

WE HURT OURSELVES

STORY: FALL

BIG TRUTH: WE HURT OURSELVES

Proverbs 1; 7:14-16; Galatians 6:7-8; Romans 1:18-23

BIBLE VERSE: PROVERBS 5:22

"The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him, and he is held fast in the cords of his sin."

BIG IDEAS

- Our sin causes us to want what we should not possess.
- Our sin is always a rejection of joy.
- Our sin always leads to our hurt.

BIBLE STORY: 1 SAMUEL 15

Saul was the king of the Israelites, but he did not always obey God. God had given Saul specific instructions through Samuel, God's prophet, but Saul did not obey those instructions. His sin led to his loss of the kingdom and God's rejection of him. Our sin leads to our hurt.

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: SIN LEADS TO HURT

Our sin leads us to hurt ourselves even when we don't realize it. Our sinful hearts lead us to make sinful choices that cause us great harm and hurt others.

BIBLE VERSE: PROVERBS 5:22

“The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him, and he is held fast in the cords of his sin.”

Our sin leads us away from God.

- Our sin nature causes us to believe lies.
- We believe lies and go down a path of destruction.
- Our sin causes us to reject and forsake God.
- We do not seek God or follow His Word.
- Instead, we seek our own way and fulfill our own desires.

Our sin traps us.

- When we follow our sinful hearts and reject God, we become ensnared in our sin.
- We believe lies that lead us down sinful roads.
- We lose our way and become trapped in our sin.
- Our sin can act as ropes that bind us and keep us from the truth of God.
- Only God can free us from the bonds of sin.
- When we sin, we hurt ourselves by forsaking God and His Word.

Our sin causes us to reject the joy that comes from God.

- When we are ensnared by our sin, we are away from God and do not have joy.
- Our sinful hearts cause us to reject joy because joy comes only from God.
- When we are bound by our sin, we cannot experience joy because we are separated from God.
- God is the only source of true joy and our sin keeps us from Him.

BIBLE STORY: 1 SAMUEL 15

Saul Rejected As King

Opening Illustration:

Have each child make his or her own scepter using empty paper towel holders. You can use different colors of wrapping paper, stickers, and markers to decorate the “scepters”. After the children make their own “scepters”, talk to them about what a scepter symbolizes (power and authority) and then talk about how we want to rule ourselves. We reject God and His joy, power, and rule and desire to rule ourselves.

BIG IDEA: OUR SIN CAUSES US TO WANT WHAT WE SHOULD NOT POSSESS.**Sin makes us think we are being denied good things.**

- God gave King Saul very specific instructions for how he was supposed to conquer the Amalekites.
- Saul didn't obey God because he chose to conquer the Amalekites the way he thought best.
- Saul kept the Amalekite king alive and the best of the Amalekites' livestock for himself.
- Our sin causes us to desire our own way and to want things we shouldn't.

Our sinful hearts cannot be trusted.¹

- Saul thought he knew better than God.
- His heart desired the wealth of the Amalekites even though God told him to destroy it all.
- Our hearts are sinful.
- We want things we shouldn't and we don't listen to God.
- King Saul disobeyed God because he kept the wealth of the Amalekites instead of destroying it.
- He also kept the Amalekite king alive instead of killing him like God told him to do.



Bring in a pair of sunglasses. Ask the children to take turns wearing the sunglasses. When a child has the sunglasses on, ask the child to describe the room. Ask them if the room is light or dark. When the child takes the glasses off, ask them to describe the room again. Remind them that our sin keeps us from seeing God's truth and we may think we want something when we really don't.

*How did Saul disobey God? (Saul kept the Amalekite king alive and kept the best of the Amalekites' livestock for himself.)
What makes us want things we shouldn't? (Our sinful hearts make us want things we shouldn't have.)*

1. Jeremiah 17:9: Our hearts are wicked and deceitful. They cannot be trusted to lead us the right way.

BIG IDEA: OUR SIN IS ALWAYS A REJECTION OF JOY.**We reject joy when we follow our own way.**

- King Saul followed his own plan instead of obeying God's commands.
- His disobedience led him to lose the power of king when God rejected him.
- King Saul lost his joy when he disobeyed even though he thought he was getting joy by doing what he thought was best.
- We turn away from joy when we choose our sinful ways instead of obeying God.



Sing "I've Got That Joy, Joy, Joy Down In My Heart" with the children and talk about how God is our source of true joy.

We lose joy when we reject God.

- Saul lost joy when he disobeyed God.
- He chose his own way and what he thought would make him happy and it didn't.
- We lose joy when we disobey God and choose other things that we think will make us happy.
- We think we know what will bring joy when we really don't know.
- Just like Saul, we seek the wrong things.

God is the only source for true joy.²

- God is the only source for true joy.
- When we follow our own sinful hearts, we reject Him which means we reject joy.
- We cannot have joy without God.
- When Saul rejected God's command, he rejected joy and lost his right to be king of God's special people, the Israelites.

How did Saul lose his joy? (He rejected God's command and disobeyed Him.)

How do we lose joy? (When we don't follow God, we lose joy because our sin separates us from God.)

2. 1 Peter 1:8-9: God is our only source for true joy. Knowing Him and being known by Him fills us with great joy.

BIG IDEA: OUR SIN ALWAYS LEADS TO OUR HURT.**Choosing our own way always brings hurt.**

- When we disobey God and choose our own way, we bring hurt on ourselves.
- King Saul brought hurt on himself when he chose disobedience over obedience.
- We are not as wise or all knowing as God is.
- When we listen to our sinful hearts, we bring pain and sorrow on our lives.



Play a game of “Follow the Leader.” Ask the children to do exactly as you tell them and to go exactly where you tell them. Remind them that we should obey God because when we don’t it leads to our hurt.

Sin may seem to bring happiness, but it never really does.³

- King Saul thought it wouldn’t matter that he kept the best livestock of the Amalekites.
- He didn’t realize that his disobedience would bring him great sorrow.
- He only partially obeyed God’s command, which is really disobedience.
- When we listen to our sinful hearts, we are led the wrong way.
- We begin to believe that we know better and we disobey God.
- This brings unhappiness and sorrow to us.

Our sin brings us hurt and it hurts others.

- Saul’s sin caused him hurt.
- He disobeyed God and God said that the line of kings would no longer come from Saul’s family.
- Our sin always brings us hurt even when we think it won’t.
- Our sin hurts others in our lives.

How did Saul’s sin hurt him? (God said the king would no longer come from Saul’s family.)

3. Psalm 9:17: *Our sin leads us to death. We think it will bring happiness, but it leads to death and hell.*

HOOKS

**Excuses Bee**

Have the children line up in a straight line against the wall. Next, tell them that you are going to have an Excuses Bee. It is like a spelling bee except you take turns coming up with an excuse for not listening to your parents or teachers. For example, the first student can say, "I forgot" as an excuse for not cleaning their room when they're told to. If a person can't come up with an excuse, they have to sit down. After you finish playing, lead the children in a discussion about how we hurt ourselves when we don't listen to God and are disobedient.

**Crown No More**

Help each child make his or her own crown out of cardstock paper. Supply the children with markers and stickers to decorate their crowns. Once they finish, ask the children to put their crowns on their heads. Talk with them about how Saul chose to rule himself when he disobeyed God. When we choose to rule ourselves instead of listening to God, we hurt ourselves just like Saul did.

