

JESUS BREAKS THE POWER OF SIN

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

BIG TRUTH: JESUS BREAKS THE POWER OF SIN

Galatians 3:13; 1 Corinthians 15:22; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 8:1-3

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh...”

BIG IDEAS

- Jesus is our substitute.
- Jesus takes away our condemnation.
- The Spirit changes the way we see and live.

BIBLE PASSAGE: ROMANS 8:1-11

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.



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Saving faith in Jesus results in no condemnation.

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

- When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden and sin entered the heart of every person, death was the result. Because death is the payment owed for our sin, every person is condemned to eternal death. Our sinful hearts lead us away from our only hope, Jesus.
- When we have saving faith in Jesus, we are set free from the debt we owe, and we are no longer condemned to eternal death. This kind of faith is more than just an acknowledgement that Jesus lived and died. It's a turning away, or repentance of sin, and a belief that Jesus' death is the only way we can be set free from our sin debt. When we have saving faith in Jesus, we are no longer condemned by God.

Sinners are set free through Christ.

“For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.”

- We are all born slaves to our sinful hearts. Our sin natures, inherited from the first man and woman, hold us captive. Because we are broken and sinful, we do not naturally seek God. We do not naturally pursue Him and seek out forgiveness because we are blind to the fact that we even need forgiveness.
- Because we are all sinful, we cannot set ourselves free, but Christ can. Jesus can set a sinner free from his or her sinfulness. Jesus' life and death make a way for a person to be free from his or her natural inclination to reject and rebel against God. Saving faith in Jesus means freedom from sin.

Jesus did what we could not do and made salvation available.

“For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh...”

- God made a way for mankind to be saved. He sent Jesus to the earth to take on human flesh that He might live the life that no person could ever live. Jesus lived a perfect life, following and obeying God's law perfectly. He lived on the earth with both a divine and human nature and He never sinned.
- Because Jesus lived the perfect life, His death satisfied our sin debt. This means that through His life and death, salvation is available to those who believe in Him.

JESUS BREAKS THE POWER OF SIN

BIG IDEA #1: JESUS IS OUR SUBSTITUTE.¹**[THIS]**

Mankind is truly hopeless in our sin. From the beginning of our lives, we begin our move away from God. Our hearts are naturally broken and sinful. We are inclined toward selfishness and pride. Because our natures are sinful, we all rebel against God. We break His law. When any laws are broken, there is a consequence to the one who broke the laws. We are all accountable for our rebellion against God. This is our sin debt. We owe this debt to God and we cannot pay it. Even when we try to follow God's law, when we try to practice kindness, or to do more good than bad, we are still guilty of breaking God's law. This places us in a hopeless place. God is the Creator of all things, which means that He alone has the right and authority to establish the law that governs the world and mankind. This is why we owe a sin debt to Him, our Creator, but we cannot pay this debt.

[THEREFORE]**How does our inclination to sin leave us hopeless to pay our sin debt?**

Romans 3:23 shows us that all people are born sinful and we fall short of keeping God's law. Our sin leads us away from God and means that we could never be the perfect sacrifice required to pay our sin debt. Hebrews 4:15 helps us see that in order for us to pay our sin debt, we needed to be without sin, but we are not without sin and we cannot be without sin in our own power.

[THIS]

Our natural sinfulness means that no person could ever pay the sin debt owed by mankind. We are all in need of a substitute. The substitute we need is someone who could live a perfect life and die in our place. God made a way for this to happen for us. He sent His Son to the earth. Jesus came, fully God and took on human flesh and a human nature. He lived from birth perfectly, always obeying God and never disobeying Him. This means that when He went to the cross, He was without sin. He kept God's law perfectly and could take our place on the cross. Jesus became our substitute and paid the sin debt we all owed. He was without sin; He had done nothing to incur a debt against God, yet He stood in our place and died the death we all deserve to die. He did this that we might be free of the bond of sin and to make a way for us to be reconciled to God.

[THEREFORE]**How does Jesus becoming our substitute help us overcome sin?**

Sin enslaves us and holds us captive. Jesus becoming our substitute frees us from the hold that sin has on us. Jesus is the way we can be free as seen in John 1:12 and 3:36. This means that we can know God and have a relationship with Him. It means that we no longer have to sin, but can choose obedience.

What are some false substitutes that we look toward to overcome our sin?

We can fall prey to looking to our own works for our salvation. Instead of believing in Jesus, we may try to substitute some other worldview or idea of what brings salvation. We may try to earn our way to heaven, yet there is only one way to know God and to be saved as seen in Acts 4:12. We may even look for saviors in other people or material things. Our seemingly good works may seem like a way to justify ourselves, but Isaiah 64:6 reminds us that any good thing we do apart from Christ is like a filthy rag and does not bring about salvation. Jesus is our only substitute.

1. Isaiah 53:4-6: Jesus bore our sins on the cross that we might have freedom from our sin debt.

JESUS BREAKS THE POWER OF SIN

BIG IDEA #2: JESUS TAKES AWAY OUR CONDEMNATION.²**[THIS]**

Every community, whether developed or developing, has a set of moral guidelines or laws that govern their behavior. When these laws or guidelines are broken, there are consequences or even punishments. These guidelines or laws serve to bring order and structure to communities. When God created the world and mankind, He gave mankind rules and guidelines by which to live. These are God's laws. When He chose His special people, the Israelites, He also gave them His law to govern their lives. God's law is good and right because God is good and perfect. Romans 8:1-11 shows us that these laws had a dual purpose. They established order and rule to life, and they showed people their need for God. Because man has no ability to keep these laws perfectly, we all break God's law and we stand in condemnation before Him. We cannot save ourselves or remove our condemnation ourselves.

[THEREFORE]**How does God's law show you your need for Him?**

When we begin to understand the way we do not keep the laws or guidelines, we begin to understand our need for help. Romans 3:20 and 7:7 helps us see that God's law shines a light on our sinfulness. When we see our sinfulness, we understand our great need for Him and the salvation He offers us.

[THIS]

When we break the guidelines and laws put in place by governments and officials, we are held accountable for our actions. Because we all break God's law, we are accountable for our sin against Him. We stand condemned before Him because we cannot save ourselves. Unlike when we break human laws that incur fines that can be paid or jail time that can be served, no one can satisfy the debt we owe God for breaking His commands. We do not have to despair though because God made a way for us. Jesus came to the earth and took on human flesh in order to pay the debt we owe. He lived in perfect obedience to God's law. He resisted all temptation to sin and chose the obedience that we rejected. This means that His death takes away our condemnation. When we have saving faith in Jesus, we can be saved and then we are no longer condemned before God.

[THEREFORE]**How does it change your life to no longer be condemned before God?**

When we have saving faith in Jesus, we gain peace with God. Prior to our salvation, we are not at peace with God. We deserve His wrath and punishment. Romans 5:1 and 16:20 show us that Jesus gives us peace with God. John 14:27 also teaches us that peace is a product of no longer being condemned before God. Our lives are no longer lived in fear of death or even facing God because we know we are righteous in His eyes.

What are some lies that Satan uses against God's people to keep them thinking they are condemned before God?

Romans 8:1 reminds us that when we are in Christ, we are not condemned before God. We have freedom to live obeying the Spirit of God and not our sin nature. Satan tries to convince us that every time we sin, we are condemned before God, but 1 John 1:9 teaches us that when we ask for forgiveness, God is indeed faithful to forgive us. We are also His sons and daughters, and nothing can take that away from us.

2. Romans 8:1: Because of Jesus' death on the cross, we can be free of the condemnation our sin brings about.

JESUS BREAKS THE POWER OF SIN

BIG IDEA #3: THE SPIRIT CHANGES THE WAY WE SEE AND LIVE.³**[THIS]**

A worldview is simply the way we view the world and everything in it. It involves how we view the beginning of the world, the value of things, and our purpose. Prior to a saving knowledge of Jesus, our minds are set on the things of our flesh. Our worldview is a fleshly and sinful one. In Romans 8:5, Paul teaches that those who live according to their flesh have minds set on sinful things. Living in the flesh means our thoughts are full of the things of this world and not on God. We focus on our sinful desires that lead us away from God. We are darkened in our understanding of God and the way we view the world and others is broken. Our relationships are broken and we are separated from God. We choose to obey our desires. We think ourselves wise and we do not acknowledge God as the Creator and Sovereign of all. We argue with others and harbor malice and hate in our hearts. This is the way we see and live without Christ.

[THEREFORE]

What are some examples of a worldview without Christ?

In our culture, many people are hostile to Christianity. They see it in a negative and hostile way. Paul writes about the mind of the flesh that is hostile to God in Romans 8:7. When we look at our world and the way Christians are treated, we can see this worldview at work. Another worldview is that our life is only what we experience on this earth and then we just cease to exist. We live for happiness now and there is no eternity.

[THIS]

Our view of the world and ourselves changes when we encounter God. We encounter God when His Spirit draws us to Him and opens our eyes to really see God, His truth, and ourselves. This changes our worldview. We no longer see through eyes that are darkened by a sinful heart. Instead, we see through eyes that have been opened and enlightened by God's truth. Our hearts are new and we are set free to live a different life. It is the Spirit of God inside of us that continually changes us as we grow in our knowledge and understanding of God through His Word. Our way of looking at the world, people, and our purpose changes. The more we study God's Word, the more we grow in our understanding and our perspective is sharpened. Life in Christ changes us as the Spirit works to make us more and more like Jesus every day.

[THEREFORE]

Being a new creation means having power through the Spirit over sin. How has the Spirit helped you overcome sin?

The Spirit enables us to obey God. We can resist the temptation to sin. 1 John 5:4 tells us that those who are in Christ have indeed overcome the world. We do not have to sin because we have the power of the Spirit. Psalm 119:11 reminds us that when we have the Spirit, we will grow stronger because we will study God's Word and grow in our knowledge of it.

What are some ways that this world can influence your worldview?

James 1:15 and 3:2 remind us that we can be drawn away from following God. If we aren't careful, we will fall prey to believing the dominant worldview, or we will follow our culture. If we do not actively pursue Christ, we are prone to drift and wander away. We must actively seek to know Christ and to grow in Him.

3. 1 Corinthians 5:17: When we are in Christ, we are new creations.