

Year 5

God is Pure and Holy 4 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- God's laws are just and fair
- People are separated from God because of sin
- Jesus broke down the barrier of sin
- We feel guilty when we sin
- If we confess our sins God will forgive us
- Sin has consequences

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Healthy choices: Fitness & food choices

Link between "God is Pure and Holy" and classroom topics:

We keep our lives pure before God by right living and treating our bodies with respect.

Values:

integrity; honesty, fairness; respect for truth and justice; goodness; holiness

Biography:

Eric Liddell

God is Pure and Holy

Week 1

God's laws

Jesus paid the price for our sin.

Bible references

Exodus 20 The Ten Commandments

Romans 3:19-26 People could not be made right with God by following the law, (the Ten Commandments), so God made another way.

John 3:16 God loved the world so much that He sent His Son.

Preparation: Have the Ten Commandments written on a large sheet of paper.

Introduction

Ask if anyone can list all of the Ten Commandments. (*Have a prize ready for anyone who can*). Most likely no one will receive the prize for knowing all of the commandments. For the people of the Old Testament it was difficult to remember all the laws, and certainly more difficult to obey them.

Read through the Ten Commandments using your prepared sheet of paper. Or ask the children to read them in their Bibles. Explain that people of the Old Testament had to please God by keeping the 'law' or the commandments.

Discussion

a) The fairness of God

What would we expect a fair person to be like?

Which of these would be examples of fairness?

- Dad says he will pay you \$2 for gardening, but he only gives you 50c.
- The teacher gives no homework because you have worked during your lunch break.
- Dad says that you will not be given any pocket money if you don't do any work, but at the end of the week you persuade him to give you the full amount, even though you have done no work.

Being *fair*, or *just*, involves making a set of rules, and then sticking to them.

b) The commandments

God had made fair and just rules for His people. Because God is a perfect and just father, He has to punish disobedience, just as any good father disciplines his children. Without consequences there would be no justice. God decided that the punishment for rejecting Him would be separation. This decision caused God much sadness.

Because God is just and fair, He could not remove the punishment. However He decided on another way whereby His own Son would receive the punishment for the people's disobedience. Those who accepted the Son would be freed from the punishment.

Read Romans 3:19-26

Could anyone be made right with God by following the law? (verses 19-20)

How can people be made right with God now? (verses 21-26)

Story: The classroom

There was once a teacher called Mr. Tom who had a class of very unruly students. While his back was turned one student would take something from another.

"Hey, bring back my coloured pencils!" someone would shout.

"They're mine!" would be the reply. Then a fight would break out. Day after day this sort of thing went on. Something had to be done!

One day while Mr. Tom was having his breakfast, he had a brilliant idea. 'Today is going to be different,' he thought to himself. As he drove to school he felt more and more convinced that he had the answer to his problem.

At 8.30 the bell rang as usual. Mr. Tom walked into the class. The students were again in an uproar. Mr Tom took a deep breath and stood before the class.

"Class," he shouted, "What we need is a set of rules."

The class stopped their noise immediately. Now all ears were listening for what Mr. Tom would say next.

"For the sake of us all, we must introduce some class rules, and I would like you to suggest them."

"No stealing," said one.

Mr. Tom wrote 'No stealing' on a big piece of white paper.

"No hitting," said another.

"No name calling," said another.

The list went on.

Finally Mr. Tom said, "I would like to add just one more rule." Not one rule is to be broken. If anyone does break a rule, he or she shall be punished. What should the punishment be?" asked Mr. Tom.

"Detention in the head teacher's office every lunch time and recess time for a week!" cried one. Everyone agreed.

Mr. Tom drove home happily that afternoon. 'I think I have solved my problem' he thought to himself.

When Mr. Tom walked into the classroom at 8.30 o'clock the next morning, things were very different. There was no shouting, screaming or fighting. Everyone worked peacefully. Then later that morning it happened.

"He's stolen my homework and put his own name on it!"

So the argument began. Mr. Tom took a look at the homework in question. Sure enough, the handwriting was that of another student.

"Is this really your homework Ben?" Mr. Tom asked the student.

"No," confessed the guilty student.

To the realisation of everyone, the golden rule had been broken. Ben must now take the punishment. The lunch bell rang.

"Please come with me, Ben," demanded Mr. Tom. Ben stepped forward.

"No, no!" came a voice. It was Ben's best friend. "I will take the place of Ben. I will take the punishment for him."

Ben returned to his place and his friend followed Mr. Tom to the head teacher's office.

Discussion

1. What was happening in Mr. Tom's classroom?
2. How did Mr. Tom think he could improve things?
3. Were the students cooperative after the rules had been made?
4. What caused things to go wrong once again?
5. Why do you think William's best friend wanted to take the punishment for William?
6. In the story, rules had to be made for good classroom behaviour. God too, had to make rules for the people He had made. What are some of them?
7. What is the name the Bible gives for breaking God's rules?
8. Who, in real life, deserves the punishment?
9. Who, in real life, took the punishment?
10. What must we do if we want to be forgiven for our sin?

Memory verse: John 3:16

God is Pure and Holy

Week 2

Jesus broke down the barrier of sin

Bible references

Romans 3:23; 5:8; 6:23 When people sin they are separated from God. Sin makes a barrier between people and God.

Colossians 1:20 Christ's death on the cross broke the barrier of sin.

Ephesians 2:14 He is our peace...He has broken down the wall.

Romans 5:1; 1 John 1:9 If we ask Jesus to forgive us, and if we have faith in God, we can have peace with God.

Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, and my soul shall be joyful in my God: for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, and covered me with the robe of righteousness.

Lesson focus: The death of Jesus covers our lives and forgives us for our sin. This is called grace.



Preparation

You will need some bean bags and a bucket/waste paper basket or some cotton wool balls and a bowl.

Introduction

Ask a few students to come out and play the target game. They have to see if they can reach the target with the bean bag / cotton wool balls. Make the challenge unrealistic so that it is impossible to get the bean bag/cotton wool balls into the container.

Bible lesson

God is pure and holy and his original plan was that all people should be pure and holy as well. Only then could they walk and talk with Him as Adam and Eve did in the Garden of Eden. But when Adam and Eve sinned they could no longer walk and talk with God because God was holy, without sin, and they were not. From then on all people from then on had sin in their lives. No matter how hard we try to be perfect we can never be. It's like trying to get that bean bag in the bucket. It's just too hard to be always perfect.

Because people could no longer walk and talk with God, it was like a huge brick wall or a barrier between God and people. God made a plan. In the Old Testament times the people were instructed to ask God to forgive their sins by making animal sacrifices to God. But God

planned for a better way. When the time in history was right, He sent Jesus to die for our sins. He became the sacrifice for us. By dying for us He broke down the wall between people and God.

Ask the students to read the following from their Bibles:

Romans 3:23; 5:8; 6:23 When people sin they are separated from God. Sin makes a barrier between people and God.

Colossians 1:20 Christ's death on the cross broke the barrier of sin.

Ephesians 2:14 He is our peace...He has broken down the wall.

Romans 5:1; 1 John 1:9 If we ask Jesus to forgive us, and if we have faith in God, we can have peace with God.

Ask students about a time when they have done something wrong at home and been punished. What happens when we get in trouble? What do parents do for consequences?

Explain that the Bible tells us we have all done bad things. The only person who was ever born perfect was Jesus. There is no way we can pay the consequence for our sins because it is just too much! But Jesus has paid the price already! Jesus made it so that we don't have to pay for our own sins. He took our punishment all on himself.



So God has given us His amazing grace to cover our sins and mistakes. Our job is to accept that and appreciate what He gives us. Because God does not force Himself on anyone, it is our job to say 'yes' to Jesus and ask Him to forgive us for all we have done wrong in our lives.

By doing this we are accepting God's grace. We are saying thank you to God for overlooking our sin. Instead of seeing our sin, God sees a clean heart, made clean by Jesus who died on the cross for us. When God looks at us He sees us clothed with special clothes called a 'robe of righteousness'.

Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, and my soul shall be joyful in my God: for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, and covered me with the robe of righteousness.

God is Pure and Holy

Week 3

Feeling guilty when we do wrong

Bible references

2 Samuel chapters 11 & 12

Psalm 32:1-5 Confession and forgiveness

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins God will forgive us.

Psalm 51:6-12

Bible lesson: David's sin

David was a good king and made sure his people were treated right and fairly. Since David would not get to build the temple for God himself, he began to gather materials for the time when his son would build it. David was famous with the people because of the victories God gave him over their enemies. These wars were not just fought for glory, though. God was using his people to punish those who had turned away from him to worship idols. Finally the nations nearby were conquered; Israel included all the land God had promised to Abraham. During one of the wars, however, David stayed behind in Jerusalem when his soldiers went off to fight. It was at this time that David fell into grievous sin, which would haunt him for the rest of his life.

As David walked on the roof of his house one evening, he saw a beautiful woman taking a bath. Someone told him she was Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah, a Hittite soldier who was away fighting with David's army. David should have put Bathsheba out of his mind when he heard she was married, but he didn't. He wanted her for his wife, even though he was Uriah's wife. David brought Bathsheba to the palace to stay with him. Sometime later Bathsheba sent David word she was going to have his baby.

David, the king over all Israel, had committed adultery with one of his soldiers' wives and now there was going to be a child! Desperately he tried to think of a way to cover his sin. Finally David had a plan; he would bring Uriah home from the battlefield and let him visit his wife. Then everyone would think he was the baby's father.

But David's plan didn't work. Uriah came back to Jerusalem, but he wouldn't go down to his house, not even after David got him drunk. He slept with the king's servants instead. He wouldn't let himself enjoy being home with his wife while the other soldiers were having a hard time on the battlefield.

What could David do now? Soon Uriah would hear Bathsheba was going to have a baby, a baby that was not his. He must never know that David was its father!

David did a terrible thing. He wrote to Joab, the leader of his army, commanding him, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die." Then he had Uriah take the letter back with him.

Was David actually trying to get Uriah killed? Yes, he was! And that was just what happened. When David heard Uriah was dead he told Joab not to feel guilty. "The sword devours one as well as another." David said, just as if Uriah's death had been an ordinary casualty of war.

After about a year, God sent Nathan the prophet to talk with David. Nathan had been a wise judge over his people. He told David a parable to help him understand the sin he had committed. In the parable there was a rich man with many sheep and a poor man with only one little lamb. This little lamb was so special to the poor man that he treated it like his own child.

This rich man did an awful thing. One day he killed the poor man's little lamb to feed a traveller who came by to visit. When David heard what the rich man had done, his anger was hot. "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this shall die!" he declared indignantly, not knowing he was talking about himself!

"You are the man," Nathan told the king. Then he delivered God's message. "I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. I gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had not been too little, I also would have given you much more," God said. Yet David had broken God's law and had done evil in His sight. Not only had he killed Uriah with the sword, he had taken his wife for himself.

As punishment Nathan said David's family would have trouble for the rest of his life. "I have sinned against the Lord," David confessed and God saw he has repented. But sad consequences would still follow.

Discussion

What were the two sins David committed?

What story did Nathan tell David?

What wicked thing did the rich man in this story do?

What was the real meaning of the story?

Ask the students to read Psalm 32: 1-5

Explain that David wrote many songs. We don't know the tunes, but the words of the songs are recorded in the book of Psalms. In this Psalm, David tells us how he felt when he sinned. He could not stop crying. He felt worn out, weak and sad.

God has given us a conscience: a little voice inside us that tells us what is right and what is wrong. When we don't listen to that voice and do the wrong thing, we feel guilty because we have displeased God.

What can we do about this and how can we feel better?

Read 1 John 1:9

What is the meaning of 'confess'?

What should our heart attitude be when we confess our sins to God?

What if we have sinned against people? What action must we take if we really want God to forgive us? (We need to confess to them as well as God and ask them for their forgiveness.)

God is Pure and Holy

Week 4

Confession

Revision from last lesson:

Telling God that we have done wrong is called 'confession'. We are asking God to forgive us and give us back a clean and happy heart.

Bible lesson

Let's look at David's confession Psalm 51:6-12
What is David asking God to do in verses 7-12?

- Remove my sin
- Wash me
- Let me hear the sounds of joy and gladness
- Close your eyes to my sins and wipe out all my evil
- Create in me a pure heart
- Put a new loyal spirit in me
- Give me again the joy that comes from your salvation
- Make me willing to obey you.

What is David asking God not to do in verse 11?

- Do not send me away from your presence
- Do not take your Holy Spirit away from me.

The consequences of David's sin

Although he was forgiven, David had serious consequences to deal with. First, the baby that David had with Bathsheba died. Also, David's many children always fought. This is especially hard on David because he loved all his children very much.

David had many sons; and most of his sons had grown up wild and wicked, because David had not watched over them, and had not taught them in their youth to love God and do God's will. He had been too busy as a king to do his duty as a father.

The oldest of David's sons was Absalom. Absalom was said to be the most beautiful young man in all the land. He had long locks of hair, of which he was very proud, because all the people admired them. Absalom became very angry with Amnon, another of David's sons, because Amnon had done wrong to Absalom's sister, named Tamar.

But Absalom hid his anger against Amnon, and one day invited Amnon with all the king's sons to a feast at his house in the country. They all went to the feast; and while they were all at the table Absalom's servants, by his orders, rushed in and killed Amnon.

David was sad and greatly displeased with Absalom, though he loved him more than any other of his sons. Absalom went away from his father's court to that of his grandfather. There Absalom stayed for three years; and all the time David longed to see him, for he felt that he had now lost both sons, Absalom as well as Amnon. And after three years David allowed Absalom to come back to Jerusalem; but for a time David would not meet with him, because he had caused his brother's death. At last David's love was so strong that he could no longer refuse to see his son. He sent for Absalom, and kissed him, and took him back to his old place among the king's sons in the palace.

But Absalom's heart was wicked, and ungrateful, and cruel. He formed a plan to take the throne and the kingdom away from his father, and to make himself King in David's place. He began by living as if he were already a king, with a royal chariot, and horses, and fifty men to run before him. Then too, he would rise early in the morning, and stand at the gate of the king's palace, and meet those who came to the king for any cause. He would speak to each man, to try and win them to his side and make them wish that Absalom was king instead of David.

After four years Absalom thought that he was strong enough to seize the kingdom. He said to David, "Let me go to the city of Hebron, and there worship the Lord, and keep a promise which I made to Him."

David was pleased at this, for he thought that Absalom really meant to serve the Lord. So Absalom went to Hebron, and with him went a great company of his friends. A few of these knew of Absalom's plans, but most of them knew nothing. At Hebron, Absalom was joined by a very wise man, named Ahithophel, who was one of David's chief advisers, and in whom David trusted fully.

Suddenly the word was sent through all the land by swift runners, "Absalom has been made king at Hebron!" Those who were in the secret helped to lead others, and soon it seemed as though all the people were on Absalom's side and ready to receive him as king in place of David.

The news came to David in the palace, that Absalom had made himself king, that many of the rulers were with him, and that the people in their hearts really desired Absalom. David did not know whom he could trust, and he prepared to escape before it would be too late. He took with him a few of his servants who chose to remain by his side, and his wives, and especially his wife Bathsheba, and her son, the little Solomon.

The land on the east of Jordan, where David found a refuge, was called Gilead, a word which means "high," because it is higher than the land opposite on the west of Jordan. There, in the city of Mahanaim, the rulers and the people were friendly to David. They brought food of all kinds and drink for David and those who were with him.

And at this place David's friends gathered from all the tribes of Israel, until around him was an army. It was not as large as the army of Absalom, but in it were many brave old warriors who had fought under David in other years. David divided his army into three parts, and

placed over the three parts Joab, his brother Abishai, and Ittai, who had followed him so faithfully.

David said to the chiefs of his army and to his men, "I will go out with you into the battle." But the men said to David, "No, you must not go with us; for if half of us should lose our lives, no one will care; but you are worth ten thousand of us, and your life is too precious. You must stay here in the city, and be ready to help us if we need help."

So the king stood by the gate of Mahanaim while his men marched out by hundreds and by thousands. And as they went past the king the men heard him say to the three chiefs, Joab, and Abishai, and Ittai, "For my sake, deal gently with the young man, Absalom. Do not kill him."

Even to the last David loved the son who had done to him such great wrong, and David would have them spare his life.

A great battle was fought on that day at a place called "The Wood of Ephraim." Absalom himself went into the battle, riding upon a mule, as was the custom of kings.

David's soldiers won a great victory, and killed thousands of Absalom's men. The armies were scattered in the woods. When Absalom saw that his cause was hopeless he rode away, hoping to escape. But as he was riding under the branches of an oak-tree, his head, with its great mass of long hair, was caught in the boughs of the tree. He struggled to free himself, but could not. His mule ran away, and Absalom was left hanging in the air by his head.

One of David's soldiers saw him, and said to Joab, the captain, "I saw Absalom hanging in a tree."

"Why did you not kill him?" asked Joab. "If you had killed him I would have given you ten pieces of silver and a girdle."

"If you should offer me a thousand pieces of silver," answered the soldier, "I would not touch the king's son; for I heard the king charge all the generals and the men, 'Let no one harm the young man Absalom.'"

"I cannot stay to talk with you," said Joab; and with three darts in his hand he hastened to the place where Absalom was hanging. He thrust Absalom's heart through with the darts, and after that his followers, finding that Absalom was still living, pierced his body until they were sure that he was dead. Then they took down his body, and threw it into a deep hole in the forest, and heaped a great pile of stones upon it.

A messenger was sent to King David. "I have news for my lord the king!" cried the messenger. "This day the Lord has given you victory over your enemies!"

And David asked, "Is it well with the young man Absalom?"

Then the messenger gave David the news of Absalom's death. The king was deeply moved. His sorrow over Absalom made him forget the victory that had been won. Slowly he walked up the steps to the room in the tower over the gate, and as he walked he said, "O my son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! I wish before God that I had died for you, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

The word soon went forth that the king, instead of rejoicing over the victory, was weeping over his son. Everyone felt sorry for the king, who sat in the room over the gate, with his face covered, and crying out, "O Absalom, my son! my son, my son Absalom!"

Joab, the captain, went to David. "Why are you not rejoicing over our victory? It looks as if you love your enemies and not your friends. If Absalom had lived the rest of us would have died. Come now, go and speak to your people. Show them that you are happy to come back to your palace."

David rose up, and washed away his tears, and put on his robes, and took his seat again as a king. David reigned as king for 40 years until he was too old to rule the people. Then his son Solomon became king.

Discussion

Discuss how sins that are seemingly small, like disobedience to parents, can grow into bigger sins unless there is a change of heart, confession and repentance.

What was Absalom's sin as a boy? (Disobedience towards his father, ungratefulness)

How did this sin grow into something bigger as a young man? (He killed his brother.)

How did this sin grow into an even bigger sin later in life? (He tried to take the kingship away from his father.)