

GOD IS FIXING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS

STORY: REDEMPTION

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS FIXING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS

Matthew 5:23-24; 18:15-17; John 13:34-35; Ephesians 4:3; Philippians 2:3-8; 1 Peter 3:8

BIBLE VERSE: MATTHEW 9:36

"When He saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

BIG IDEAS

- Our sin makes us self-centered and blinds us from seeing God and others.
- God loves us even when we are His enemies.
- Jesus' compassion for us creates in us a compassion for others.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 10:25-37

Jesus shares the story of a Samaritan who showed the love of God when others did not. He stopped when no one else stopped to help a Jewish man who had been beaten and left for dead. We are like the Jewish man in the ditch and God is like the Samaritan. He helps us even when we are His enemies.

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 COMPASSIONATE

We are all sinful and separated from God by our sin. We are His enemies, yet He still looks on us with compassion. He still helps us and rescues us even though we are His enemies.

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BIBLE VERSE: MATTHEW 9:36

"When He saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

Jesus met the needs of others.

- Jesus spent much of His earthly ministry meeting the needs of others.
- Jesus healed people, made sick people well, provided for the poor, and shared the truth.
- Jesus did not hesitate to give of Himself to meet the needs of others.
- He did not look on the crowds with judgment, but with compassion and He sought to meet their physical and spiritual needs.

Jesus helps us love others.

- Jesus looked on the crowds of people and was not irritated or frustrated with them.
- He felt great compassion for them.
- He saw their need and He met their need.
- Jesus sets the example for how we should treat others.
- He shows us how we should love others.
- We can know how to love others because of Jesus' example.
- We know what it feels like to be loved unconditionally because Jesus loves us unconditionally.

Jesus helps mend our relationships with others.

- Our sin causes us to fight and quarrel with others.
- Jesus shows us how to seek peace and how to love others better than we love ourselves.
- We can have healthy relationships when we have the Holy Spirit because it helps us be more like Jesus.
- Jesus had right relationships with people and we can be like Him when we have the Holy Spirit.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 10:25-37

The Good Samaritan

Opening Illustration:

Give each child a shield cut out of cardstock and crayons. Help the children write their name on the shield and then give them crayons, glitter, and stickers to decorate their shields. Talk with the children about how God rescues us and fixes our relationship with Him and others.

GOD IS FIXING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS

BIG IDEA: OUR SIN MAKES US SELF-CENTERED AND BLINDS US FROM SEEING GOD AND OTHERS.¹

In order to love God, we must love people.

- Jesus answers the lawyer's question by giving the two greatest commandments.
- In order for us to really love God, we have to love people.
- Our sin keeps us from doing this because it keeps us from seeing God.
- The priest was most likely on his way to the temple.
- He was a servant of God, yet he did not stop to help the Jewish man in the ditch.
- The priest did not really see God because of the sin in his heart.
- The Levite did not really see God either.
- The Levite would have been an assistant to priests in the temple, a religious person, yet he did not stop to help the dying man in the ditch.
- Both the priest and the Levite could not really see the man because of their sin.



Bring in a bandana to use as a blindfold. Play a game of "Pin the Tail On the Donkey" or something similar. Talk with the children about how our sin blinds us like the blindfold keeps us from seeing the target.

Our sinful hearts lead us to focus on ourselves.

- Our sin causes us to think only of ourselves.
- We become self-centered and unfeeling toward the needs of others.
- The priest and Levite were focused on themselves.
- They did not stop to help the man in the ditch because they were selfish.
- Our sin makes us selfish and we can not really love people like God loves people because of our selfishness.

How does our sin blind us? (It keeps us from seeing God and from really seeing people.)

1. 2 Corinthians 4:4: Our sinful hearts blind us to God. Our sin blinds us to truly see others, also.

GOD IS FIXING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS

BIG IDEA: GOD LOVES US EVEN WHEN WE ARE HIS ENEMIES.²

God's love for us is unconditional.

- God loves us even while we are still sinners.
- He doesn't wait for us to be righteous before He loves us.
- The Samaritan was the only person to stop and help the dying man.
- The Samaritans were hated by the Jews, yet the Samaritan man did not let that stop him from showing love to the Jewish man in the ditch.
- Because of our sin, we are all God's enemies, yet God loves us.

We love like God does when we love everyone, even our enemies.

- The Good Samaritan loved like God when he stopped and helped the dying man.
- We can truly love people when we understand how God loves us even while we are His enemies.
- The Good Samaritan went above and beyond to help the man who most likely disliked the Samaritan.
- We should love everyone, even those who hate us or mistreat us.
- We should not only love people who are our friends or whom we like.
- We should be like God and love all people.



Divide the class into two teams. Have each team choose one person to be the helpless man in the story. Explain that the rest of the children on the team will be the Samaritan and bind his wounds, but each team will be binding the wounds of the helpless man on the other team. Use toilet paper and band-aids for the bandages. When finished, have each team choose another child to be the helpless man and play again. Explain to the children that we are to show unconditional love to everyone, especially our enemies, just as Jesus showed unconditional love to us on the cross.

What kind of love does God have for us? (His love is unconditional.)

What kind of love should we have for others? (We should have unconditional love.)

Why should we love those who dislike us? (God loves us while we are His enemies.)

2. Colossians 1:21: We are all separated from God. We are His enemies.

GOD IS FIXING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS

BIG IDEA: JESUS' COMPASSION FOR US CREATES IN US A COMPASSION FOR OTHERS.³

When we understand how much God has forgiven us, we will love others.

- To truly know God and love others, we must understand how much we have been forgiven.
- When we understand our own sinfulness, we can understand how much God has loved us.
- When we understand who we really are as sinful people and how we have rejected God, we can better understand how God sacrificed to make a way to be with us.
- The Samaritan understood that God loved him and that God had shown him compassion.

When we have saving faith in Jesus, we have His Spirit.

- The Holy Spirit is given to every person who has saving faith.
- The Spirit helps us be like Jesus.
- Jesus' love is unconditional and the Spirit helps our love be unconditional.
- The Samaritan was like Jesus because he showed compassion to the man even though the Jews and Samaritans did not like each other.
- When we understand how much compassion Jesus has shown us, we will show compassion to others.
- We will love others no matter what because Jesus loves us no matter what.



Help the children show compassion to others by practicing using kind words. Have the children stand in a circle. Give a ball or bean bag to one of the children and explain that whoever is holding the ball will say something nice about one other child in the circle. When they're done, they will pass the ball to the child they've complimented. Continue until each child has said something nice. Make sure that each child is mentioned. Remind them that Jesus' compassion helps us show compassion.

How do we know how to be compassionate to others? (Jesus shows us compassion, which teaches us how to be compassionate.)

3. Isaiah 40:11: Jesus came to earth a compassionate person. He lived a compassionate life and from Him we learn how to be compassionate.

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HOOKS



Band-Aid People

Give the children a blank piece of paper and some band-aids. Help the children make stick figure people out of the band-aids. Help them use markers to create faces for their band-aid people. Talk with the children about how the Good Samaritan stopped to help the Jewish man in the ditch. Talk with them about how God helps us by fixing our relationships with others.



- The Samaritans and the Jews didn't like each other, but the Good Samaritan still stopped to help the Jewish man.
- God helps us even though we are His enemies. He still sent Jesus to pay our sin debt.
- God helps us by fixing our broken relationships with others.
- Because of God we can have whole relationships with others.



Good Vs. Evil

Take turns role-playing the story of the Good Samaritan. Let the children take turns playing different roles. Bring in cloths to use as bandages and blankets and robes to use as clothes. Talk with the children about how the Good Samaritan wasn't self-centered like the priest and Levite.



- Only the Samaritan stopped to help the Jewish man.
- The priest and the Levite walked past the man, even though the man was hurt so badly, he was dying.
- Our sin makes us selfish and self-centered. Our sin makes us only think of ourselves instead of thinking of others.
- The Samaritan loved like God loves. He loved the Jewish man even though they were enemies.