

WE HURT OTHERS

STORY: FALL

BIG TRUTH: WE HURT OTHERS

Leviticus 19:15-16; Nehemiah 5:7-81; Matthew 7:12; Ephesians 4:30-32; Colossians 3:5-10; 1 Peter 3:8-9; Titus 3:2

BIBLE VERSE: 1 JOHN 3:10

“By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.”

BIG IDEAS

- Our sin makes us selfish.
- Our sin makes us jealous.
- Our sin makes us angry.
- Our sin makes us wound others.

BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 4

Our sinful hearts make us selfish. When we are selfish, we are focused on ourselves and are not focused on glorifying God. Cain was focused on himself and his selfishness led him to become jealous and angry towards God and Abel. His sin caused him to hurt his brother by taking his brother's life.

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: OUR SIN HURTS OTHERS

Our sin never just hurts us. We may think that our poor behavior or poor choices only affect us, but our sin always hurts others.

BIBLE VERSE: 1 JOHN 3:10

“By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.”

Sin is from the devil and is lawlessness.

- Sin is not from God. God has no sin in Him.
- Sin is of Satan, the devil.
- Whoever sins is of Satan and does his work.
- Our sinful hearts separate us from God and place us near the devil.
- God, in His mercy, made a way for us to be with Him again.

Our sin doesn't just hurt us.

- Our sin hurts us by taking us farther and farther away from God.
- Our sin causes us much harm and heartache.
- Our sin also hurts others.
- When we live in sin, we do not love others as God commands us to do.
- Our lack of love for others causes us to mistreat them.
- We hurt others when we live in sin.

Everything we do affects those around us.

- Our sin affects people around us.
- Everyone who is connected to us is affected by our sin.
- Even when we think our sin is hidden or secret, it still affects the people around us.
- Our sin affects our attitudes and moods, which affect the people around us.
- Our sinful hearts cause us to hurt others through our sinful choices.

BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 4

Cain And Abel

Opening Illustration:

On small cards write out several commandments from God's Word, such as "Children obey your parents", "Love one another", etc. Make sure you have enough cards for every child in your class. Place the chairs in your room in a circle for musical chairs and put the cards on the floor in the center of the circle. Play a game of musical chairs. Every time the music stops and a child is without a chair, he or she gets to pick a card from the center. Have the child read the card or read it for them and ask the children to raise their hands if they have ever disobeyed the command. Discuss how this sin, affected the other people in their lives. Play enough times so that every card gets read. Talk with the children about how our sinful hearts cause us to disobey God and reject Him. They cause us to be jealous and to get angry with others and even hurt others.

BIG IDEA: OUR SIN MAKES US SELFISH.**Sin makes us focus on ourselves.¹**

- When our eyes are on ourselves, our focus is not on God.
- We focus on ourselves and seek to make ourselves happy instead of seeking to please God.
- This focus will cause us to think only of ourselves.
- Sin makes us self-centered and selfish.
- When we are self-centered, we are thinking about ourselves and what makes us happy, not about what brings God glory.



Help the children come up with a list of selfish behaviors and a list of behaviors that show love for others. Write the list on the board and then remind the children that our sin makes us selfish and incapable of loving others.

Our focus on ourselves makes us selfish.

- When we are self-centered, we are not focused on others.
- It is hard to love others when we are only thinking of ourselves.
- We do not seek to help others, or even love others as we should.
- Cain was focused on himself and not others.
- His self-centeredness made Him selfish.
- He didn't give his offering with a heart devoted to God.
- Our sin can make us keep our very best to ourselves.
- It can make us think we are loving others and loving God, when we are really just loving ourselves.

What happens when we focus on ourselves? (We become self-centered.)

Are we able to really love people when we focus only on ourselves? (No, we will love ourselves and not others.)

1. Romans 8:5: *When we live by the flesh, we live for ourselves and not for God. Our flesh is selfish and self-centered.*

BIG IDEA: OUR SIN MAKES US JEALOUS.**Selfishness keeps us focused on ourselves and makes us want more than we already have.**

- Cain was self-centered and thought only of himself.
- Even when he brought an offering to God, he was only thinking of himself.
- He brought his offering to gain a blessing or approval from God, not to glorify God.
- Our sin makes us selfish and makes us focus on ourselves too much.
- Our sin makes us think about what we don't have and we become jealous of what others have.

Our sinful hearts are jealous hearts.²

- When we are focused on ourselves and we want more for ourselves, we become jealous of others.
- Cain became jealous of Abel because God accepted Abel's offering and not Cain's.
- Cain's selfishness led him to jealousy.
- Our selfishness leads us to jealousy, too.
- When we are so focused on ourselves, we can only think of what we have and what we don't have.
- We will become jealous when someone else receives a blessing or gets something that we want or that we don't have.
- Our sinful hearts causes us to become jealous of others.

Why was Cain jealous of Abel? (God accepted Abel's offering and not Cain's.)

What do our sinful hearts cause us to become? (They cause us to become jealous of others and the things others have.)



Help the children create their own "offering" using small stuffed animals and plastic toy food. Let the children choose the "offering" they'd like to give. Talk with them about how Cain became jealous of Abel because God accepted his offering. Our sin makes us become jealous of others and leads us to hurt others.

2. *Philippians 2:3: We are commanded in God's Word to be unselfish. Our flesh natures are selfish and seek our own glory, but God tells us to not think of ourselves. Nothing we do should be done out of selfishness or jealousy.*

BIG IDEA: OUR SIN MAKES US ANGRY.**Sinful hearts very easily become angry hearts.**

- Our sin causes us to focus on ourselves and this leads to a sense of entitlement.
- When we feel we deserve things or special treatment, we have a sense of entitlement.
- Cain had a sense of entitlement because he thought he deserved to have God accept his offering just because he offered it.
- God didn't accept Cain's offering because God knew Cain's heart was selfish.
- Cain still thought he should be blessed by God just like his brother was.
- Cain was selfish and he became very angry when God rejected his offering.
- He didn't ask God to forgive him, instead he became jealous and angry.



Help the children make a list of things that make them angry. Write the list on the board or on a large piece of paper attached to the wall. Talk through each thing on the list and remind the children that our sin makes us get angry and then leads us to hurt others.

Anger can cause us to sin.³

- When we are angry, we should not sin.
- Cain's anger was sinful and caused him to sin even more.
- Our anger can cause us to sin.
- Our anger can cause us to hurt others.
- Cain's anger was wrong because his focus was on himself and not on God.

How did Cain's anger hurt others? (He killed his brother out of anger.)

How can our anger hurt others? (We may say mean things or we may do things that cause others hurt.)

3. Ephesians 4:26: *When we are angry for righteous reasons, we do not sin, unless our hearts and our actions become sinful. Our anger can very quickly cause us to sin.*

BIG IDEA: OUR SIN MAKES US WOUND OTHERS.**Sin hurts everyone.**

- We are created to live in community with others.
- Everything we do affects the people in our communities.
- Cain's sin hurt him, but it also hurt his family.
- His sin caused him to murder his brother.
- Our sin hurts the people we are connected to.
- Our sin makes us hurt others through our actions and words.



Tell the children a story of a time when you hurt someone else when you were younger. Remind the children that our sin leads us to become angry, jealous and to hurt others.

Sin causes harm to everyone.⁴

- Cain's sin caused harm to his brother and pain to his parents.
- Cain's sin also caused harm to his wife and family.
- Our sin hurts others.
- Our sin causes harm to others, or places them in harm's way.
- Cain hurt his family when he took his brother's life.
- His sinful heart made him wound others.
- Our sinful hearts make us wound others, too.

How does our sin hurt others? (It causes harm to others through our words and actions.)

4. 1 Corinthians 12:12: *We are all one body and when we sin, we hurt the whole body. Our sin doesn't just hurt us; it hurts everyone connected to us.*

HOOKS

**Hidden Jealousy**

On small cards write the following words: love, holiness, creation, righteousness, perfect, envy, selfish, greedy, pride, and sinful. Hide the cards around the room before the children arrive. Tell the children you are going to talk about the difference between man and God. On a large piece of paper or on a whiteboard, write the words “man” and “God”. Next, ask the children to hunt for the hidden pieces of paper. Once they find a piece, ask them to bring it to you and then help them read what is on the paper. Next, they should place the paper under “man” if it is a trait of man and under “God” if it is a trait of God. Lead them in a discussion about how our jealousy is sin.



- When we are jealous it is because we want something we don't have.
- When we want something we don't have so much that we get angry because we don't have it, it shows that we don't trust God to give us what we need.

**The Faces of Anger**

Give each child a balloon and ask the child to draw his or her best angry face on the balloon. Next, have the children blow the balloons up and help them tie them. Play a game of musical marching with the balloons. The children will hold their balloons and march in a circle until the music stops. When the music stops, they should raise their balloons high above their heads. The last child to raise his or her balloon gets to step out of the circle. After playing the game ask the children to sit with their balloons. Lead them in a discussion about the things that make us angry. Give the children opportunities to share something that has made them angry.

- Because of our sinful hearts, we get angry and sin.
- When we're angry, we probably make angry faces like our balloons have.
- Our sin makes us angry and we sin.