

GOD IS FIXING OUR BROKEN RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

STORY: REDEMPTION

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS FIXING OUR BROKEN RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 11:19-20; 36:22-28; Romans 5:1-3; 6:17-18; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Ephesians 2:1-6; Colossians 1:19-23

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 8:1

"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

BIG IDEAS

- Our sin is a rejection of God Himself.
- In His mercy God makes a way to forgive our sin against Him.
- In His grace God makes a way to adopt us into His family.
- Our relationship with God can only be fixed through Jesus.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 15:11-32

The parable of the Prodigal Son is an illustration of man and God. We are the wayward son, our hearts full of sin seeking our own way instead of our Father's way, which is best. God is the good Father who receives His wayward, sinful child back when he returns with repentance. God fixes our broken relationship with Him by making a way for our forgiveness.

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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: GOD MAKES A WAY

We are not able to help ourselves. We cannot save ourselves from our sinfulness. We cannot earn our forgiveness. Only God can make a way for us and He did when He sent Jesus to pay our sin debt.

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BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 8:1

"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

God does not leave us lost.

- Though we are all condemned without Christ, we do not have to remain condemned.
- God has not left us in our sinful state.
- Our lostness is not too great to be overcome by God.
- Our lostness is great, too great for us to fix, but not too great for God to fix.
- Though our hearts are sinful and wicked, they are not too sinful that God cannot overcome them.

Those who have saving faith in Jesus are set free.

- Our sin enslaves us; it holds us captive.
- We are blinded by our sin and unable to see our own sin.
- Only God, through His Spirit, can remove our blindness and show us our sin.
- When we understand our sin, we understand our need for a savior.
- When we understand and repent of our sin, and have saving faith in Jesus, our sins are forgiven.
- Jesus' forgiveness sets us free from our sin.

God no longer sees our sin.

- Once our hearts are made new by Jesus, we are forgiven and free.
- God no longer condemns us.
- He does not look on us and see our sin.
- He looks on us and sees the righteousness of Jesus.
- We are no longer condemned to death for our sin.
- We are set free and given new life.
- Our spiritual eyes are opened and we have forgiveness through Jesus.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 15:11-32

The Prodigal Son

Opening Illustration:

Give each child a piece of art paper and paint. On the board write the words "God is..." Talk with the children about the different things that God is. He is Savior. He is Father. He is Merciful. He is Gracious. He is our Rescuer. Ask the children to draw pictures with their paint of one of the things that God is. Tape the pictures together when they are dry to make a paper quilt. Place the quilt on the wall under the phrase "God is..." written on a long piece of paper.

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BIG IDEA: OUR SIN IS A REJECTION OF GOD HIMSELF.¹

What does the word rejection mean? (It means to refuse or not want something.)

God is the Creator of all life.

- All that we have comes from God.
- Every person and every thing comes from God.
- He is the Creator of everything.
- We would not be alive, or exist if God had not created us.
- He is the life giver and He is ruler of all.
- God is the sovereign ruler of all things because He is the beginning of all things.

God is the only Holy being.

- God is holy and righteous.
- He is worthy of our worship.
- He is worthy of our obedience.
- He is our Creator and the Author of our life.
- He is not sinful or unrighteous.
- He is holy, just, and righteous.

Our sin is a rejection of Him.

- When we sin, we are sinning against Him.
- Our sin is rebellion against a holy God.
- When we sin, we are choosing to rule ourselves instead of being ruled by God.
- We are like the prodigal son when we sin.
- We choose our sin and we reject our Heavenly Father.
- Our sin separates us from God, like the prodigal son was separated from his father.

Who is the only truly holy being? (God is the only holy being. Only He is righteous and true.)
What is our sin a rejection of? (Our sin is a rejection of God.)



Give each child a white piece of paper and a marker. Next, read a list of different foods and ask the children to make a mark on his or her paper if they like the food. If they do not like the food, tell them to do nothing. Once you've read a list of several foods, talk with the children about the foods they liked and the foods they didn't. Explain to the children that we reject God because of our sin, just like when they chose to dislike a food, they were rejecting that food. They were saying they didn't want to have any part of it just like our sin is rejecting God or saying we don't want any part of Him.

1. Luke 7:30: Just like the Pharisees rejected Jesus, our sin is a rejection of God.

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BIG IDEA: IN HIS MERCY GOD MAKES A WAY TO FORGIVE OUR SIN AGAINST HIM.²

God is just and holy, but He is merciful, too.

- God is a just God. He is righteous and He judges fairly.
- He is a holy God and He does not look on sin.
- God is a merciful God, too.
- He chooses to make a way for us to be forgiven.
- The prodigal son's father chose to forgive his youngest son.
- He chose to throw a party to welcome him home.
- God chooses to forgive our sins.



Create an obstacle course in the room by spreading toys out all over the floor and have the children try to make it through. After they all have had a try, clear a path for them to walk easily from one side of the room to the other. Tell them that God made a way for us to be in relationship with Him when He sent Jesus.

God makes a way for our sin to be forgiven.

- Even though God is just and holy, He still makes a way for our sin to be forgiven.
- We do not deserve forgiveness, just like the prodigal son did not deserve his father's forgiveness.
- We have rejected God and broken our relationship with Him.
- We are like the prodigal son who rejects his father and chooses to live in sin.
- God, however, doesn't reject us.
- He makes a way through Jesus for us to be forgiven.

How did the prodigal son reject his father? (He left him and went his own way.)

How do we reject God? (We live apart from Him and follow our sinful hearts.)

What does God do for us in His mercy? (He makes a way for our sin to be forgiven.)

2. Psalm 86:5: God is full of mercy and makes a way to forgive us our sin.

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BIG IDEA: IN HIS GRACE, GOD MAKES A WAY TO ADOPT US INTO HIS FAMILY.

God is holy and just, but gracious, too.

- God is gracious to us because He gives us what we don't deserve.
- We don't deserve to have our sins forgiven.
- We don't deserve to be seen as righteous or sinless.
- We don't deserve the sacrifice of Jesus.
- We don't deserve God's favor, yet He chooses to bestow grace on us anyway.



Give each child a piece of paper and some markers. Ask the children to draw a picture of their family. Allow the children to share their pictures and then talk with them about how families are put together. Remind them that God adopts us into His family through Jesus Christ.

God shows us grace by calling us His children.³

- The prodigal son didn't deserve to be treated with respect because he had rejected his father.
- His father treated him with respect and gladly welcomed him home.
- We don't deserve to be called God's children, yet God welcomes us into His family.
- He makes a way to call us His children through His Son, Jesus.
- God adopts us into His family and considers us heirs with Jesus.
- He considers us as much His children as Jesus is His Son.
- He shows us grace and brings us into His family.
- He loves us as His children just like the father loved his prodigal son and welcomed him back with love and open arms.

How does God make us a part of His family? (He adopts us into His family through Jesus.)

3. Galatians 4:7-9: God makes us His children, a part of His family, even though we do not deserve it. He does this through the sacrifice of Jesus.

GOD IS FIXING OUR BROKEN RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

BIG IDEA: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD CAN ONLY BE FIXED THROUGH JESUS.⁴

We cannot earn forgiveness for our sins.

- The oldest son thought his good works gave him a special place in the family.
- He relied on his work instead of his father's love and grace.
- The father showed his grace by accepting both sons, not based on their works, but on his love.
- We can never earn our forgiveness.
- We are not in a relationship with God because of our good works.
- We cannot truly do good works apart from God.
- We must rely upon God to fix our relationship with Him.



Give each child a sheet of cardstock and a craft stick. Glue the craft stick to one side of the paper. Next, help the children draw a ONE WAY sign and then remind them that there is only one way to a relationship with God and that is through Jesus.

God gave His Son to pay our sin debt.

- Only God can fix our relationship with Him.
- He showed us grace by sacrificing His only Son to pay our sin debt.
- Jesus came to earth, lived a sinless life and then died on the cross for our sins.
- He made a way for us to be in a relationship with God.
- He paid our sin debt and made it possible for us to have a relationship with God when we have saving faith.
- Jesus is the only way to fix our broken relationship with God.
- He is the only way to truly be with God and to know Him as our Savior.

What is the only way to fix our broken relationship with God? (Our relationship with God can be fixed through saving faith in Jesus.)

4. John 14:6: Jesus is the only way to God. He is the only path of salvation.

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HOOKS



God Makes A Way

Instruct the children to stand together on the side of the room opposite the door. Instruct one child to go outside of the room. Instruct the child to come back inside and allow the children to cheer and welcome them home. Continue until each child has had a chance to “return home.” Talk with them about how the father welcomed his prodigal son home like God welcomes us when we have saving faith.



- The father did not send the prodigal son away even though he had hurt the father.
- God makes a way for us to be forgiven through Jesus.
- God sent Jesus to pay our sin debt and now we can be in a relationship with Him.
- He fixes our broken relationship with Him.



Mercy and Grace Hide And Seek

Write the words “mercy” and “grace” on index cards and hide them throughout the room. Tell the children that you have special messages hidden in the room and ask them to hunt for them. When they find all of the mercy and grace cards, spend some time talking with them about God’s mercy and grace towards us.



- Our relationship with God is broken because of our sin.
- God didn’t leave us in our broken relationship.
- He showed us mercy by not giving us what we deserve and He showed us grace by giving us something we didn’t deserve.
- God showed His mercy and grace to us when He gave Jesus to the world.