

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 PASSAGE: 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



Every student 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



Every student should strive to:

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



Every student should feel:

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



Every student 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

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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GOD THE FATHER IS
THE REDEEMER**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.

GOD THE FATHER IS
THE REDEEMER**BIG IDEA #1: THE FATHER LOVES HIS ENEMIES.¹****[THIS]**

In Numbers 21, we get a glimpse of God's redemption of His people. The Israelites, God's chosen people won a battle against the Canaanites in Numbers 21:1-3. When the Canaanites attacked Israel, Israel cried out for God's help and He answered their cries. Shortly after their victory, as they continued their journey to the Promised Land, they began to grumble and complain against God. They forgot who God is and all that He had done for them. He sent fiery serpents to attack them for their grumbling and complaining. The fiery serpents attacked the Israelites, biting and killing many of them. They were not faithful to God and made themselves His enemies.

[THEREFORE]

What are some thoughts, feelings, desires, or actions that reveal how, apart from Jesus, we are enemies of God?

In Numbers 11:1 we see that the Israelites complained about their misfortunes and their complaining did not go unnoticed by God. We, too, can complain about any trial or difficult time we may face. Psalm 106:25 also speaks to complaining and murmuring against God when our circumstances aren't what we like. Philippians 2:14-15 instructs us against complaining and encourages us to face our lives with faith in God who holds all things in His hands. Ephesians 5:6 we see that our disobedience makes us God's enemies.

[THIS]

In Numbers 21:8-9, God hears the cries of His people and offers them redemption from the fiery serpents. He commands Moses, their leader, to make a bronze serpent and to put it on a staff. Moses is to lift the staff into the air and anyone who looks to the bronze serpent will be saved from the fiery snakes. Anyone who does not look at the bronze serpent will die. God showed His love for His people who had made themselves His enemies by their grumbling and complaining. He showed them grace and mercy when they did not deserve it. In Romans 5:1-11 we see that every person is born an enemy of God because of their sin nature. We are separated from God, yet He still shows grace without us every doing anything to make ourselves better. He loves us, people who are His enemies, by providing redemption for us through Jesus. His love is perfect and unconditional.

[THEREFORE]

How has God shown his love toward you personally, even when you were his enemy?

Psalm 86:5 tells us of God's unfailing mercy and love. Ephesians 2:4-5 shows us that God's love for us is not based upon our goodness or righteousness. We are not worthy of His love, yet He loves us all the same. Lamentations 3:22-23 reminds us that God's love is steadfast.

How do you act towards your enemies? How does the way you act compare to the way that Jesus loves his enemies?

In John 13:34, Jesus commands that just as He has loved the world, we should love one another. Jesus loved sacrificially and unconditionally. 1 John 4:11 teaches us that because Jesus has loved us, we should love others. 1 Peter 4:8 also speaks to the command to love others just as God has loved us. When we understand that God

1. Romans 5:10: We are all God's enemies because we are all sinful.

GOD THE FATHER IS
THE REDEEMER**BIG IDEA #2: THE FATHER PROVIDED THE SACRIFICE FOR OUR SIN.²****[THIS]**

In Zephaniah 3:17, the prophet speaks of God as our Redeemer. This truth is seen through God's Word. Man's sin requires a payment, a sacrifice. Because God is a just and holy God, He must punish sin, and so He does. Our sin requires a payment of death. Because we have all sinned, there is no person who can make the right sacrifice for the sin of the world. This truth is seen in Numbers 21:1-9 when the Israelites could not save themselves from the fiery serpents. They had brought the serpents upon themselves, yet they could not save themselves from them. Only God could offer them salvation and rescue from the fiery serpents.

[THEREFORE]

Read Numbers 21:1-9. How are we like the Israelites in this story?

Because we are not satisfied with who God is or what he has given, we complain and grumble. In Genesis 2, God gives Adam and Eve everything they would need, yet they still disobeyed God and desired more than He had given. Romans 6:23 teaches us that we deserve death for our sin and we can't save ourselves. James 1:15 reminds us that the result of sin is death. We are like the Israelites because we disobey, just as they did, even though we serve a good and faithful God.

[THIS]

In Numbers 21:1-9, God provides a way for the Israelites to be saved from the fiery serpents. By instructing Moses to create a bronze serpent on a staff, God provided redemption for His people. His command to Moses to create a bronze serpent pointed to His ultimate redemption of the world when He would send Jesus to take our place on the cross. Only Jesus could and did live a sinless life on earth, so only He could be the perfect sacrifice on our behalf. God provided Jesus as a sacrifice for our sin and saw fit to accept the death of Jesus as payment for the sin debt that mankind owes. Just as the Israelites experienced salvation from the fiery serpents when they looked at the bronze serpent, we experience redemption when we look to Jesus for salvation.

[THEREFORE]

What are some false saviors we look to save us from the emptiness and pain we feel inside? Why can't these things save us?

Mark 7:21-23 tells us that our natural minds and hearts are full of wickedness and deceit. We do not naturally seek God or understand that we need salvation. Romans 3:10-12 tells us that no one is without sin, no one is blameless and able to save himself or herself. Romans 5:6 teaches us that we are helpless in our sinful state. Only God can save us and fill the emptiness we feel inside.

How does God's provision of a sacrifice offer hope for us in the fight against sin?

Acts 4:12 reminds us that salvation is through faith in Christ alone and it is through Him that we are set free from our sin. This brings hope because we no longer have to live as a slave to our sin. 2 Timothy 1:9 reminds us of the salvation we receive from Christ for God's purposes for us. Lastly, Romans 10:9-10 shows us that because God provided the sacrifice of Christ, we can be saved.

2. Romans 5:8: God loved us and provided redemption for us while we were still sinners.

GOD THE FATHER IS
THE REDEEMERBIG IDEA #3: THE FATHER GIVES ETERNAL LIFE TO THOSE WHO DESERVE ETERNAL DEATH.³**[THIS]**

The Israelites did not deserve the mercy that God showed them when He offered them salvation through the bronze serpent. They had disobeyed Him and grumbled against Him, yet He showed them grace and mercy and saved their lives. We are like the Israelites. We don't deserve mercy from God, but He shows us mercy. We are all sinners who reject God and rebel against Him. We dishonor Him with our lives and our hearts are far from Him. No person is worthy of God's redemption. We all deserve eternal death, which is eternal separation from God. This is the wage of our sin, yet God intervenes.

[THEREFORE]

Read Romans 3:23. What are specific ways that we fall short of God's glory?

Galatians 5:19-21 teaches us that the works of our flesh play out in our lives and reveal that we deserve to be forever separated from God. Colossians 3:5-6 also teaches us that the works of our sinful flesh are contrary to the work of the Spirit. We do not naturally seek God or seek to please Him. We are all sinful and deserving of eternal death.

How does God show Himself as our Father by offering mercy to us?

Ephesians 1:3 talks of God as our Father. He responds to us as our Father by offering us mercy and grace instead of the punishment that we deserve. 1 Corinthians 8:6 also speaks of God as our Father through whom and for whom everything exists. Just as earthly parents show mercy to their children, our heavenly Father shows even more mercy.

[THIS]

In Numbers 21:1-9 the Israelites are saved from an earthly death by the fiery serpents when God tells Moses to create the bronze serpent. Their salvation from the serpents is a picture of God's salvation of mankind. The Israelites only had to look at the bronze serpent to receive life. We only have to believe in Jesus as our Savior to receive eternal life. Our belief means we recognize we are sinful and that we owe a sin debt. We trust in the work of Jesus on the cross in our place to save us from this sin debt. God gives all those who believe in Jesus eternal life. He redeems us as His children because He is our heavenly Father. He offers mercy and grace because He loves us unconditionally and He is our Redeemer.

[THEREFORE]

How can God's promise of eternal life impact the way we live today?

In John 16:33, Jesus encourages His followers to take heart and to be faithful because, though they face tribulation, He has overcome this present world and the tribulation will not last. For us, this means that we should live faithfully no matter our circumstances because of the promise of eternal life. Philippians 3:14 stands as a reminder to us all to continue living faithfully because we are living for our eternal life and not this current life.

3. John 3:16: God gives eternal life to those who believe.