

ONLY GOD CAN FIX OUR BROKENNESS

STORY: REDEMPTION

BIG TRUTH: ONLY GOD CAN FIX OUR BROKENNESS

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:22-28; Matthew 1:21; Mark 16:15-16; John 3:36; 14:6; Ephesians 2:1-6; 1 Timothy 2:3-6; 1 John 5:11-12; Revelation 7:9-12

BIBLE VERSE: ACTS 4:12

"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

BIG IDEAS

- Our sin causes us to place our hope in false saviors.
- In His goodness God shows us that He is the only true Savior.
- In His love God sent Jesus to fix our brokenness.

BIBLE STORY: 1 KINGS 18:1-40

At times, we are all tempted to place our hope in things that are hopeless. Elijah dealt with the worship of false idols. He was given power by God to prove to the people that Baal was a false god and that the idols the people worshiped were not real. He trusted God and followed Him obediently, calling down fire from heaven to burn up the false gods. God is the one true God, yet our sin causes us to believe in false saviors.

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: TRUE VERSUS FALSE

Our hearts are sinful and they lead us to believe in false idols. God is the one true God and anything else is false. Elijah battled against the prophets of a false god to show that God is the one true God.

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BIBLE VERSE: Acts 4:12

"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

No one else has the power to save.

- Every person is sinful and this sinfulness causes brokenness.
- Because all people are sinful, there is no one who can save himself.
- No person can save others because all are sinners.
- We all fall short of God's glory.
- We all sin and rebel against God.

There is only one perfect man.

- Jesus is fully God and became fully man. He took on the nature of man while still having His divine nature.
- He lived on earth and never sinned.
- Only Jesus was a man without sin.
- Because Jesus is fully man and fully God, He could be our perfect sacrifice.
- Jesus paid our sin debt by dying on the cross for our sins.
- He is our salvation.

We are saved through faith in Jesus.

- Jesus is the only way to salvation.
- Jesus is the only way to be free from our sin.
- By trusting in Jesus, turning away from our sin and believing in Him, we can have freedom from our sin.
- There is no one else on earth who can save us.
- Jesus is the only perfect man and He died for us.
- We are saved only through placing our faith in Jesus.

BIBLE STORY: 1 KINGS 18:1-40

Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

Opening Illustration:

Give each child a blank piece of paper and then several small strips of paper. Ask the children to create a cross out of the strips of paper. Use tape or glue to attach the cross to the blank piece of paper. Next, give the children stickers and markers to decorate their crosses. Talk with the children about how Jesus is the way that God fixes our brokenness and takes away our separation from Him.

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BIG IDEA: OUR SIN CAUSES US TO PLACE OUR HOPE IN FALSE SAVIORS.¹

What does it mean to have hope? (Having hope means believing that something or someone can bring help or comfort.)

False saviors never give us what we really want.

- Our hearts are sinful and they cause us to seek other things besides God.
- We think that something other than God can help us or save us.
- We even think things can bring us joy or happiness.
- The prophets of Baal placed their hope in a false god and encouraged others to do the same.
- Their god did not answer their prayers.
- King Ahab allowed his wife to lead him into idol worship.
- Only God can give us what we really need.
- False saviors lead us away from God and cause us harm.

Our sin blinds us to the truth.

- Our sinful hearts lead us away from God.
- We think that God isn't going to answer our prayers.
- Sometimes we think God isn't listening.
- These thoughts and beliefs we have are all lies that Satan uses against us.
- Because we are blind to the truth, we place our hope in false idols, or gods, and we reject the true God.
- King Ahab and his people were blind to the truth and they hoped in the false god, Baal.
- Baal could not help them because he wasn't real. He was created by man and had no powers.
- Our sin blinds us to the truth that the false gods, or idols, we have are not real and have no real power.



Write the word "True" on a sheet of paper and tape it to one side of the room. Write the word "False" on another sheet of paper and tape it to the opposite side of the room. Explain to the children that they will stand in the middle of the room while you read a statement that is either true or false. After you've finished reading, the children must decide if the statement is true or false by running to either the "true" side or the "false" side. (Examples of statements could be "Dogs can fly", "Giraffes can read", "The sky is blue".) Remind the children that our sin causes us to hope in false saviors, instead of believing the one, true God.

What does our sin lead us to find hope in? (It leads us to hope in false gods.)

What can false gods do for us? (They cannot do anything for us because they have no power.)

1. Psalm 115:4-8: False gods are made from created things. They have no power because they are not real.

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BIG IDEA: IN HIS GOODNESS GOD SHOWS US THAT HE IS THE ONLY TRUE SAVIOR.

We are blind to the truth but God does not leave us blind.

- God is a good and loving God.
- He shows us the truth even though we reject Him and His truth.
- King Ahab rejected God and His truth.
- King Ahab worshiped Baal and established hundreds of prophets for his false god.
- God did not leave King Ahab in his sin.
- He sent Elijah to show King Ahab the truth.
- God shows us the truth also.
- He opens our eyes and heals our spiritual blindness.



Ask for a volunteer to stand in front of the class. Ask the children to identify who is in front of the class and the characteristics of the child, such as eye color, hair color, etc. Next, ask the children if there is another person like them in the class. Talk with the children about how there is only one of each of them just like there is only one true Savior.

Only God can give us real hope.²

- King Ahab hoped in Baal. He had prophets worship Baal and offer sacrifices to him.
- Baal did not answer and gave them no hope or salvation
- False gods do not really give us hope because they are not real.
- Elijah hoped in God and God answered.
- When Elijah prayed for fire to come from Heaven, God answered Elijah because God is the true God.
- When the prophets of Baal begged for fire from Baal, there was only silence.
- Baal was a man-made god and not real. He had no power.
- We only find real hope in the one true living God.
- We are saved by the one true God and by no one else.

What blinds us to the truth? (Our sin blinds us to the truth.)

What does God do for us because of His goodness? (He heals our spiritual blindness.)

2. Romans 15:13 God is the God of hope and salvation. He alone can give us true hope, joy and salvation.

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BIG IDEA: IN HIS LOVE GOD SENT JESUS TO FIX OUR BROKENNESS.³

God is always good and loving.

- God is righteous and true, but also kind and loving.
- God loves us and out of His love He makes a way for us to be saved.
- God doesn't leave us in our sinful brokenness.
- He redeems us and fixes our broken hearts.

Jesus came to right our wrongs.

- Jesus came to the earth to settle our sin debt.
- Because we sin against God, He sent Jesus to make things right for us.
- We are separated from God, but God's goodness makes a way for us to know him.
- King Ahab and the prophets of Baal had wronged God. They had provoked the anger of God, but God sent Elijah to show them the truth.
- God sent Jesus to us even though we reject God and provoke His anger.

God's love reveals the truth to us.

- Elijah prayed to God and God sent fire down to the altar.
- God showed King Ahab and those watching that He is the true God.
- God sent Jesus to show the truth.
- Jesus fixes our brokenness when we have saving faith in Him.

How does God fix our brokenness? (He sent Jesus to provide salvation to us.)



Have the children sit in a circle. Explain to them that they are going to have a gift exchange. Pass out a gift (pencil, bouncy ball, eraser, etc.) in an envelope to each child. Next, go around the circle and have each child choose another student to exchange their gift with. Continue until each child has had a chance to exchange their gift. As the children open their envelopes, talk with them about how Jesus took our place or died in exchange for us because of God's love.

3. 1 John 4:9: God sent Jesus to pay our sin debt and to bring us salvation.

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HOOKS



An Altar of Truth

Help the children create an altar using twine and multi-colored pieces of tissue paper. Glue the twine on a paper plate and then glue the tissue paper above the twine. Talk with the children about the story of Elijah, how Elijah built an altar to God, and God sent fire down to burn the sacrifice. God sent Jesus to save us and even when we believe in false saviors, God shows us mercy by sending Jesus.



The One True God

Bring in a small bowl of Tupperware with its correct lid, along with several other lids that do not fit the bowl. Give each child a lid that does not fit the bowl. (You can use cup lids if you need extra lids.) Show the children the bowl and one at a time, have each child come to the front and try out their lid. After each child has had a turn, put the correct lid on the bowl. Ask the children why the other lids did not work. Explain to the children that there is only one correct lid for the bowl, just like there is only one true God. God is the only one that can fix our brokenness.

