

BIG PICTURE:

GOD LOVES YOU

BIG IDEA:

FALLING OVER

BIG POINT:

GOD LOVES ME TOO MUCH TO LEAVE ME IN SIN

BIG WORD:

AND MAY YOU HAVE THE POWER TO UNDERSTAND, AS ALL GOD'S PEOPLE SHOULD, HOW WIDE, HOW LONG, HOW HIGH, AND HOW DEEP HIS LOVE IS. EPHESIANS 3:18 (NLT)

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DOCUMENT PURPOSE

This document is the Leader's Guide for BIG Picture GOD LOVES YOU TTW1.2. It contains a summary of the BIG Message 'LIVE'.

The BIG 'Tell The World' User Guide document contains all the service element information, including the large group segment of your service.

Make sure you read through and prayerfully study this material prior to your service to be fully prepared to minister to your children.

Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this lesson children will:

- Know that sin has separated each of us from God and His purposes in our lives.
- See Jesus Christ as the solution to our reconciliation to God.

BIG POINT: GOD LOVES ME TOO MUCH TO LEAVE ME IN SIN.

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BIG MESSAGE 'LIVE' OUTLINE

DOCUMENT PURPOSE

Use this outline to construct a message that works for you and your children's ministry.

INTRO

To introduce today's **BIG IDEA:** 'FALLING OVER', use the largest dice you can find, (if you can't find one, why don't you make a huge one!), tell the children that you are going to discover who is the best and holiest child in the room. Explain that the higher the number they roll, the better they are. After getting a few children to roll the dice and making comment on how good or bad they are, roll it yourself (hoping to get a number one for the big laughs). Then explain no matter how good we THINK we are, God's standard is a seven and no matter how long we roll the dice, we could never hope to roll a seven! No matter how good we are, our sin separates us from Jesus. The only way to hit God's standard is by surrendering our lives to Jesus!

Sin is exactly that, falling short, missing the mark, falling down in our attempt to live a 'good life'.

STORY TELLING

This is the story of a tree, a tree so special it had a name. The 'tree of the knowledge of good and evil'. It enjoyed a privileged position in the centre of the most incredible garden the world has ever seen, the Garden of Eden. The most amazing thing about this tree was the fruit that grew on its branches. This fruit gave knowledge of good and evil to anyone who ate it.

Occasionally a man could be seen nearby the tree, but not once did he try and eat some of the fruit. The man had been kept busy naming the animals, and God had also commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

Pretty soon, man was joined by woman (a girl helper) because it was not good for man to be alone.

The tree spent a lonely existence until the terrible day that it all changed; the entry of the serpent (child/leader dressed as a serpent - get the audience booing).

Scripture References:

Genesis 3
Psalm 40:12
Matthew 26:28
John 3:16
Romans 3:12-14
Romans 3:23-24
Romans 5:8
Romans 6:23
Romans 8:1-2
Romans 8:32
Romans 10:9
Colossians 2:13-14
Hebrews 10:10

The serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord had made, and unlike the man and woman, spent a lot of time near the tree... wrapped around it in fact (serpent wraps around the tree's legs). Its goal in life seemed to be to get the man and woman to eat fruit from the tree.

The day finally came when our serpent enticed the woman near to the tree and deceived her. "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat from the tree, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food, pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to the man and he ate it also.

That was the last time the man, woman and the serpent were ever seen near the tree. They had been cast out of the garden into the wilderness.

Both Adam and Eve had a simple choice to obey or disobey God. After they made the choice to rebel, mankind was separated from God; something that would not be fixed until thousands of years later through Jesus. (Thank all the helpers and have them return to their seats.)

OBJECT LESSON

'All Tied Up'

Using a child volunteer, have them tie the rope firmly around your wrists. Explain that you are looking at what sin does to us. Sin can look attractive. If it didn't, then no one would sin – doesn't it feel good to point out when someone else is wrong. Doesn't it feel great when you are proved right! Explain that pride in our lives only ties us up more in sin (have the helper tie rope a little more around your arms). Here is how sin affects us.

1. Firstly, sin affects our heart.

In Psalms, David writes "For troubles without number surround me; my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see. They are more than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails within me" (Psalm 40:12 NIV).

It leads to guilt, feeling ashamed, greed and feelings which make a heart heavy (helper wraps rope around shoulders).

2. Secondly, sin affects our relationship with others.

"All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one. Their throats are open graves; their tongues practise deceit...Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways, and the way of peace they do not know." (Romans 3:12-14 NIV).

Sin creates envy, jealousy, fear, misunderstanding, pride, deceit and arrogance, for example (helper wraps rope around waist).

3. Thirdly, sin affects our relationship with God.

"The wages of sin is death..." (Romans 6:23 NIV) (Helper wraps rope all the way down to legs, until you are standing completely tied up by the rope.

Supplies Needed:

Long rope (climbing, or tug-of-war if possible)

But the cross of Christ is more than enough to cover our sins... past, present and future.

Invite a leader to represent Jesus and untie you as you read out the following verses:

"Jesus said, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.'" (Matthew 26:28 NIV)

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death." (Romans 8:1-2 NIV)

"When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having cancelled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; He took it away, nailing it to the cross." (Colossians 2:13-14 NIV)

"He sacrificed for their sins once for all when He offered Himself." (Hebrews 7:27b NIV)

"And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." (Hebrews 10:10 NIV)

We are completely freed from sin because of Jesus; we are free to do all that He has called us to do! (You will now be untied and able to move freely.)

POINTS

1. *We didn't follow the instructions.*

Genesis 3:11 talks about how God asked Adam and Eve to follow His instructions and not to eat from the tree. They only had one rule to keep but they broke it. We can try to make the right choices, like obeying our mother and father, being kind to others and telling the truth, but we will make mistakes and wrong decisions. God created us to be in relationship with Him, but we have all sinned and fallen over. We have gone our own way and sin has separated us from God.

2. *All have sinned.*

It's easy to look at other people's mistakes and think that we are better than them because we do not do those things. But according to God, even when we tell the smallest lie, it is still wrong in His eyes. Even when we live our life trying to do everything right, we can still do wrong things. The Bible says in Romans 3:23 that everyone has fallen short of His standards.

3. *It's your choice.*

God had a rescue plan for humanity... it was Jesus! Right from the beginning God had a plan up his sleeve. He loves us so much, even more than we love our parents, our brothers, our sisters or our friends. That kind of love is hard to imagine! Jesus gave up His life on earth by dying on the cross so that all of the wrong things we have done can be taken away. For God so loved the world that He gave his only son (John 3:16). He leaves the final decision up to us; WE have to do something. "That if you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).