

FAMILIES ARE BROKEN BY SIN

YEAR: UNITE / FOCUS: I AM PART OF A FAMILY
SERIES: GOD IS FATHER — I AM ADOPTED

BIG TRUTH: FAMILIES ARE BROKEN BY SIN

Genesis 37:4; Matthew 10:21; Luke 21:16

BIBLE VERSE: GENESIS 3:12; 4:9-10

“The man said, ‘The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me the fruit of the tree, and I ate.’

“Then the Lord said to Cain, ‘Where is Abel your brother?’ He said, ‘I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?’ And the Lord said, ‘What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to me from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand.’”

BIG IDEAS

- Sin leads families to reject God’s provision.
- Sin fractures relationships with those we love.
- Sin causes us to see our family as a barrier to our joy.

BIBLE PASSAGE: GENESIS 3:1-24; 4:1-12

UNITE - I AM PART OF A FAMILY

The Unite Year is an exploration of what it means to be united in Christ as the family of God (Romans 12:5). When we are saved, we are given a spirit of adoption as sons (Romans 8:15-16), are made a child of God, and we are also saved into a family- the Church. The Unite Year explores how we are to live as a part of a family, and to live in light of our calling as servants and disciples of Christ. We use our gifts to build up the church as we pursue unity, humility, and gentleness with our brothers and sisters in Christ (Ephesians 4:1-2).

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know that...

- Family exists for God.
- Their heart was bought with a price.
- God is building His family through adoption.



Every student should feel...

- Broken over the ways that sin has fractured their family and the family of God.
- Hope that one day, their adoption as sons and daughters of God will be fully realized



Every student should strive to...

- Memorize Romans 8.
- Do one new thing each week to honor their parents or siblings.
- Find one new way to love and serve their church family.



Every student should want...

- To glorify God in their families.
- To see their family, and the church family, as gifts from God.
- To share the truth that Jesus made our adoption possible with someone

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.

BIBLE VERSE: GENESIS 3:12; 4:9-10

“The man said, ‘The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me the fruit of the tree, and I ate.’”

“Then the Lord said to Cain, ‘Where is Abel your brother?’ He said, ‘I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?’ And the Lord said, ‘What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to me from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand.’”

Families are affected by sin.

“...And the Lord said, ‘What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to me from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand.’”

- When Cain took Abel’s life, he did so in his sin. His pride and anger led him to murder his own brother. God held Cain accountable for this grievous act and this story reveals just how much our families are affected by sin.
- Adam and Eve first introduced sin into the heart of man when they disobeyed God. Because they first sinned, their children were born with sinful hearts. Our sin affects our family members. Sin changed family and impacted it everywhere on the earth.

Sin leads families away from God.

“The man said, ‘The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me the fruit of the tree, and I ate.’”

- When Eve first ate of the fruit, she was not alone. Her husband, Adam was with her. She offered the fruit to Adam and he, too, chose to eat the forbidden fruit. Because they disobeyed God, sin entered their hearts and the heart of every person.
- Their family no longer enjoyed a perfect relationship with God. Instead, they would be banished from the Garden of Eden and experience separation from God. Ever since their first sin, families have struggled and only through the redemption offered through Christ can families experience a right relationship with God.

Sin breaks family relationships.

“Then the Lord said to Cain, ‘Where is Abel your brother?’ He said, ‘I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?’”

- Sin not only broke man’s relationship with God, but it breaks family relationships, too. Cain and Abel did not experience the unity and love they could have before sin. Instead, Cain was jealous of Abel and allowed the sin in his heart to lead him to murder his brother.
- All families experience the effects of sin. We experience sibling rivalry and rebellion in our homes because of sin. Mothers and fathers argue and fight, and children rebel because of the sin that permeates our hearts.

BIG IDEA #1: SIN LEADS FAMILIES TO REJECT GOD'S PROVISION.¹**[THIS]**

God is a God of provision. When He created the earth, He provided all that the living things on the earth would need. When He created man, He gave man everything he would need and placed him in the Garden of Eden. God gave Adam, the first man, a wife to be his perfect companion. He made them the first family and supplied all that they would need. Though Adam and Eve had all they would need, when Eve encountered Satan in the Garden, she believed his lie instead of God's truth. She believed the lie that God was withholding something from them and that His Word wasn't really true. Her thoughts became action and she disobeyed God. Adam followed her in disobeying God, thus condemning all mankind to a separation from God. They rejected His provision for them. They looked at what He had given them and declared in their hearts that it was not enough. They looked at the Garden, full of all the food and purpose they would ever need and rejected it. This rejection led to sin in the heart of every person. The first family was broken by the sin of the first man and woman.

[THEREFORE]

Describe a time you have rejected God's provision. What led you to reject His provision for you?

We often reject God's provision because we do not trust Him or we do not believe what He is providing is what is best for us. In giving us Himself, He has given us all we could ever need and He has promised to provide us our daily bread and to care for us as 2 Corinthians 9:8 and Philippians 4:19 remind us. We often get distracted and desire the things of the world and then consider God's provision not good enough.

[THIS]

Because all people are sinful, the family is broken and struggles to be what it was supposed to be. The effects of sin are far-reaching and impact everything and everyone. The family now rejects God's provision for it. It rejects His guidelines for family and the result is hardship and heartache. Families reject God's Word as their source of wisdom. They reject His created plan and order for families, choosing instead to order their lives according to their own desires and not for the glory of God. When Cain prepared his sacrifice for God, he chose to do what he pleased as opposed to giving God what God had commanded be given to Him. Our hearts are like this. Our families choose to reject God's provision and follow their sinful hearts. Families end in divorce or experience broken relationships because of their rejection of God's provision.

[THEREFORE]

What examples of the family's brokenness do you see today in our culture?

In our culture today, we reject God's idea of family. We reject His plan for the family and deny that His way is the best. This is the sin in our hearts that leads us to reject God's way and His purpose for the family as seen in Psalm 106:24 and 1 Corinthians 8:1-3.

What needs does God provide through the family? Do you see your family as an example of God's provision for you?

We are created for community and relationship. God uses the family to provide these needs for us. We are born into families and being a part of a family helps us mature and grow. Family is a good thing and God uses the family of God to provide for those with bad families.

1. Deuteronomy 32:18: Sin leads man to reject God and all that He provides for His people.

BIG IDEA #2: SIN FRACTURES RELATIONSHIPS WITH THOSE WE LOVE.²**[THIS]**

In Genesis 4:1-12, Adam and Eve's life has changed from their time in the Garden. They have been banished from the Garden because of their sin. They are separated from God and now have two sons. Because of sin, their lives are not easy or simple. They no longer enjoy the sweet fellowship of God and their focus now is providing for themselves and their family. This sin that permeates every person's heart leads their oldest son, Cain, to murder their youngest son, Abel. Cain's jealousy of Abel provokes his anger and he kills his brother in the fields. Cain incurred God's curse upon him because of his sinful and hardened heart. The first family experienced the effects of their sinfulness in the Garden through the tragic death of their son and the cursing of their firstborn. This brokenness is part of sin in the heart of man. Because of this sin, family relationships are broken.

[THEREFORE]**Sin's effects are felt by all. How has your sin affected your family?**

Our actions affect the people around us. Even when we think that our sin only affects us, we are wrong. When you make a choice to rebel against your parents, your parents are impacted by your choice. As believers we are called to live in peace with one another and to count others as more important than ourselves. Mark 9:42 and Hebrews 12:14 both teach us the way we are all connected.

How have you seen the sin of someone fracture a relationship?

Family relationships can be severed over sin. Sin leads us to put ourselves first or to give in to our sinful desires. Ephesians 4:31-32 and Colossians 3:12-14 show us the importance of living holy lives and seeking peace. Sin can cause a person to give in to their anger and jealousy and this can lead them to walk away from family members.

[THIS]

No family is exempt from the effects of sin. Even the best families feel the painful effects of sin. Parents may lose their tempers. Children may disobey their parents and fight with their siblings. There may be distance between family members because one member has hurt another. Regardless of our family situation, every family is affected by sin and can experience fractured relationships. Some relationships are always broken and others find redemption. Only the power of the Holy Spirit can redeem families and overcome the effects of sin on them. In Genesis 3:1-24, Adam's and Eve's relationship changed after their sin. They were no longer as comfortable with one another. Their relationship with God changed and they were banished from the Garden. Sin affects our family relationships.

[THEREFORE]**In our society today, how are fractured family relationships in the family seen as normal?**

Sibling rivalry, divorce, and broken homes are seen as part of our culture. A greater value is placed on the happiness of an individual as opposed to living in grace and forgiveness within the family unit. Galatians 5:19-21 teaches us what the works of the flesh are. Rivalries, jealousies, and unforgiveness are all sin. Philippians 2:2-3 reminds us how we can live within our families if we desire to glorify God. Though our flesh natures will always tempt us to fight, argue, and choose ourselves over others, with the power of the Spirit, we can live in harmony with our families.

2. Genesis 4:9-10: Cain murdered his brother. His relationship with his brother was broken before he murdered him and his relationship with his parents was broken afterwards.

BIG IDEA #3: SIN CAUSES US TO SEE OUR FAMILY AS A BARRIER TO OUR JOY.³**[THIS]**

In Genesis 3:1-24 and 4:1-12, the heart of man is revealed. The sin of Adam and Eve began in their hearts when they heard the lies of Satan. The lies produced a desire in them to have more than what God had provided for them. Their hearts led them to believe that God was keeping something better from them. The story of Cain and Abel also reveals the sin in Cain's heart. He didn't believe that God's way was the best way. He rejected God's plan for sacrificing and instead chose his own way. These actions reveal hearts that believe their joy isn't complete in God and that following God will not result in their joy. Cain chose to murder his brother rather than submit to God and Adam chose to blame Eve for his disobedience rather than owning it. Sin deceives us and leads us to believe we are being mistreated or something is being withheld from us. We then follow the lies instead of trusting God.

[THEREFORE]**What lies about family have you believed?**

Hebrews 12:6 tells us that God corrects and guides those that He loves. He disciplines His children. The same is true for our earthly parents. Often, we can think that their correction or discipline are not fair or that they don't really care about us, but the truth is that their correction and discipline are good.

[THIS]

Sin in our hearts leads us to look for joy in all the wrong places. The source of true joy is God and His plans and purposes for our lives. God's design for mankind is that people live in families. He established the order of a family and it is this order that leads to everlasting joy. Our sin leads us away from this and we believe that our family is preventing our joy. Our sin causes us to look to our family as the source of our joy instead of looking to Jesus. Parents can also wrongly look to their children as their source of joy. This leads us all to believe at some point that family is robbing us of joy when in truth, family is God's good gift to all and can be a source of great joy.

[THEREFORE]**How is the idea of family being a thief of joy a wrong idea?**

Genesis 1:26-27 teaches us that when God created mankind and made the first family, it was very good. Because every good gift is from God, we do not get to call bad what God called good. Psalm 133:1, 1 John 4:20, and Proverbs 17:17 all show us that being in a family can be a very good thing. Often the struggle of sin inside of each of us leads us to believe that our family is a bad thing or they are robbing us of something.

How can you live with thanksgiving for your family?

1 Peter 4:8 and Romans 12:10 help us understand that when we love one another as God has loved us, we can live with thanksgiving for all that God has given us, even family. When we choose to set aside our own desires and feelings, we can put those of our family first. When we understand that God's design for our lives is to live in a family because it is what is best for us, we can live in thanksgiving for that family.

3. Luke 15:11-32: *The prodigal son thought his father was limiting his joy and freedom. We often think our families keep us from having joy, but our joy is found in the wrong thing if this is us.*