

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Sin is never worth the consequences.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will discuss how sin is never worth the consequences that come from it.

KEY PASSAGE:

Genesis 3:1-13, 21-24, The Fall of Man

INTRO:

Sometimes something looks like a great idea on paper, but it turns out to be a disaster. Even the brightest, most creative people in the world sometimes make mistakes that can be very costly. Many years ago, there was a very popular kids program called The Lone Ranger. The Lone Ranger was the story of a law man in the Old West who wore a mask and brought bad guys to justice. It was a huge hit in the era of radio and TV, and kids everywhere loved to dress up as the Lone Ranger and his best friend Tonto. There were Lone Ranger masks, toys, lunch boxes, T-shirts, you name it. The Lone Ranger was easily one of the most popular characters of his day.

A few years ago, Disney decided to remake The Lone Ranger as a movie. They spared no expense. They went out and hired one of the most popular actors in the world, Johnny Depp, to play Tonto. They spent millions advertising the movie. They had toys and T-shirts and Legos ready to sell to a new generation of kids. It was a disaster! The movie wasn't very good. It was a violent, PG-13 action film that most parents wouldn't allow their kids to see. It also wasn't very good. The movie was a complete failure, and stores were left with millions of dollars in toys, T-shirts, and Legos nobody wanted.

Disney was lucky. They have the money and the power to survive a million dollar flop like The Lone Ranger. Many other companies have gone out of business because they invested in something they thought was a good idea that turned into a disaster. Jobs have been lost and careers ruined because someone made the decision to put all their money into a bad idea.

For the last several weeks, we've been studying the Book of Genesis and the story of Creation. We saw how God made the world, and how beautiful and good it was. There were no bad choices in God's Creation. Everything had a purpose. Everything was in its proper place. Today, however, we're going to see that one bad idea nearly ruined God's perfect plan.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

READ GENESIS 3:1-13, 21-24

MAIN POINT:

Adam and Eve were given a paradise. God told them to tend to the animals and plants. He held back nothing from them except one tree. They were not allowed to eat the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Adam and Eve had no trouble following God's rule until the crafty serpent fed them one little lie: if you eat from the tree, you will be like God!

Adam and Eve thought they knew better than God. They gained the knowledge of good and evil that the serpent promised, but they learned too late that the consequences for their actions were separation from God. Sin is never worth the trouble. Whatever we may gain from disobedience is not worth the price because sin separates us from God.

DRIVE IT HOME:

It would be easy to sit and judge Adam and Eve for their actions. They had one rule to follow, and they blew it. But how often do we do the same thing? We cheat on a test to try to gain a few extra points. We steal something so we don't have to spend our money on it. We take something our parents told us not to take. We use God's name in anger. We allow ourselves to become jealous and bitter. We lie to get ahead.

When we sin we tell ourselves that it's worth it. I deserve that better grade. I deserve to get ahead. I can eat that cookie and no one will ever know. These are all lies, just like the lie the serpent told Adam and Eve. Even if you don't get caught, no sin goes unnoticed. God knows your heart. He knows what you have done. Every sin separates us from God.

The Bible tells us that there's nothing we can do to make up for our sins. There's no amount of good deeds or apologies that can undo the sin and reunite us with God. Only God could bridge the gap caused by sin, and that's exactly what He did. God did not give up on Creation, or us. He loved us so much, He sent His Son Jesus to be the perfect sacrifice for all the sins of the world. Without Jesus there would be no hope, but thanks to Jesus, we can have eternal life!

God wants us to receive Jesus as our Savior, and He wants us to turn away from sin. He knows it is impossible for us to truly go and sin no more, but when we ask for forgiveness, He will forgive, and He will help us to do better the next time. By doing better we will not only draw closer to God, we will avoid the sometimes terrible consequences of our sins.

Sin is never worth it, but even when we sin, God still loves us. Ask Jesus to forgive your sins, and He will give you new life and a second chance!

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CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for loving us in spite of our sin.

In Jesus' name,

Amen