

# GOD IS OUR SUBSTITUTE

## STORY: REDEMPTION

### BIG TRUTH: GOD IS OUR SUBSTITUTE

Isaiah 53:4-6; John 1:1-3; 18; Romans 5:6-11; 8:1-4; Galatians 3:13-14; Ephesians 5:1-2; 1 Peter 2:22-24; 3:18; 1 John 2:1-2; 4:9-10

### BIBLE VERSE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

*“For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”*

### BIG IDEAS

- We cannot save ourselves.
- God sent His Son to be our sinless sacrifice.
- Jesus died in our place.
- Substitution is final and forever.

### BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 22

Abraham was God’s servant. God had promised to make a great nation through Abraham and He began by giving Abraham a son named Isaac. God tested Abraham’s faith when He asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. Abraham obeyed God and set out to give Isaac as a sacrifice, but God stopped him before he killed Isaac. God provided a ram in a thicket nearby to take the place of Isaac as the sacrifice. Jesus is our substitute just as the ram was Isaac’s substitute. Jesus took our place and paid our sin debt.

### STORY: REDEMPTION

Thankfully, God does not just leave us in the broken world, but is repairing the brokenness through His Son. From the very beginning of time, God promised He would fix creation, and He kept His promise by sending Jesus to rescue us from our sin. Jesus came to live on the earth and willingly died on the cross so that sin’s power over creation would be broken forever.

### BIG AIMS



#### Every child should know that:

- God fixes our relationships with Him and with others through Jesus



#### Every child should feel:

- Hope that God is fixing creation



#### Every child should:

- See Jesus as God’s plan for our brokenness



#### Every child should want:

- To be made new through faith and hope in Jesus

### FAMILY DEVOTION: WANTED - A SINLESS SACRIFICE

We are all sinful before God and unable to save ourselves. There is no person who is able to pay his or her own sin debt because no one is sinless, except for Jesus. God sent Jesus to be our substitute, to take our place. He was our sinless sacrifice.

**BIBLE VERSE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21**

*“For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”*

**Christ knew no sin.**

- Jesus was born as a baby and took on flesh to live on the earth.
- Jesus was fully God and fully man.
- He came to the earth to live as a man and He did so perfectly.
- He never sinned, even as a child.
- He always obeyed God and His earthly parents.
- He obeyed His heavenly Father perfectly.
- Jesus was completely holy even as a man living on earth.
- There was no spot or blemish in Jesus; He owed no sin debt.

**Jesus took on the sin of all of mankind.**

- Jesus came to earth to be our substitute.
- He took our place and paid our sin debt so we wouldn't have to.
- He became like us so that He could pay our sin debt.
- He became a man so He could live perfectly and become our perfect sacrifice.
- We could not save ourselves because no person is without sin, except for Jesus.
- Only Jesus's death could pay our sin debt.
- He took our place and died to pay for a sin debt that He didn't owe.
- Jesus stood in our place and took on our sin.
- When God looked at Jesus on the cross, He saw the sin of all of mankind.
- Because Jesus was perfect and blameless, God accepted Jesus' death as payment for the sin of the world.
- Our sins are paid for through Jesus's death in our place.
- He was our substitute on the cross.

**BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 22**

*Abraham and Isaac*

**Opening Illustration:**

Bring in a bag of pretzel sticks, candy rope, or red yarn if you don't want to use candy, and blank pieces of white paper. Give each child a piece of paper, a handful of pretzel sticks and a piece of yarn or a string of Twizzler. Ask the children to use all but two of their pretzel sticks to make a bundle of "sticks". Use the red yarn or Twizzler to tie the bundle of "sticks" together. Tell the children that the bundle of sticks is what is used to build an altar to offer a sacrifice to God. Next, ask the children to use the remaining two pretzel sticks to create a cross on their white paper. Tape the pretzels to the paper. Tell the children that Jesus came to earth to be our substitute. He died on the cross in our place. Allow the children to eat the bundle of "sticks" to show that the altar isn't needed because Jesus took our place.

**BIG IDEA: WE CANNOT SAVE OURSELVES.**

What does it mean to save something? (It means to set it aside or keep it back.)

**No person is without sin.**

- We are all born with a sinful heart.
- We all keep sinning.
- We do the opposite of God's Word. We don't obey His commands.
- No person is blameless before God.
- We all are in need of salvation, yet none of us can save ourselves.
- There is no man or woman who lives without sinning.
- When God asked Abraham to offer Isaac as a sacrifice, God was painting a picture of what He was going to do when He sent His Son, Jesus.

**God requires a perfect sacrifice to pay our sin debt.<sup>1</sup>**

- God, the Creator of all things, required the Israelites to make sacrifices to atone for their sins before Jesus came.
- These sacrifices would satisfy the debt they owed each year.
- The animals that were sacrificed had to be perfect and without blemish or spot.
- The sacrifice to pay the sin debt of the world once and for all had to be perfect and without blemish or spot.
- No person on earth fit this requirement because all people are sinful.
- None of us can save ourselves because none of us are perfect.
- We have all sinned in some way; we are all flawed and broken people.
- Only a perfect man can save all of mankind and that was Jesus.



Give each child a blank piece of paper and a black marker. Name some common sins that a child would be guilty of, such as disobeying parents, not being kind to friends, not listening, feeling jealous of a sibling, etc. Ask the children to make a mark for every sin they hear that they have done. Lead them to understand that we all are guilty. Next, give them a clean piece of white paper. Ask them to place it over their original piece of paper. Tell them that only Jesus was free of sin. Only He was perfect.

What kind of sacrifice does God require for the sin of mankind? (He requires a perfect sacrifice.)

1. Psalm 49:7: No one has the power to redeem themselves or someone else. God required a perfect sacrifice and only Jesus was perfect.

# GUIDE 2

## STORY: REDEMPTION

# GOD IS OUR SUBSTITUTE

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### BIG IDEA: GOD SENT HIS SON TO BE OUR SINLESS SACRIFICE.<sup>2</sup>

What is a sacrifice? (A sacrifice is when we give up something that is very important to us.)

#### God made a way for man to be saved.

- Because every person is sinful and no person is able to pay their own sin debt, God made a way.
- God is sovereign, or all-powerful over everything and He is all-knowing.
- He knew that man would sin and He knew that man would need a substitute.
- God made a way for mankind to be saved by sacrificing His Son for us.
- Abraham obeyed God when he took Isaac to the mountain to sacrifice him.
- Abraham could not save Isaac, but God could.

#### God provided a substitute for every person.

- God knew every person would be sinful.
- He knew we would all need a substitute.
- God sent His Son, Jesus to the earth so He could take our place and pay our sin debt.
- God provided a ram in the thicket to take Isaac's place.
- God knew Jesus would die on the cross when He sent Jesus to the earth.
- Jesus became our substitute just like the ram became the substitute for Isaac.
- Jesus took our place.



Bring in a box of mystery items, such as a bag of rice, hard rocks, cotton balls etc. Have the children take turns wearing a blindfold and feeling inside of the box of items. Ask the children to guess what they think the items they are feeling are. Make sure the items are somewhat difficult to identify without looking at them. Talk with the children about how hard it was to guess the items without looking just like it is impossible for us to save ourselves.

How did God make a way for every person to be saved? (He sent His Son, Jesus to pay our sin debt.)

2. 1 John 4:9: God sent Jesus while we were still sinners because no person is able to pay his or her own sin debt. We all need Jesus to be our substitute.

**BIG IDEA: JESUS DIED IN OUR PLACE.****We all needed someone to take our place.**

- Every person is sinful.
- No one is able to pay his or her own sin debt.
- We are all in need of someone to save us from our sin.
- Our sin holds us captive and separates us from God.
- Our sinful hearts lead us to continue sinning against God, even when we don't want to.

**God made a way for us to be set free from our sin.<sup>3</sup>**

- God did not leave us in our sin.
- Just like God didn't leave Abraham to carry out the sacrifice of Isaac, God didn't leave us in our sin.
- God made a way for us to be forgiven.
- He gave His Son, Jesus to die in our place.
- God provided a ram to take Isaac's place when Abraham showed his willingness to obey God.
- Jesus died on the cross for our sin debt.
- He died in our place.
- We can live forever in Heaven when we repent, or turn away from our sin, and believe in Jesus.
- When we turn away from our sin and follow Him, we have saving faith.
- Jesus died to give us this chance to place our faith in Him and be saved from our sin debt.
- He died in our place so we would not have to die for our sins.



Give each child a white paper plate with the center cut out and a craft stick. Glue the craft stick to the back of the paper plate. Give each child a handful of cotton balls and glue stick. Ask the children to make a ram by gluing the cotton balls around the edge of the paper plate. You can use black construction paper to cut out ears for each child. Talk with the children about how the ram took the place of Isaac like Jesus took our place. He is our sacrificial lamb.

*How did God make a way for our sin debt to be paid? (He sent His Son to pay our sin debt.)*

*What did Jesus do for us so we would not have to pay our sin debt? (He died on the cross in our place.)*

3. Romans 4:25: Jesus took our place and took on our sin so we would not have to die for our sins. He died in our place.

**BIG IDEA: SUBSTITUTION IS FINAL AND FOREVER.**

What is something that is forever? (Examples might be the sky seems to last forever, time seems forever at this age.)

What does forever mean? (It means that it never ends. It's always and never-ending.)

**Jesus' death paid our sin debt completely.**

- Our sin debt was paid in full when Jesus died on the cross.
- God only required one perfect sacrifice for the sin of every person.
- We do not need to continue sacrificing because God provided the perfect and complete sacrifice for our sins.
- Jesus' death paid our sin debt completely.
- Jesus' death was enough to satisfy God.
- His death was enough to pay for the sin of every person who ever lived and would ever live.

**God sees Jesus' righteousness now when He looks at His followers.<sup>4</sup>**

- When we have saving faith, God doesn't see our sin anymore.
- God sees Jesus' righteousness when He looks at those who have saving faith.
- Jesus completely took our place and when we have saving faith, God sees Jesus' righteousness instead of our sinfulness.
- God doesn't require a new sacrifice every time we sin; He requires repentance and He is faithful to forgive when we ask.
- Jesus' death was enough.
- We don't need another substitute because Jesus fully paid the sin debt of every person.
- We cannot undo Jesus' substitution for us.
- The work He did on the cross is final and forever.

How long does Jesus' sacrifice for us last? (It lasts forever.)

Can Jesus' substitution for us be undone? (No, it is final and complete.)



Bring in a small container of sand and small plastic cups for each child. Divide the children into small groups and give each group an empty plastic cup and a cup of sand. Ask the children to move the sand to the empty cup one grain at a time. This will be difficult and nearly impossible. Talk to the children about how long they think it would take to move each grain of sand in all of the world. Talk with them about how forever is even longer than the time it would take to do this and Jesus' substitution lasts forever.

4. Romans 3:22: God sees the righteousness of Christ when He looks at believers. He applies Christ's righteousness to us.

## HOOKS

**A Rocky Altar**

Bring in a bag of pebbles or small rocks and sticks. Divide the children into small groups and give each group several pebbles or rocks and sticks. Ask the children to build an altar like Abraham built for Isaac. Talk with the children about how God provided a substitute for Isaac when He provided a ram in the thicket. Talk with them about how God provided a substitute for us in Jesus.



- Did Abraham have to sacrifice Isaac? (No, God provided a ram to take Isaac's place.)
- We all owe a sin debt, but we do not have to pay it if we have saving faith in Jesus.
- God sent Jesus to be our substitute, or to take our place on the cross.
- Jesus died for our sins and took our place.
- Now we can be forgiven for our sins because of Jesus.

**A Final Substitute**

Bring in different items, such as small rocks, dirt, small sticks, dry beans, etc. Place these items in individual clear bags. Place a number on them and make sure you have enough for every child. Next, place numbers in a container and ask the children to draw a number. They get to pick the bag with the matching number. Once every child has drawn a number and received their bag, show the children a bag of candy that you have. Ask the children if they want to substitute what is in their bag for the candy. Allow the children to switch bags if they want. Talk with them about how Jesus was our substitute. He took our place on the cross.



- We all owe a sin debt and we should all have to pay our sin debt.
- Jesus took our place on the cross and He paid our sin debt. We don't have to pay it because He is our substitute.