

SESSION 1

CREATED FOR GOD

"You must worship no other gods, but only the LORD, for he is a God who is passionate about his relationship with you." Exodus 34:14



God is the Creator of the whole universe. Create means to make something from nothing. So when God created everything, he just spoke the words, and what he wanted to make appeared. But when it came to making people, God did something special. God hand-made them. He formed the first man, Adam, from the dust of the ground. He created the first woman, Eve, from Adam's rib.

People are the most important creation of God. He made us in a special way so that we could get to know him. God's plan was to create people he could love and enjoy. You see, the Bible teaches us that God is love, and more than anything, God wanted someone to love. We were created for a friendship with God. God knows that the only way we will be totally happy and enjoy our lives is when we have a friendship with him.

The world around us would like to tell us a big lie. The world says that we don't need God's friendship. Some people would rather live by their own rules and make selfish choices which they feel will make them happy. They are not interested in pleasing God.

Yes, God created you. You are special to him. God is passionate about having a friendship with you.

TODAY'S BIG TRUTH:
God created me to be his friend.

THE WORLD'S BIG LIE:
I don't need God's friendship.

Use "Thinking About Being Friends" discussion questions on next page.

Thinking About Being Friends

1. What do you do to get to know your friends better?
2. How can you be a friend with God when you can't even see him?
3. How is being friends with God different from being friends with a person?
4. Tell of a time that you felt close to God.



SESSION 2

WHAT SIN DOES TO MY FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD

**"All have turned away from God; all have gone wrong.
No one does good, not even one." Romans 3:12**

The Good News is that God wants to be our friend! The sad truth is that because of sin, we have broken our friendship with God. So how did sin enter into the perfect world God created for Adam and Eve?

God gave Adam and Eve a wonderful gift. It was the ability to make the choice to obey God. None of the animals or anything else God made had that wonderful choice. God gave Adam and Eve just one rule to live by. All they had to do was to show God how much they loved him by choosing to obey his one rule. One sad day, Adam and Eve chose to disobey God. Choosing to disobey God is called sin. God is holy, which means he is pure and perfect in every way.

Because God loves us so much he has given us rules in the Bible that will help us live in ways which please him. These rules will make our life happier and so much better. God knows the best thing for us to do is choose to obey him. The world, however, has a sad big lie for us. It says that we can each decide for ourselves what is right or wrong for us. We often get tempted to think that what is right or wrong really depends on what is happening or what we think would be the best thing to do at the moment. But what God says is more important than what we think.

TODAY'S BIG TRUTH:
God is holy and takes my sin seriously.

THE WORLD'S BIG LIE:
I can decide what is right or wrong for me.



**Use "Help Wanted"
discussion questions
on next 2 pages.**

Help Wanted

The following kids need your help. Each of them has chosen to believe one of the World's Big Lies, "I can decide what is right or wrong for me." How would you advise them?

1. Brandon is a very smart student. He always makes A's in school. He has developed the attitude that he is always right. Recently, he accused Bill of taking his spelling book. He really made Bill feel bad, and he talked about it to everyone in the classroom. Even though Bill promised he had not even seen Brandon's book, everyone thought he had it. That night, Brandon found his spelling book in his own bedroom.

The next day, Brandon did not say anything about it. He thought it would make him look bad if he told Bill and the others the truth, that he had left his spelling book at home.

What was Brandon's problem? _____

If Brandon believed that God takes sin seriously, what should he do?

2. Melissa goes to church every Sunday. She has learned that God loves her. She feels that she is special to God. Last week she turned 10 years old. She and a few friends were going to the city zoo. Her mother had given her \$20 to pay for her admission to the zoo and to have extra spending money. At the gate she saw that the children under 10 only had to pay \$2, while those 10 and over had to pay \$5 to get in. She knew most of her girlfriends had not turned 10 yet, so it would not be a problem for her to quietly tell the attendant she was under 10. Then she could have an extra \$3 to spend. After all, the Bible teaches us that God wants to forgive us of all our sins.

What was Melissa's problem? _____

If Melissa believed that sin would hurt her friendship with God, what should she do?

3. Joshua was at the video/DVD store with his older brother. He saw two DVDs which he really wanted, but only had money for one. He had both of them in his hands. He remembered that his jacket had an inside pocket. He thought, "If I pay for one, the store will still get its money; after all they probably get these at half price." Anyway, it is not like he was stealing something really big. It was just \$14. The store would not miss it. After all, just think of all the big sins people commit every day. This is just a little one.

What was Joshua's problem? _____

If Joshua really believed that God was holy and he wanted to please God, what should he do?

4. Michelle loved to talk. She was one of those people who knew something about everyone. When she heard about something bad about someone, she could hardly wait to tell somebody. She never bothered to check out the story to see if it was true. And so what if it was not; she was just passing on what she had heard.

What was Michelle's problem? _____

If Michelle really wanted to please God, what would you tell her she should do?



SESSION 3

LOST AND ALONE BECAUSE OF SIN

“For all have sinned; all fall short of God’s glorious standard.” Romans 3:23

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23

Today we are going to learn how sin affects us.

We are all tempted to sin. Sometimes we disobey God because it just seems to be the easiest thing to do at the moment. There are other times that we sin because we want other kids to like us. There are even times that we sin because we think we can get by with it. No matter why we have made the wrong choice, sin always leaves us feeling lost and alone—away from God.

Some people think, “Well, it’s my life; I can choose what I want to do. This bad attitude says that what God wants for us is not important. There is a selfishness deep in our hearts that makes us want to do things our own way. This selfish attitude is resistance toward God.

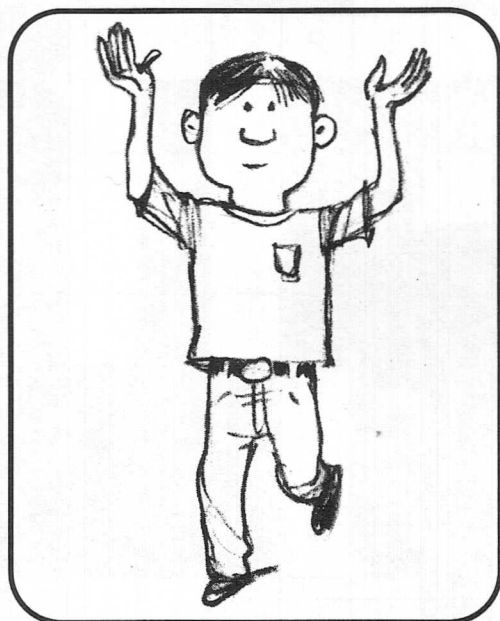
The first step in making things right with God is to:

- Admit to God that you have sinned.
- Ask God to forgive you of your sin.
- Look for ways to resist sin. God promises to always provide us an escape when we are tempted to sin.

TODAY’S BIG TRUTH:
Sin separates me from God

THE WORLD’S BIG LIE:
I can live my life my way.

Use discussion
scenarios on
next 2 pages.



Read (or have a camper read) 1 Corinthians 2:13

Say: "Can you help Randy, Kim, and Carlos think of a way they can escape their temptation? All three of these kids go to church and will tell you they love Jesus, but they are each tempted to do what they know they should not do." Read the three scenarios and discuss how each can escape temptation. ~

A. Randy has great friends at church, but only one of them is in his class at school. He is very outgoing and likes to be in the "in" crowd. The one boy in his class at both school and church is not really in with the cool kids. When Randy is with his church friends, he does okay, but he is unsure of himself with his school friends. He really wants to impress his school friends with how cool he is. The guys in the group he runs with often tell jokes that make him feel uncomfortable. He knows that the words they are saying displease God and would not please his parents. But he really wants to hang around and hear the jokes. He is so afraid of what the other guys would think if they knew how he felt, so he tries to laugh and play along. It is just so tempting to join in.

What is Randy's way of escape?

B. Kim is smart and can make good grades. She really likes to study and wants to always make A's. She becomes so upset if she gets a B. One day, while helping her teacher out, she found where the teacher kept the test that she was planning to give on Friday. Kim slipped a copy of the test out quickly, and she was able to study with it. When she took the test in class, it was very easy for her because she had already worked it out. When she got a perfect score and then got by with it, she was thrilled. Unfortunately, she has developed a habit of snooping around the teacher's desk and watching carefully where the teacher puts things. Taking another test almost seems like a game. It would be so tempting.

True or False

What is Kim's way of escape?

C. Carlos really loves his parents very much but he thinks they have too many rules for him. His parents pay for his school lunches ahead of time so that he will not have to carry money to school each day. They have also explained that this way they can be sure that he gets the whole meal of the day, and is not spending his lunch money in the vending machines full of soft drinks and junk food. Deep down inside Carlos knows his parents are doing the right thing, but he wants the stuff some of his friends are eating. He has thought of talking to his parents about his feelings, but then he discovered a large jar, where his parents drop change, in their bedroom closet. Carlos is careful to not get caught but for the last two weeks, almost daily he has been able to buy something from the vending machines. He knows he should stop this behavior, but it is just too tempting.

What is Carlos's way of escape?

7. PRAY

Thank God for his love, and ask him to help you find your way of escape whenever you are tempted to sin.

I CAN BE FORGIVEN

"For God sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to satisfy God's anger against us. We are made right with God when we believe that Jesus shed his blood, sacrificing his life for us. God was being entirely fair and just when he did not punish those who had sinned in former times."

Romans 3:25

The best news you will ever hear is that you can be forgiven of your sin. God wants to be your friend, but your sin separates you from God. The wrong things you do break God's laws and hurt the people God loves. It breaks God's heart that your sin has separated you from him. Your sin is the problem.

God solved our problem with sin through Jesus' death on the cross. God accepts Jesus' death as the payment for all our sins. There is nothing that you or I can do to earn our own way into heaven or gain a friendship with God.

You can be forgiven by trusting that Jesus died for you. You can ask God to forgive you and he will because Jesus paid for your sins with his own life. By trusting in Jesus as your Savior you will have a friendship with God forever.

TODAY'S BIG TRUTH:

God planned for Jesus to pay the price for my sins.

TODAY'S BIG LIE:

I am a good person—I can please God.



Use "True or False" questions
for discussion on next 2 pages.



Why Jesus Died For Me

Decide if each of the statements is true or false.

TRUE OR FALSE?

1. God loves me even though I have sinned.

T/ F

2. If I am extra good, I will be good enough to be God's friend.

T/ F

3. My dad and mom are Christians so God will let me into heaven too.

T/ F

4. When Jesus died on the cross, he was dying for my sin.

T/ F

5. If I just say to myself I'm sorry for doing wrong, I will be forgiven.

T/ F

6. Doing good things earns me a place in heaven.

T/ F

7. The only way to become God's friend is by trusting Jesus as the one who paid the price for my sins.

T/ F

8. All people who try hard to be good and are sincere about whatever they believe will go to heaven.

T/ F

WHY? WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

Romans 5:8 says, "But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."

Romans 3:12 says, "All have turned away from God; all have gone wrong. No one does good, not even one."

2 Corinthians 5:10 says, "For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in our bodies."

1 Peter 3:18 says, "Christ also suffered when he died for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners that he might bring us safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit."

John 6:29 says, "Jesus told them, 'This is what God wants you to do: Believe in the one he has sent'"

Ephesians 2:9 says, "Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it."

Roman 3: 22-23 says, "We are made right in God's sight when we trust in Jesus Christ to take away our sins. And we all can be saved in this same way, no matter who we are or what we have done. For all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious standard."

Acts 4:12 says, "There is salvation in no one else; There is no other name in all of heaven for people to call on to save them."

I CAN BE SURE JESUS WILL ALWAYS LOVE ME

"I assure you, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life." John 5:24

Did you know that God loves you just like you are? It is true. There is nothing that you can do to make God love you more.

Jesus wants to always love you. We begin a special friendship with God the very day we ask him to forgive us of our sin. That friendship is to last forever. The Bible teaches us that there is nothing that can separate us from God's love. There are some people who want us to believe that we have to work hard to please God in our own power.

Incarnation is a big word we will learn about today. It means "in the flesh." Jesus, who had always lived in heaven, came to this earth "in the flesh"—he became a person with skin on! He did this because he wanted to let us get to know him so we can deepen our friendship.

TODAY'S BIG TRUTH:
Jesus will never leave me.

THE WORLD'S BIG LIE:
I must work hard to please God on my own.

Ask a camper to read Romans 8:35-39. Discuss what the scripture means.

Ask campers to describe what they most look forward to in heaven.

