

FOUNDATION: GOD IS SATISFIED - GOD GIVES A SUBSTITUTE

GOD IS JUST AND MUST PUNISH INJUSTICE

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS JUST AND MUST PUNISH INJUSTICE

Numbers 14:18; Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 25:8; Isaiah 45:22-25; 61:8; Jeremiah 9:23-24; Amos 5:21-24

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 14:11

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."

BIG IDEAS

- God is just and holy in all that He does.
- God must oppose and fight against injustice.
- As sinners, we are unjust enemies of God.
- The punishment for sin is eternal separation from God.
- The only way for God to be just and forgiving toward sinners is through a substitute.

BIBLE STORY: MATTHEW 21:33-46

Jesus tells a story of some very evil tenants who are the enemies of the master of their land. In this story we see the story of God's redemption. We are like the tenants who rob their master and murder his son. We also know that God is just and He must punish injustice.

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God is holy and just. Everything He does is right and good. In His holiness and justice, He must punish injustice. His righteous wrath (anger against sin) must be satisfied. Sin and rebellion cannot be ignored or looked over. It must be dealt with, and we as guilty sinners deserve God's wrath to be poured out on us. Thankfully, God, in His mercy, chose to forgive us. The only way He could do this was by punishing Jesus in our place. He sent His Son to be a substitute for our sin in order to rescue us. Jesus bore the punishment that we deserve.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know:

- God is satisfied in Himself
- God does not need anything and is not dependent on anyone
- God is satisfied through Jesus who died as our substitute



Every child should feel:

- Awe that God does not need anything



Every child should be able to:

- Recognize some things that they need and remember that God does not need anything



Every child should want to:

- Have a relationship with God because He is satisfied through His substitute

The Family Devotion on the next page is a weekly tool for the home. It is designed for you as family to gather for a few minutes on a set night of the week to unpack the Big Truth together. Use the model below and customize it to fit your family. As you continue to learn, love, and live out the Big Truth, some additional Hooks (next page) are provided that correspond to the Big Aims (see above). Use them to keep the conversation going throughout the week with your family.

JUSTICE IS SERVED

Talk with your child about their weekly behavior. Ask your child if he or she has obeyed every time or if they have disobeyed. Help them identify the ways they have disobeyed. Tell them that they deserve punishment, but you are not going to punish them. Instead you are going to take their punishment. Go as a family to get a special treat and allow everyone, but you to get a treat. Tell your children that you are serving their punishment for them because you love them. God sent His Son to take our place. God's Son took our punishment so that we don't have to be punished.

DISCOVER IT:

Read Matthew 21:33-46.

THINK ABOUT IT:

The master of the vineyard had a right to the fruit of the harvest. The tenants denied him what was his. We, too, deny God what is His---our faithfulness and worship. We are like the tenants. We are the enemy of God. We reject Him and do not follow His Word. God is a just God. He cannot tolerate injustice, which means that our sin must be paid for by death. We deserve the punishment of death for our sin, but God provided a way for us to not die. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take our place and be our substitute. We don't have to suffer for our own sin because Jesus took our place. Our justice was served to someone else---God's Son. This is God's greatest mercy to us. He provided a substitute for us.

TALK ABOUT IT:

- What did the tenants deny the master of the vineyard? (They refused to give him the fruit of the harvest.)
- What should happen to the tenants? (They should be placed in jail.)
- Why do we deserve punishment? (We deserve punishment because we have all sinned against God.)
- What does God provide for us instead of punishment? (He provides Jesus to take our place.)



Help your child memorize Romans 14:11 by singing the verse to the tune of "She'll Be Coming Around The Mountain."



Help your child create a superhero shield or cape using cardboard or fabric. Talk with your child about what their superhero's name would be and what injustice he or she would fight. Lead your child in a discussion about how God is against injustice in the world and we should be against it also.



Give your child a small, clear plastic cup at the beginning of the week. Throughout the week, every time he or she disobeys place a dry black bean in the cup. At the end of the week help your child count the black beans in their cup. Tell them that each bean represents every time he or she disobeyed. Lead your child in a discussion about how that makes them feel. Help your child see that our disobedience brings sorrow to God. It shows that we are unjust before Him. Tell them that God provides a way for us to not be unjust through His Son, Jesus.



Spend time together as a family praying and thanking God for sending His Son to be our substitute. Share with your child what it means to you personally that God sent Jesus to pay your sin debt.