

GOD IS FIXING US

STORY: REDEMPTION

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS FIXING US

Ezekiel 11:19-20; 36:24-28; Romans 6:17-18; 8:9-11; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 2:1-6

BIBLE VERSE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.”

BIG IDEAS

- Our sin always leads to brokenness.
- God cares more about fixing our hearts than our circumstances.
- In His grace God can make us brand new.
- We can only be made new through Jesus.

BIBLE STORY: JOHN 5

Jesus encounters a man who had been lame for more than thirty years. The man had no hope of physical healing until Jesus arrived. Jesus did not simply heal the man’s body. He revealed the truth of the man’s heart to him and offered him true, eternal healing.

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: THE ONLY FIX

We are all broken because of our sinful hearts. Our sin leads to even more brokenness in the world around us and causes us sorrow. God doesn’t just fix our brokenness; He fixes our hearts through Jesus.

BIBLE VERSE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.”

We are all broken people.

- Paul writes to the church at Corinth about the work that Christ does in the hearts of those who believe in Him.
- First, Paul reminds the believers of the old, sinful way of living.
- Our hearts are sinful and do not seek to glorify God.
- In our sin, we are broken and do not have a correct view of Christ.
- Because we are all born with a sin nature, we are all broken and in need of salvation.

When we believe, our broken hearts are fixed.

- We cannot fix our own hearts.
- We are unable to remove our sin nature.
- Christ is the only way we can be made new.
- Our saving faith in Christ is what makes us new people.
- When we believe in the sacrifice of Jesus, we have our sins forgiven and our hearts are made new.

We have a different view of life and people when we are made new.

- When we are made new, we view the world differently.
- We see people differently.
- We see people as the creations of God.
- We see Christ as our Savior.
- We are a new creation because we are set free from our sin nature.
- We are new people and are no longer in bondage to sin.

BIBLE STORY: JOHN 5

Jesus Heals the Lame Man

Opening Illustration:

Gather together clear contact paper, different colored tissue paper (torn and balled up), and black construction paper. Draw a cross on the construction paper and then cut the inside of the cross out leaving a 1” edge. Next place the contact paper over the cross and place it sticky side up. Give the children different colored tissue paper to place on the contact paper. Once they finish filling in the contact paper, place another piece of contact paper on the back of the cross. Remind the children that the cross shows us that God rescues us from our sin and brokenness. He fixes our brokenness by sending Jesus to pay our sin debt.

BIG IDEA: OUR SIN ALWAYS LEADS TO BROKENNESS.

What does it mean for something to be broken? (It means that it is not whole or doesn't work correctly.)

Sin leads us to make choices that cause us harm.¹

- Our hearts lead us to choose things that please us instead of pleasing God.
- When we choose to please ourselves, we are choosing a lesser way of living.
- Our sinful choices cause us trouble because sin is hurtful and harmful.
- Sometimes our sinful choices cause us physical harm.
- Our sin is selfishness and when we live selfishly, we bring sorrow to our lives and even to the lives of others.

Our sinful choices cost us more than we want to pay.

- Death is the wage of sin.
- Our sin brings spiritual death to us.
- It brings chaos and unrest to our lives.
- Our sin causes us to live broken lives.
- We have broken relationships, broken bodies, and broken hearts.
- The lame man was broken physically and spiritually.
- He was helpless and hopeless.
- His heart was sinful and broken.
- His body was broken.
- We are like the lame man.
- Our hearts are sinful and they cause us to be physically broken sometimes.

What does our sin lead to? (It leads to brokenness.)



Give each child a crayon and tell them that the crayon represents their hearts. Have the children break their crayons in half. See if they can put their crayon back together on their own. Ask the children if they think the crayon will work the way it was intended to be used. Explain that our hearts are broken because of our sin and no longer seek the Lord the way He designed them to.

1. Isaiah 57:20-21: *Our sin leads to our own harm. It causes unrest and leaves us with no peace.*

BIG IDEA: GOD CARES MORE ABOUT FIXING OUR HEARTS THAN OUR CIRCUMSTANCES.**Our sinful heart is the source of our brokenness.²**

- Our sinful choices often have physical consequences.
- We experience trouble or we have broken relationships because of our sin.
- The real source of our brokenness is our heart.
- It's in our heart that we choose to obey or disobey.
- The lame man had a physical issue. He could not walk.
- He had not been able to walk for a long time, but his real brokenness was in his heart.
- He thought there was no hope for him.
- Even though the consequences of our sin are what we see and feel, the real brokenness is our heart.

Jesus died to heal our hearts.

- Jesus came to earth and paid our sin debt to make us new people.
- We are all broken and sinful people, but Jesus came to change our hearts.
- Our hearts rule us and hold us captive. They cause us to make sinful choices.
- Jesus came to make our hearts new.
- He came to fix our brokenness.



Have one child come to the front of the room. Explain that they are going to write the memory verse on the board blindfolded. After a few minutes, give the child a new marker to see if it helps them. Have the child take off the blindfold and sit back down. Ask the children why the student could not write the memory verse on the board. Explain how the new marker didn't help because the marker wasn't the problem. The real problem was the blindfold, just like our real problem is our sinful hearts, and Jesus is more concerned with fixing our hearts than He is fixing our circumstances.

How are our hearts made new? (They are made new by Jesus.)

2. Proverbs 20:9: *Our hearts are not pure. They are not clean. We cannot clean our own hearts or make them pure ourselves.*

BIG IDEA: IN HIS GRACE GOD CAN MAKE US BRAND NEW.³**No one deserves to be made new.**

- Because we are captives to our sinful hearts, we do not want to be healed.
- The lame man was captive to his sin.
- He did not see a way for his lameness to be healed, even though Jesus was standing in front of him.
- The lame man could not recognize Jesus as his Savior because his sin caused him to focus on his circumstances.
- Our sin keeps us from really seeing Jesus.
- It keeps us from being worthy to have new life in Christ.

God's grace makes us new people.

- Jesus paid our sin debt so we did not have to.
- His sacrifice on our behalf is God's gift of grace to us.
- God makes our hearts new when we have saving faith in Jesus.
- Jesus healed the lame man and he became a new person physically.
- Jesus heals us and makes us new.
- We become new creations because of God's grace to us.
- Our hearts are no longer held captive by sin.
- Our choices are different because our hearts are different.
- We become new creations, new people, when we have saving faith in Jesus.



Bring in two small mirrors. One mirror should be cracked; the other mirror should be new. Have each child look at his reflection in the cracked mirror. Tell the children that the cracked mirror reflects our brokenness. Next, let each child look at his reflection in the new mirror. Tell the children that the new mirror reflection is what happens to us when we have saving faith in Jesus. We are made brand new.

How did the lame man become a new person? (Jesus healed him.)

How are we made new? (God's grace sent Jesus to pay our sin debt and God makes us new.)

3. Romans 6:17: God renews our heart when we have saving faith. We become new creations in Him.

BIG IDEA: WE CAN ONLY BE MADE NEW THROUGH JESUS.**Jesus is the only way to be saved.⁴**

- There is no other way to have our sins forgiven except through Jesus.
- The lame man couldn't be helped by anyone else but Jesus.
- Our sins are only forgiven by the sacrifice of Jesus.
- No one else can save us because sinners cannot save sinners.
- Only Jesus lived a perfect life on earth. Only He is a perfect man and can pay our sin debt.



Have the children form a circle and play hot potato with a bean bag or other small item. When you say "freeze," have the child holding the item say a person or thing that we may think can save us. After a few rounds, discuss with the children that although God gives us people and things to help us, Jesus is the only way we can be saved from our greatest need, our sin. He is the only way we can be made new.

Jesus is the only way to become a new creation.

- We remain captive to our sin without Jesus.
- We cannot set ourselves free so we cannot fix our brokenness.
- The lame man could not fix his broken body.
- He could not make himself walk again. He could not even move himself into the healing pool.
- We are like the lame man.
- We are captive to our brokenness, but Jesus can make us new.
- Jesus can make us new people with new hearts and new minds.
- Everything changes for us when we are made new.
- Just like the lame man's life changed drastically when Jesus healed him, our lives are changed.
- Our focus is no longer on ourselves because God fixes our brokenness.
- We begin to seek God's glory and serve Him instead of seeking our own glory and serving ourselves.

Who is the only person who can make us new? (Jesus is the only way to be made new. Having saving faith in Him is the only way to be made new.)

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

HOOKS

**First Aid**

Bring in a first aid kit and spend some time showing the children all the “helps” in the kit. Talk through the ways that each of the items in the kit help people and fix something that is hurt or broken on them. Next, talk with them about how God sent Jesus to pay our sin debt and fix our brokenness.



- We are all sinners because we all have a sin nature.
- We sin against God and our hearts are broken.
- God made a way to fix our brokenness by sending Jesus to pay our sin debt.

**Aid Arise And Walk**

Role-play the healing of the lame man. Bring in a small blanket to serve as a mat and place a piece of blue paper or blue fabric on the floor to represent the pool of healing. Let the children take turns roleplaying the healing of the lame man and then talk with them about how Jesus is the way we are made brand new.



- We cannot make ourselves new.
- We are sinners and cannot make ourselves not sinners.
- Only Jesus can make us new and He does when we have saving faith in Him.