

WEEK 2

SIN HAS CONSEQUENCES

SIN SEPARATES US FROM GOD

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

THE FOUR KEYS . . .

KEY VERSE

But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear. Isaiah 59:2

KEY IDEAS

1. Sin and rebellion separate us from God.
2. Separation leads to lostness.
3. God seeks us when we are lost.

KEY PASSAGE

Genesis 3:21-24
Luke 15:8-10

KEY PRINCIPLES



EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW . . .

sin is rebellion against God and God does not tolerate rebellion in His presence. Therefore, our sin separates us from God.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD FEEL . . .

amazed that God would seek after us when we have been lost in our sin because He loves us and wants us to repent and be restored.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO . . .

recognize when God is calling them to repent of sin and be forgiven.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD WANT . . .

to return to God and leave their sin behind so that they can live in fellowship with God, free from their sin.

INTRODUCTION

Because God is a holy, perfect, and just God, He does not tolerate things that are unjust. We wouldn't want God to tolerate unjust things right? When someone murders someone, we want them to pay for that. Our sin is rebellion, the opposite of what is good and just. No matter what kind of sin we commit, God views it all as unjust. A seemingly small lie is just as guilty before God as murder, because it is all rebellion against Him. The consequence of sin is separation from God. Because God Himself is good, then everything in His presence is good. Outside of God's presence, everything is the opposite of good, so when we are separated from God in our sin, we become lost and unable to find our way back to Him. The only way to be brought back to God is through forgiveness that He has offered to us through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. God does not want us to stay lost, but He desires that we repent of our sin. Through repentance and faith in Jesus, we can be found.

OPENING ILLUSTRATION

Begin by asking the kids a series of questions to illustrate the point that things get lost in the dark. "Have you ever woken up in the middle of the night and had to go to the bathroom, but it's hard to see your way around? Maybe you bump into things or struggle to find the light switch. Or have you ever lost something in the backyard at night and couldn't find it until the next morning when the sun came up? Have you ever played flashlight tag? It's easy to hide in plain sight when you have the darkness to hide you, right? If you're the person with the flashlight, the best way to find them is by shining your light on them. So, it's safe to say that things get lost in the dark." Have kids volunteer to read 1 John 1:5, John 3:19, John 1:5, and Ephesians 5:8. Ask, "What does the Bible say about light and dark? The Bible says that God is light. If God is light, then outside of God, there is darkness. We already know things are lost in the dark, so if we are separated from God by our sin, then we are in darkness and lost. We need the light of God to be found. In John 8:12, Jesus said He is the light of the world. He is the light we need to be found!"

KEY IDEAS

Read Genesis 3:21-24 and Luke 15:8-10. Then use the following points for guided discussion.

- Sin and rebellion separate us from God.
 - Why does sin lead to separation? God is perfect and just. In His presence is goodness, so God does not tolerate sin to stay in His presence. He must judge sin, and we want Him to. If God did not judge sin, then the most unjust things we can think of would go unpunished. But to God, all acts of sin and rebellion are deserving of punishment. So, God rightly separates sinful man from His presence, but He did not do so permanently. God always had a plan to restore our fellowship to Him. That plan is Jesus.
- Separation leads to lostness.
 - What does separation from God look like? Separation from God is the absence of all that is good. It is the complete opposite of God's nature, and God's nature is perfection. Outside of God there is evil. We know that good exists because we know that evil exists. That is how we can know that God exists and He is the perfect standard by which all things are measured. God is the light, so separation from the light is darkness. Things get lost in the dark, and we are lost when we are separated from God.
 - What happens if we stay lost? All things that remain in darkness will one day receive a final judgement from God, and that judgement will be eternal separation. Right now, God is granting mercy in the form of time. God gives us time to turn towards Him and repent of our sin. This is why He allows evil to happen on the earth right now, but one day God promises that He will make all things right. That is why we must turn to Him now, because one day it will be too late.
- God seeks us when we are lost.
 - Why does God have to seek us if He knows everything? God does not lose us. In our rebellion, man chose the darkness over the light. God seeks us not because He can't find us but because unless He calls us, we cannot find Him on our own. God wants all people to come to Him, and at some point in your life, He will draw you unto Himself. It is your choice to repent. (2 Peter 3:9, John 6:4, John 14:6)

Activity

Divide the kids into two groups. Give each group a ping pong ball and enough plastic straws for each child. Ask the groups to see how far they can move their ping pong ball across the table using the straws. Each group member gets one chance to blow the ping pong ball. If the ball rolls off the table, the team has to start over. After playing several times, lead the children in a discussion about how we all have gone astray from God like the ping pong balls that fell off the table.

Prayer

Thank God for seeking us out when we are lost in our sin. Ask God to help us look for the light and turn to Him.

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

ACTIVITY

Memorize the key verse Isaiah 59:2.

Hide your child's favorite toy or possession (something small enough to be hidden easily) without them knowing it. Once you have hidden it, tell your child that you have hidden it somewhere in the house and instruct them to go on a search for it. Once they find it and are happy to be reunited with the item, explain that the joy they have in finding this lost item is only a drop in the bucket of the kind of joy God has when someone who is lost repents and is saved. God's joy in a lost person being found is far more than the joy we have when we find an item we lose, and we cannot even imagine it. God's love for people is infinite.

Use the questions below for further discussion.

DISCUSSION

- **Ask your child how it felt when he/she found the lost item?**
Explain that as much as you love that thing, or as much as you love any person in your life, God loves all people a million times that and more. We cannot even imagine the love God has for us, so when a lost person is found, all of heaven rejoices. (Luke 15:10)
- **Share a time when you (the parent) were made aware of your brokenness and sin. Share how God found you and made you aware of it. Remind your child that we are all broken and lost.**

PRAYER

Thank God that He seeks us when we are lost and that He desires for us to be found. Ask Him to help you recognize your brokenness and need for Him.