

WE CANNOT FIX OUR BROKENNESS

STORY: FALL

BIG TRUTH: WE CANNOT FIX OUR BROKENNESS

John 1:1-18; Romans 3:21-26; 4:3-6; Ephesians 2:1-6; 4:21-24

BIBLE VERSE: EPHESIANS 2:8-9

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

BIG IDEAS

- In our sin we look to false saviors to rescue us.
- In our sin we try to become our own savior.
- In our sin we reject the true Savior.

BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 11

After the flood, God commanded Noah and his family to populate the entire earth since it had all been destroyed by the flood. Many years after they received this command, the people living on the earth disobeyed God. They settled in one place and began building a tower that would take them to heaven. They disobeyed God and rejected God's plan for salvation.

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: A TOWER OF DISOBEDIENCE

The people of Shinar had decided to build a tower that they thought would get them to Heaven. They rejected God's plan for salvation and acted disobediently. Our sin makes us look for other ways to heaven also.

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BIBLE VERSE: EPHESIANS 2:8-9

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

God's grace saves us from His final wrath.

- Because we have all sinned, we all owe a sin debt.
- The debt we owe cannot be paid by our own words or deeds.
- The wages of our sin is death.
- For those who do not trust in Jesus, they face a final judgment and God's wrath.
- God shows us grace in sending Jesus to take our place and pay our sin debt.
- Jesus is God's grace to us.
- Jesus' life and death on the cross mean we don't have to face death.
- When we place our faith in the saving work of Jesus, we receive salvation.

We cannot save ourselves.

- There is nothing any of us can do to save ourselves.
- Our salvation is a gift of grace from God.
- Jesus is our salvation.
- His perfect life, death on the cross and resurrection give us salvation.
- Jesus took on our sins when He died on the cross.
- He paid our sin debt.

We cannot boast in our own works.

- Our salvation is not because of any work we do.
- We can never be good enough or do enough good things to save ourselves.
- Our salvation is only through faith in what Jesus has done on our behalf.
- We can only boast in Jesus and the salvation He offers.

BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 11

The Tower Of Babel

Opening Illustration:

Bring in enough tall socks for each child to have one. Bring in several bags of dry beans or rice. Use a plastic cup to fill the bottom portion of the sock with rice or beans. Help the children tie the sock using the tall section of the sock. Double knot the sock so the rice and beans are secure. Next, mark a spot on the floor. Have the children take turns standing far away from the mark and tossing their beanbag socks. Talk with the children about how no matter how hard we try we still miss the mark. Talk with them about how we cannot save ourselves or fix our brokenness.

- We may try hard every day, but we cannot save ourselves.
- Only Jesus can pay our sin debt and give us salvation.

WE CANNOT FIX OUR BROKENNESS

BIG IDEA: IN OUR SIN WE LOOK TO FALSE SAVIORS TO RESCUE US.¹

We are all broken because of our sin.

- Our sin natures cause us to be broken.
- We all have sinful hearts and we sin against God.
- Because of our sinful hearts, mankind is not as it was first created.
- Our sin is a rebellion against God.



Hide several books around the room and then hide one Bible. Ask the children to find the Bible. As they find the other books, tell them that the books are like the false saviors we look for---they can't really help us.

Because we are broken, we look to other things to save us.

- We want to save ourselves in our own way.
- Our sinful hearts make us look to false gods, like worldly things to save us instead of Jesus.
- The people who lived on the earth after the flood, looked for false saviors.
- They looked to other things and people to save them instead of God.
- They decided to build a city and a tower that pleased them instead of pleasing God.
- They looked to their tower to get them to heaven instead of God.
- We look to other things to save us.
- We turn to false saviors, like our material things or status to save us.
- We don't turn to God.

What do we look for in our brokenness? (We look for false saviors to save us.)

1. Psalm 115:4-8: We look to material things and inanimate things for salvation instead of turning to the one true Savior.

WE CANNOT FIX
OUR BROKENNESS**BIG IDEA: IN OUR SIN WE TRY TO BECOME OUR OWN SAVIOR.²****Our brokenness makes us think we can save ourselves.**

- Because of our sinful hearts we think we can be good enough to save ourselves.
- Because of our sin we try to save ourselves.
- We seek our own way and we rebel against God's way.
- The people on earth after the flood wanted to be their own savior.
- They rejected God's plan of populating the entire earth and chose instead to stay in one place.
- They chose to build a city that everyone could live in together.
- They also chose to start building a tower that would take them to heaven.



Bring in a small broken mirror. Pass the mirror around so that every child has a chance to look at himself or herself. As the children look at themselves in the broken mirror, ask them to fix their image and make it clear. When they can't, talk with them about how we think we can fix our brokenness but we cannot. Only Jesus can fix our brokenness.

Our sinful hearts cause us to seek our own salvation.

- The people on the earth after the flood wanted to be their own salvation.
- They began building a tower that would take them to heaven.
- They rebelled, or turned away from God and His plan.
- They wanted independence instead of depending upon God.
- We seek our own salvation when we look to our own abilities to save us.
- We turn away from God's plan when we try to save ourselves by being good enough or doing enough good things.

2. Acts 4:12: *In our sinfulness, we seek to save ourselves instead of accepting God's plan for salvation.*

WE CANNOT FIX OUR BROKENNESS

BIG IDEA: IN OUR SIN WE REJECT THE TRUE SAVIOR.³

Jesus is the only true Savior.

- People are saved only through the work of Jesus Christ.
- We cannot save ourselves.
- Jesus lived a sinless, perfect life and He paid for our sin on the cross.
- Jesus is the only Savior.
- The people on the earth after the flood tried to save themselves.
- They rejected God's plan and tried to find a way to heaven without Him.
- When they began building a tower to reach Heaven, they were rejecting God's plan for them.
- Jesus is the only way to Heaven for any person.
- We look for other ways to Heaven, too, just like the people who built the tower of Babel.



Help the children make a list of things we use to help us or save us, such as medicine, bandages, lifejackets, etc. Talk with the children about how these things are good and helpful, but nothing we do can fix our brokenness caused by sin. Only Jesus can fix our brokenness.

Our sin causes us to reject Jesus.

- The people on the earth rejected God's plan when they built their city and then started building their tower.
- They rejected God's command to populate the whole earth when they decided to stay in one city.
- When they turned away from God's plan, they really were rejecting Jesus as the Savior of the world.
- We turn away from God's plan, too.
- We seek to save ourselves.
- Sometimes we even say we don't need a savior.
- We reject Jesus as the Savior of the world and we try to find another way.
- Our sin leads us to think we can save ourselves, but we cannot.

Why did the people begin building the tower? (They were trying to get to Heaven.)

3. Luke 17:25: Jesus was rejected by many while He was on the earth and people still reject Him today as they seek to save themselves.

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HOOKS



Block Tower

Bring in a container of blocks. These can be larger Lego blocks or wooden blocks. Ask the children to stack all of the blocks on top of each other to make a tall tower. As the children are building their tower, talk to them about how the people on the earth tried to build a tower that would take them to Heaven.



- The people on the earth were disobeying God.
- God had not told them to build a tower. He had told them to populate the earth.
- When they started building the tower, they were rejecting God's plan.



Tower of Cups

Bring in pretzel sticks to have for a snack. Before the children eat the pretzels, have them break the sticks in half, and then try to fix them. Point out how once the pretzel is broken, we are unable to put it back together. We often try to fix our own sin, but the Bible tells us that we cannot fix our own brokenness.

