

JESUS IS OUR SUBSTITUTE

EASTER

BIG TRUTH: JESUS IS OUR SUBSTITUTE

BIBLE VERSE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

"For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."

BIG IDEAS

- All have sinned and are in need of a substitute.
- God sent His Son, Jesus to be our substitute.
- Jesus died in our place.
- Jesus satisfied our sin debt.

BIBLE STORY: JOHN 19

God sent His Son to the earth to pay our sin debt. We all owe a sin debt because every person is born with a sin nature and every person sins. Jesus came to the earth and lived a sinless life until He was crucified on the cross. When Jesus was crucified, He took on the sins of the whole world and paid for them by dying. Though He was innocent and not guilty of any sin, He willingly took the place of every person on the cross so we would not have to pay for our sins. Jesus was buried in a borrowed tomb after His death.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- All have sinned and are in need of a substitute.
- God sent Jesus to be our substitute.



Every child should feel:

- Loved by a God who gave His Son as their substitute.



Every child should be able to:

- Explain that all have sinned and God sent His Son.



Every child should want:

- The desire to know more about Jesus, who is their substitute.

FAMILY DEVOTION: JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS

We are all sinful before God and unable to save ourselves. Jesus died on the cross for the sins of mankind. There is no person who is able to pay his or her own sin debt because no one is sinless, except for Jesus. God sent Jesus to be our substitute, to take our place.

BIBLE VERSE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

“For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”

We are all sinners in need of redemption.

- All people have sinned because all people have been born with a sin nature.
- God provided His Son as our substitute to take our place.
- Jesus is God’s Son and He came to the earth to pay the price for our sins.
- Jesus’ life and death give redemption to all who place saving faith in Him.

Jesus took on the sin of the world in order to save the world.

- Jesus was born without sin.
- He was not like other people who were born with a sin nature.
- Jesus was born sinless and He lived a sinless life.
- God made Jesus sin in order to redeem His people.
- We are redeemed through Jesus taking our place and paying for our sins.

Jesus’ righteousness (right standing with God) is placed on us when we trust Him as our savior.

- When we repent and believe in Jesus, we are seen as righteous by God.
- Jesus took on our sin so that we might be in right standing, or seen as righteous by God.
- Those who repent of their sins and place their faith in Jesus receive this righteousness.
- Because Jesus was our substitute, those who repent and believe have a new life of righteousness.

BIBLE STORY: JOHN 19*Jesus' Crucifixion and Burial*

Supporting Scripture: Romans 3:23, 5:12; 1 Peter 3:18; Hebrews 4:15

Teacher Introduction:

When Adam and Eve sinned by disobeying God, sin entered their hearts. This sin has been passed to every man and woman who has come after them. Every person is sinful and in need of being rescued. The payment for our sins is death and separation from God. There was no man or woman born who could pay the debt owed, except for God's Son, Jesus. He came to the earth to live as a man and He did so perfectly and without sin. God sent Him to be our substitute, to stand in our place and to pay for our sins. Jesus' death on the cross was a willingly one. He freely gave up His life so that every man and woman might have a new life in Him.

Teaching Guide:

The guide below is provided to help you teach the narrative: Jesus' Crucifixion and Burial. The four points are the Big Ideas that should guide your lesson as you share from John 19 and teach the narrative: Jesus' Crucifixion and Burial. Footnotes are provided for further study of the text and God's interaction with His people. Throughout the lesson, questions are placed to help you guide the preschoolers to think about and process the narrative: Jesus' Crucifixion and Burial.

Opening Illustration:

Bring in two white helium balloons and a child's extra-small sized black shirt. Place the black shirt over one of the white balloons. Show the uncovered white balloon to the children.

- This balloon represents Jesus. The balloon is white because Jesus is sinless. He lived a sinless life on this earth.
- Show them the balloon covered by the black shirt.
- This shirt represents our sins. It covers our balloon and keeps it from floating.
- Remove the shirt.
- When Jesus died on the cross, He took on our sins.
- Place the black shirt on the first balloon and keep it from floating. Allow the second balloon to float.

BIG IDEA: ALL HAVE SINNED AND ARE IN NEED OF A SUBSTITUTE.¹**God created a perfect world, but sin broke it.**

- Everything that God created was perfect and good.
- Adam and Eve didn't have any sin in their hearts.
- Sin entered their hearts when they disobeyed God, or didn't do what He told them to do.
- They sinned causing every person after them to be born with a sinful nature.
- Every person is in need of a substitute, or someone to take their place.

Every person is born with a sin nature.

- Every person chooses sin and is in need of salvation.
- Sin entered the hearts of mankind through Adam and Eve.²
- Every person after Adam and Eve was and is born with a sin nature.
- The hearts of men are disobedient towards God and everyone is in need of a savior.

All people are sinners in need of a substitute.³

- There is no person who has not sinned.
- There is no person who was not born with a sin nature.
- The punishment for sin is eternal separation from God forever.
- Because there is no person who has not sinned, we are all in need of someone to save us.
- There isn't a person besides Jesus who can save the world.
- Jesus was sinless, so He was the perfect person to take our place and pay our sin debt.

Which people have sinned? (All people have sinned. Every person who has ever lived and will ever live.)

Who did God send to be our substitute? (God sent His Son, Jesus to be our substitute.)



Give each preschooler a piece of paper in the shape of a heart and give each preschooler a crayon or marker. Read a list of behaviors, such as not picking up their toys when they are told, talking back to their parents, being mean to their siblings, not telling the truth, not being nice to their friends, etc., and ask the preschooler to make a mark on their heart for every behavior they have done. Ask the preschoolers to erase the marks from their paper. They can't erase the marks, just like we can't pay for our sin. Give each preschooler a clean, white heart-shaped piece of paper. Ask them to cover their marked paper heart with the clean one. This is what Jesus did for every person when He took their place on the cross.

1. Romans 3:23: All people are sinful. No person is born without a sin nature and no person lives a life without sinning. Jesus was the only perfect, sinless man to live on this earth.

2. Romans 5:12: Sin entered the hearts of every person through Adam and Eve. Death is the result of sin and it entered the world through the sin of Adam.

3. Romans 3:23: All people have sinned and are in need of a savior. No one is without sin.

BIG IDEA: GOD SENT HIS SON, JESUS TO BE OUR SUBSTITUTE.**God provided a substitute for the whole world.**

- God sent His Son to the world to live a sinless life.
- Jesus, God's Son was born without sin and He lived a sinless life.⁴
- Though Jesus was sinless, He took on the sins of the world and became our substitute.
- He willingly gave up His life so that we might have a new life.
- Even as Jesus stood before Pilate and the people said He did bad things, Pilate couldn't find any proof of it.
- Jesus was accused of doing things that He didn't do, but He chose not to defend Himself.



Place small pebbles inside of plastic Easter eggs. Hand out the eggs to each preschooler, asking them to open the eggs to see what you have placed inside of them. Have something that you can replace the pebble with, such as a small piece of candy or a small toy or sticker. Ask the preschoolers to replace their pebbles with something better. When they can't, give them the better prize to replace their pebbles with. Tell them that they haven't done anything to receive the good prize, but you are going to replace their pebbles with something better just like God sent Jesus to be our substitute or to take our place.

Jesus (who is fully God) took on humanity to be our substitute.

- Jesus was born a man so He might live as a man and do so without sin.
- He experienced every temptation that man faces, yet He did so without sinning.⁵
- He came to be the substitute for all of humanity and even as He stood before Pilate and was judged, no fault could be found.
- Pilate sought to release Jesus, but the Jews insisted He be crucified.
- God sent Jesus to be a sacrifice for all people.

Who is God's Son? (Jesus is God's Son.)

Why did God send Jesus to the earth? (He sent Him to be our substitute.)

Why was Jesus able to be our substitute? (He was born sinless and lived a sinless life, so He could pay the price for man's sins.)

4. 1 Peter 2:22: Jesus knew no sin. He was born without a sin nature and lived a sinless life, yet He took on the sin of the world in order to pay the debt man owed for his sin.

5. Hebrews 4:15: Jesus set aside His divinity and lived life as a man. He faced every temptation that mankind faces and yet He never sinned. Because He was sinless, He was the perfect sacrifice for mankind.

BIG IDEA: JESUS DIED IN OUR PLACE.**Jesus lived a sinless life and died on the cross.**

- Jesus was born sinless.
- He lived without sinning.
- He never did wrong, but He was accused of and found guilty of doing wrong.
- He did not resist or try to stop His death. He allowed them to crucify Him because He came to earth to pay our sin debt.

Jesus took on the sins of all the world on the cross.⁶

- He became a sinner so He could pay our sin debt.
- He took our sins, or our sins were counted against Him, so we might have new life.
- Jesus stepped in and took our place and paid our sin debt. He did this willingly without any argument.⁷

Why was Jesus the perfect person to pay our sin debt? (He was sinless and lived a sinless life, so He could pay for our sins.)

How does Jesus bring hope to those who believe? (He paid for our sins and those who believe in Him can have their sins forgiven.)



Give each preschooler a blank piece of white paper. Ask them to color on their paper any way they want. Next tell them that their white paper represents them and the marks on their paper represent their sin. Ask them to remove the marks on their paper. When they can't, give them a new, clean white piece of paper. Tell them that the new white paper represents what Jesus did for them on the cross when He took their place.

6. 1 Peter 2:24: Jesus paid our sin debt on the cross. His death paid for our sins and allowed us to have our sins forgiven.

7. 1 Peter 2:22-25: Jesus knew no sin, committed no sin, and did not revile people back when they reviled Him. He was perfect and perfectly our sacrifice.

BIG IDEA: JESUS SATISFIED OUR SIN DEBT.**Jesus' death on the cross paid our sin debt.**

- We don't owe a sin debt because Jesus' death paid for it.
- Jesus was sinless, so when He died, He paid for our sins.
- Those with saving faith no longer owe a sin debt.
- Jesus took on our sins and paid for our sins so we no longer owe a sin debt.

Jesus alone is capable of taking away the sins of the world.⁸

- When Jesus came to the earth, He lived without sinning.
- Because He is fully God and fully man, and lived a sinless life he can take the sin of mankind on Himself.
- Jesus took the sin of the world on Himself and paid the sin debt.
- Now, those who place their faith in Jesus by repenting of their sin and trusting Him as their savior can have their sins forgiven.

How did Jesus pay the world's sin debt? (He took on the sins of the world when He was on the cross.)



Give each preschooler a plastic Easter egg that has a black piece of paper inside of it. Don't tell the preschoolers the paper is inside of the egg. Tell the preschoolers to open their eggs and pull out what is inside. Tell them the black paper represents the sin of the world. Talk about how finding paper inside the egg isn't fun or exciting. Next, tell them that you will replace their paper with something better. Give them a better surprise, like a sticker or small piece of candy, or small toy. Remind them that Jesus took our sins away when He paid our sin debt on the cross.

8. 1 Timothy 2:6: God sent His Son, Jesus to ransom us from our sins. Jesus satisfied the debt we owed for our sin when He died on the cross.

HOOKS

**Jesus Paid Our Sin Debt**

Gather together a plate, a cup of colored water, a penny, and empty cup and a white candle. Place the penny on the plate towards an outer edge.

- This penny represents all of us---all of humanity.



Next pour the water on the plate making sure it covers the penny.

- This water represents our sin. It covers us completely and every person is a sinner.



Next, place the candle in the water on the plate. Light the candle.

- This candle represents Jesus. He is sinless and was born to take our place on the cross.



Next, place the empty cup over the candle. The flame on the candle will go out and then the water should draw up inside of the cup around the candle.

- Jesus died on the cross for our sins. He took our sins away just like the water is being drawn up into the cup.
- Jesus paid our sin debt for us.

All Are In Need Of A Substitute

Write out Romans 3:23, one word at a time, on pieces of paper and place them inside of Easter eggs. Ask the preschooler to find all of the eggs. Once they do, remove the pieces of paper and work together as a group to put the verse together in order.

- This verse says that all have sinned. Who are the “all”? (Every man and woman.)
- What is every person in need of? (We are all in need of a substitute.)

HOME HOOKS

These Hooks are provided as examples of ways that you can practically teach the Big Truth. Use these or similar activities to help pursue the Aims: the things that we hope and pray children and families Know, Do, Feel, and Want coming out of this series.



As a family memorize 2 Corinthians 5:21. Take turns saying the verse aloud until everyone has memorized it. Talk with your child about how Jesus was sinless and He took our place, He was our substitute.

Gather a container of water in a clear pitcher. Next drop a couple of drops of iodine into the water. Then pour some bleach into the iodine water. The water will become clear again. Talk with your child about how we are the water, the iodine is sin. When we sin, it stains our whole life. We can't make it clear again on our own. The bleach represents Jesus. When Jesus died on the cross, He took away our sins.

Sing the song "God Is So Good" together as a family. Talk about that God is so loving and good that He sent His Son to pay our sin debt because we couldn't pay it.

Spend some time as a family talking about the ways you disobey. If possible write the ways down so you can see them. Then using a black marker, mark through each sin listed on the paper or poster board. Talk with your child about how when Jesus died on the cross, He paid the cost for our sins just like the ones listed on the paper. When we repent or turn away from our sins and place our faith in Jesus, He wipes them clean or marks them and doesn't count them against us.