

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

OUR SIN HURTS OTHERS

Gather a large, clear jar of water, red food coloring, and a medicine dropper. Tell your child that the jar of water represents all the people we are connected to and are in community with. Help your child name some of these people in your family's life, such as neighbors, friends, grandparents, etc. Next, show your child the red food coloring. Tell your child the food coloring represents our sin. Use the medicine dropper to drop several drops of food coloring into the water. The food coloring doesn't just stay at the top; it mixes through the jar of water. When we sin, it hurts others. We don't just hurt ourselves.

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

Genesis 4

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

Cain and Abel were the first sons of Adam and Eve. They both grew up knowing about God and learning about Him. Cain was a farmer. Abel took care of animals and had flocks of sheep. One day, they both brought an offering to God. Cain brought some of the fruit and vegetables he had grown and Abel brought the firstborn of his flocks and their fat portions. God was pleased with Abel and his offering, but He rejected Cain and his offering. Cain became angry because God had rejected his offering and accepted his brother's offering. Even when God corrected Cain, Cain did not ask for forgiveness. God rejected Cain's offering because of Cain's selfish heart. Cain was not giving to God freely and in faith. Cain's heart was selfish and he became jealous of Abel. Cain's jealousy led him to anger and his anger led him to murder his brother. He met his brother, Abel in the field one day and Cain took his brother's life out of anger and jealousy. Cain's heart was selfish and his sinful heart caused him to hurt others. Our hearts are sinful, too. Our sin doesn't just hurt us; it hurts others, too.

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

- What type of offering did Cain bring to God? (Cain brought fruit from the ground.)
- What type of offering did Abel bring God? (Abel brought the firstborn of his flocks and their fat portions.)
- Why did God reject Cain's offering? (Cain's heart was selfish and he wasn't giving freely to God.)
- What did Cain do when God rejected his offering? (He became jealous and angry and he murdered his brother.)
- Who does our sin hurt? (Our sin hurts others.)

**KNOW**

As a family, memorize 1 John 3:10 by writing the verse on pieces of paper and hiding it throughout your house. As a family search for the pieces of paper and put the verse together when you find them all.

**DO**

As a family, spend some time singing praise songs to God. Let your child choose some songs to sing as a family and then talk about how God is worthy of our love and when we're selfish, we're not loving God like we should.

**FEEL**

Take a walk with your child through your neighborhood. As you walk, point out the different things that you see that are broken, such as broken tree limbs, broken toys, old broken cars, etc. We are broken just like the broken things you've pointed out and we are in need of forgiveness.

**WANT**

Help your child create a paper chain doll. Once the paper chain doll is finished, help your child write his or her name on the first doll and then the names of people he or she interacts with daily on the other dolls. Talk to your child about how our sin doesn't just hurt us, it also t hurts others.

Spend some time this week before bedtime talking with your child about different ways he or she has been selfish or jealous this week. Pray, thanking God for His forgiveness, even when we are selfish and jealous.