

WEEK 3

SIN HAS CONSEQUENCES

SIN IS DESERVING OF GOD'S WRATH

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

THE FOUR KEYS . . .

KEY VERSE

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. Romans 1:18

KEY IDEAS

1. Sin makes God angry because it destroys life.
2. Sin must be paid for because God is just.
3. Payment for sin is death and Jesus paid it for us.

KEY PASSAGE

Genesis 3:14-21; 22:1-13

KEY PRINCIPLES



EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW . . .

God hates sin because it destroys life and He judges sin accordingly.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD FEEL . . .

amazed that God would love us despite our sin and make a way for us to be forgiven in Jesus.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO . . .

see that God's judgements are right and fair.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD WANT . . .

to accept Jesus's payment for their sin so that they can live eternally with Him.

INTRODUCTION

God created the world perfectly and said that it was good. When Adam and Eve sinned, their nature was transformed and their very blood, the source of life, was corrupted by sin. It began the process of death, which did not exist before. From that moment, they died spiritually (separated from God) and they began to die physically. God hates sin because it produces death. It takes away the very life He created. Our sin has created a debt that must be paid because God is just. In Jesus, God has offered us the only acceptable payment, the innocent, stainless blood of Jesus as a sacrifice for us. In the OT, animals were offered as a temporary sacrifice to cover sin until Jesus would come, but they were not enough to be a permanent payment. After Jesus rose from the dead, anyone who put their trust in Him could be forgiven, their debt paid in full! One day, God's wrath will be poured out on any who have not accepted Jesus's payment for their sin. We all have a choice to make about our sin...will we accept God's free gift and have eternal life or will we reject it and choose death?

OPENING ILLUSTRATION

Divide the class into two groups. Pass out paper and pencils to everyone in the first group. Instruct them to write out the memory verse for the day 100 times. Move to the second group and tell them that they are going to get snacks and play a game. Allow the kids to express their frustrations and anger over the situation and only respond by saying "this is the way it is going to be today". After a few minutes, settle them down (exercise discernment when it comes to when you step in so that the situation does not get out of control). Explain to the kids that this was just an exercise to help them understand the meaning of wrath. Explain that the anger and frustration they felt a moment ago when they saw how unfair you were being is like how God feels every single time He sees sin. If God sees all the sins of the world, can you imagine how much anger He must feel about it? Tell them that today we're going to talk about the wrath of God and how all sin, no matter how small it seems to us, makes God angry and deserves His wrath because all of it leads to death and God is the giver of life.

KEY IDEAS

Read Genesis 3:14-21. Then use the following points for guided discussion.

- Sin makes God angry because it destroys life. (Romans 6:23)
 - What is the wrath of God? Wrath simply means "an emotional response to injustice". God's wrath is His response to sin and disobedience and it is always just because His plan for mankind is holy and perfect.
 - How does sin destroy life? The cost of sin is death because sin is rebellion against God and God gives life. When man chose rebellion against God, he ultimately chose death because he chose life apart from God. Apart from God there is no such thing as life because He is the One who created it.
- Sin must be paid for because God is just. (Genesis 9:6, Romans 5:9)
 - What kind of payment is required for sin? The punishment for sin must match the cost of sin. Since the cost of sin is death, the payment is also death. Sin cost man the perfect life that God gave him, so only by a perfect life can sin be pardoned. The only perfect life was Jesus. He is the only One who has ever lived who committed no sin, so He is the only perfect and acceptable sacrifice for the sin of the world.
- Payment for sin is death and Jesus paid it for us. (John 3:16-17, 36, Romans 10:9)
 - How do we accept Jesus's payment for our sin? We must confess publicly that we believe that Jesus is Lord and believe in our hearts that He died and rose again for our sins to be forgiven, we will be saved and our sin debt will be paid permanently.
 - What happens if we don't accept His payment for us? If we reject Jesus as the only perfect sacrifice to pay for our sins, then we will continue to be in debt to God for our sin. If our debt is not paid in Jesus, it cannot be paid at all. There is no way to earn God's forgiveness by works. The cost of sin is death and death will be permanent for any person who does not have faith in Jesus.

Activity

Tell the kids they are going to play judge. Ask them a series of questions to determine how they would rule. Ex: What punishment would you give to someone who... steals a car? Murders someone? Blames an innocent person for a crime they committed themselves? Robs a bank? All sin deserves punishment. All sin makes God angry and God is a perfect judge. Our judgements are not perfect, because we are not perfect. But all God's judgements are. One day, God will judge all sin and the only payment He will accept is the perfect blood of Jesus that was offered as payment on our behalf. If we have accepted Jesus and followed Him faithfully, our debt is paid. But if we have not, our debt will be due and it cannot be paid without Jesus.

Prayer

Thank God that He is a just judge and that He will not allow sins to go unpunished. Thank God for sending His son Jesus to be the perfect payment for our sin. Ask God to help you understand these things and trust in Him for forgiveness.

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

ACTIVITY

Memorize the key verse Romans 1:18.

Take time this week to sit down with your child. Write out a list of “debts” your child owes based on things they use that any adult would have to pay for with money they’ve earned. If you do an allowance with your child, help them count their allowance and see if that’s enough to cover their “debts”. When your child realizes they do not have enough to cover their “debts”, tell them that it’s okay and you will pay for them. Explain that because you care for them, you take care of paying these debts so that they may live freely in your house but you simply require them to be obedient to you. Explain that in the same way, Jesus loves us and offers to pay for our sin debt. We can never work enough to earn salvation. It’s a debt we could never pay, because the cost is too high. The cost is a perfect life, and only Jesus is able to achieve that. When we accept Jesus’s payment of our sin debt, He calls us to follow Him in obedience, too. Because we love Him, we desire to honor Him and keep His commands.

Read Genesis 22:1-13 and use the questions below for further discussion.

DISCUSSION

- **What did God ask Abraham to do?** He asked Abraham to offer Isaac as a burnt offering.
- **How did Abraham respond to what God asked?** He obeyed by taking Isaac to the mountain and preparing to sacrifice him, entrusting his son fully to God, and believing that God was not going to do anything unjust.
- **What substitute did God provide for Isaac?** God provided a ram caught in the thicket.
- **How was the ram symbolic of what Jesus did for us?** God provided Jesus as a substitute for us; God provided Jesus at the perfect time; and the ram was caught in the thicket just like Jesus was given a crown of thorns.
- **Why do we need a substitute?** We can never pay for our sin debt on our own. There is nothing we can do to earn God’s forgiveness. By providing Jesus as a substitute, God has given us a free gift so that we might have eternal life in Him.

PRAYER

Thank God that He loves us enough to provide us a substitute. Thank God that He is a perfect judge. Ask God to help you trust in Him for forgiveness.

