

GOD THE FATHER IS THE REDEEMER

THE STORY: REDEMPTION

BIG TRUTH: GOD THE FATHER IS THE REDEEMER

Psalm 130:7; Isaiah 41:14, 47:4; Romans 3:24; Colossians 1:12; Titus 2:11; 1 Peter 1:21

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”

BIG IDEAS

- The Father loves His enemies.
- The Father provides sacrifice for our sin.
- The Father gives eternal life to those who deserve eternal death.

BIBLE STORY: NUMBERS 21:1-9

The Israelites grumbled against God and complained about His provision for them, even after He gave them victory over their enemies. God loved them even though they were His enemies. He loves us even though we are all born enemies of God because He our Redeemer.

THE STORY

The Story is the good news of the gospel. All of Scripture tells the Story of God the Father’s work to redeem a people from the power of sin through God the Son so that they might live for His glory through the power of the Holy Spirit. During this series we will explore the four main movements of the Story of God, and our response to the life-altering Gospel Story!

BIG AIMS



KNOW

Every child should know that:

- God is the author, subject, and hero of the gospel story
- Salvation comes by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone



FEEL

Every child should feel:

- Brokenness over the depth of our sin against God
- Joy in Jesus, our Savior and King



DO

Every child should strive to:

- Describe the gospel message through Creation, Fall, Redemption, and New Creation
- Memorize the Bible verse each week



WANT

Every child should want:

- To study the Bible so that they can better understand God’s story of redemption
- To share the gospel story with those who are separated from God in their sin

FAMILY DEVOTION: A BROKEN RELATIONSHIP

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, their sin changed their relationship with Him. Because their sin changed the nature of every person, all relationships are a struggle and require a lot of work. Most importantly, every person is born separated from God and their sin leads them away from Him.

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BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”

God loves all of the earth.

“For God so loved the world...”

- Not only is God the Creator of all things, but He is the Father of all things. He is the heavenly Father who rules and reigns over all the earth. As the Father, God’s love is perfectly displayed to the earth in His care and sustaining of life on earth. God loves His creation and every person.
- God does not just love part of creation, or only those who follow Him. He loves all people and all of His created things. He loves perfectly and displays His love perfectly and righteously.

God provided redemption to the world.

“...that He gave His only Son...”

- Because we are all sinful, we cannot redeem ourselves. We are all in need of redemption. God provided this redemption for the world when He sent Jesus to the world.
- Jesus took on human flesh and lived the perfect life that no person could live. Jesus died in our place on the cross because it was God’s way of redeeming the world. God sacrificed on our behalf because He is a good and perfect God.

God’s provision is complete and satisfactory.

“that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”

- When God provided the necessary sacrifice for our sins, His provision was perfect. God’s sacrifice on our behalf was satisfactory to pay our sin debt.
- God’s redemption of the world through Jesus’ death on the cross was complete. There is no additional sacrifice or payment needed because Jesus’ death fully paid for man’s sin.

BIBLE STORY: NUMBERS 21:1-9

God Loves His Enemies

Opening Illustration:

Give the children narrow strips of construction paper and tape. Help them create a “fiery serpent” by connecting the strips of construction paper by creating a paper chain. Talk with the children about how God is the Redeemer and He provides salvation to those who believe.



BIG IDEA: THE FATHER LOVES HIS ENEMIES.¹

God loves everyone perfectly.

- Love is from God because He is the beginning of all things.
- We know how to love because God first loved us. He is perfect because He is without sin and He is fully righteous and holy. His love is perfect and the way He loves even His enemies is perfect.
- He loves all people, even those who reject Him forever. His love is unfailing and never ends. Just as He loved the Israelites even though they grumbled against Him, He loves us.



Write Romans 5:10 on the board. Have the children look up the verse and read it aloud. Next, ask the children to define the word “enemy”. Ask them to make a list of some enemies in the world. Remind them that we are all God’s enemies because we are sinners. He loves us anyway.

God’s love is unconditional.

- God does not love like man. Man’s love is conditional and imperfect. God’s love is unconditional. He does not wait for us to love Him before loving us and showing us that He loves us. He does not stop loving us when we disobey Him or sin against Him.
- His love is steadfast and faithful. His love endures even through our rejection and rebellion against Him. He continues to love us always.

God’s love is sacrificial.

- God’s love is sacrificial. He gives us Himself even to those who hate Him. God gave salvation to the Israelites even though they grumbled and spoke against Him. We know how to love sacrificially because God has first loved us sacrificially.
- God shows His love with the ultimate sacrifice through His Son, Jesus. He gave Jesus, His perfect Son, to live the life we could not live and die the death we deserve.

How does God love His enemies? (He loves the world and we are all sinners and enemies of God.)

1. Romans 5:10: God loves us even while we are His enemies.

GOD THE FATHER IS
THE REDEEMERBIG IDEA: THE FATHER PROVIDED THE SACRIFICE FOR OUR SIN.²**We are all sinful and are unable to save ourselves.**

- Every person is born with a sin nature. This means that we do not naturally seek God or desire to obey His Word. Instead, we naturally seek to please ourselves and this leads us to sin against God. Even at a very young age, we break God's law. We focus on ourselves and do not follow God.
- Because we are all sinful, we are unable to save ourselves. There is no person who can live a good enough life to save himself or herself. We can't even be a sacrifice for others. Because of our sin, the payment is a sinless sacrifice. No one is able to do that because no one is sinless.



Divide the children into two groups and have them role-play the story of the Israelites and the bronze serpent. Remind them that God provides the sacrifice for our sin because He is the Redeemer and we should feel humbled and grateful knowing that God provided a sacrifice to redeem us.

Our sin requires a perfect sacrifice.

- God declared that the payment for our sin is a sinless sacrifice. This means that a sinless person would have to die for our sin because the wage of sin is death.
- Our sin requires that this perfect sacrifice be made in order for us to be set free from our sin debt. Just like the Israelites had to look at a bronze serpent in order to be saved from the fiery serpents, we needed a perfect person to die for our sin.

God provided the payment for our sin.

- We couldn't save ourselves, but God could. He provided the perfect sacrifice for our sin. He sent Jesus, His only Son, to live the perfect life that we could not live.
- Jesus lived the perfect life on earth, taking on human flesh to be like us and then He died on the cross in our place. He was the perfect sacrifice necessary to pay for our sin.

How did God provide the right sacrifice for our sin? (He sent Jesus, His only Son, to live the perfect life and die in our place.)

2. Genesis 3:18-19: Creation no longer willingly yielded food for mankind after they sinned. Life would be difficult on earth as a result of sin.

3. Romans 5:12: It is through the sin of Adam that sin and death entered God's created world.

4. Romans 8:19-23: The natural world groans for the return of Christ when He will make all things new.

BIG IDEA: THE FATHER GIVES ETERNAL LIFE TO THOSE WHO DESERVE ETERNAL DEATH.³**Because of our sin, we all deserve eternal death.**

- When the Israelites grumbled against God, their punishment was death. They were plagued by the fiery serpents whose bites would send them to their death. When Adam and Eve sinned, death entered the world. Our sin deserves death. Because of sin, we die a physical death, but we are also spiritually dead.
- Those who do not believe in Jesus as Savior will experience death for all of eternity. Because God is life and our sin separates us from Him, spending eternity separated from God is a never-ending death.



Divide the children into small groups and ask the groups to discuss what eternal life might mean. Ask the groups to write down or share any ideas they may have about what it would be like to live forever. Share with them that God gives us eternal life when we repent and believe in Jesus.

God alone is the way to redemption.

- When the Israelites were attacked by the fiery serpents, the only way they could be saved was by looking at the bronze serpent. There was no other way for them to save themselves. For us, the only way to be redeemed from our sin is through God.
- We can only be saved through faith in Jesus as the Savior of the world. We can't be good enough or find another way to be reconciled to God. God alone is the giver of redemption because He alone is the Redeemer.

When we repent and believe, we receive eternal life.

- God's salvation for us is through His Son Jesus. When we repent of our sin and believe that Jesus died for us, we receive eternal life. This means we are no longer separated from God by our sin. Instead, we are reconciled to Him forever. Even when we die physically, we will be with God for all of eternity.
- If we die having rejected God's offer of redemption, we will receive eternal death. God offers His redemption to those who believe.

How does God give us eternal life? (When we repent and believe in Jesus, we are forgiven of our sin debt and no longer separated from God.)

3. John 3:16: God provided eternal life to those who believe in Jesus as Savior.

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HOOKS



God Is Our Redeemer

Write the following verses on the board and have the children look them up: Zephaniah 3:17, Psalm 18:1-2, Galatians 5:1, and Isaiah 44:22. Read the verses out loud and then talk with the children about how God is our Redeemer.

- Because we are all sinful, we cannot redeem ourselves. • God sent Jesus to die in our place and to redeem us.
- God, our Father, is our Redeemer.



Our Redeemer

Have the children define the word “Redeemer”. Ask the children to name some things that get redeemed, such as gift certificates, coupons, free passes, etc. Talk with the children about what it feels like to get to redeem a coupon or free pass. Next, talk with them about how God is our Redeemer.

- God provided the perfect sacrifice for our sin.
- Because He provided the sacrifice, He is our Redeemer.
- He chose to redeem us even though we are His enemies.



A Redemption Prayer

Lead the children in a time of prayer. As you pray, ask God to help the children see their need of redemption through Jesus.