blank piece of paper. Ask each child to draw a picture of something that is important to him or her. It can be a picture of a friend, a toy, or a pet. Once they all have a chance to share about their important thing, ask the children how they'd feel if they lost their important thing. Lead them in a discussion about how long they'd look for their item and how much they'd pay to get it back.



- We are all lost and God paid the highest price in order to get us back.
- God sent His Son to pay our sin debt so we could be with Him again.

**We Are Separated From God**

Give each child a piece of paper. Ask them to draw two columns. At the top of one column, they should write "God" and at the top of the second one they should write their name. Collect each paper and tear them in half separating the child's name from God's column. Remind the children that our sin separates us from God just like ripping the paper separated them from God. We are all separated from God by our sinful hearts.