

Together Again

SERMON

Yesterday we learned that sin changed the perfect world GOD created. We also learned that GOD loves us more than anything we could ever imagine. We also learned that sin separates us from GOD. Adam and Eve walked and talked with GOD every day until they disobeyed Him. GOD is holy; that means He is all good, all love, totally pure, with not even a drop of anything bad. GOD is absolutely perfect. This is why our sin separates us from GOD. Sin is any bad thing that we have ever done, thought, said, or told somebody else to do. Sin is lying, cheating, not listening to Moms and Dads or teachers, and not pay attention in Sunday school. Sin is anything bad.

The Bible tells us in Romans 3:23 that everybody has sinned. Me, you, the president, and even our pastors have sinned. Everyone except JESUS, GOD'S SON, has sinned. The Bible also tells us in Romans 6:23 that the wages of sin is death, but the gift of GOD is eternal life through CHRIST JESUS our Lord.

The first part of that verse means that we all deserve to be punished by death and be separated from GOD forever because of our sins. This is what we deserve, and this is what our punishment should be. We do not deserve to go to heaven, but the good thing is that there is a second part to that verse, and we will talk about that later.

Focus: JESUS' work on the cross, salvation, separation through sin, "Together Again" through JESUS CHRIST.

Revelation: We owe a debt for our sins, but JESUS loved us so much that He paid our debt for us. JESUS is the one and only way to Heaven. Our sin separated us from GOD, but JESUS' work on the cross restored us "Together Again" with our loving Heavenly FATHER.

Leader Study: Ephesians 2

Bible Verse: Romans 6:23

Together Again

OBJECT LESSON

What You Will Need: One big empty box wrapped as a gift. The bigger the box the better.

- **Leader 1**= The person who is giving the message
- **Leader 2**= The person giving the gift

Leader 2: *(running up front, very excited, with the gift)* Look! Look! I have something for you. It's a gift! I couldn't wait to give it to you

Leader 1: Not right now. Can't you see I am busy?

Leader 2: It will only take a minute to open the gift. Come on, it's incredible!

Leader 1: I can't; I told you that I am busy. How incredible can it really be?

Leader 2: It will change your life forever!

Leader 1: I don't believe it

Leader 2: Honestly, it will not only change your life, but it will save your life! Please, open it!

Leader 1: *(put the gift aside but not out of site, make sure Zeek can see it later)* As I said, I am busy.

Leader 2: *(Walk away very sad with your head hung down, looking back a few times as if you are heartbroken)*

Together Again

PUPPET SKIT

Zeek: (*enters very excitedly with a mix of emotions*) I just came back from... I don't know how to describe it. I don't know how to explain just how I feel. It was so sad. I cried because I was sad, and then I got scared, and then I cried because I was happy, and then I cheered! YIPPIIEEEE! HALLELUIAH!

Leader: Wow Zeek, it sounds like you been through a lot!

Zeek: Oh yeah, and HE whooped his but!

Leader: Zeek! What are you talking about? You know we do not condone fighting.

Zeek: Oh yes you would. Trust me, you would. HE got him good too! Snafu city!

Leader: Zeek, I am warning you!

Zeek: I am talking about JESUS! HE did some dancing on the devils ugly head.

Leader: OK, now I think I'm getting you. Just where exactly have you been?

Zeek: I took a little ride in my Geeklactic Time Contraption before the service.

Leader: I rather figured that. Where did you go?

Zeek: I traveled back in time over 2,000 years ago! I saw JESUS when He was alive on the earth. JESUS left His home in Heaven and came to earth. JESUS is the SON of GOD, and even though He was completely human, just like you and me, and He was even tempted to sin, JESUS never ever sinned or did anything bad. JESUS healed people when they were sick. He made blind people see and cripple people walk, HE even raised a few people from the dead! GO JESUS! GO JESUS!

Leader: Zeek, that is absolutely amazing!

Zeek: It was also sad.

Leader: What could be sad about that?

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PUPPET SKIT

Zeek: (*sadly*) Even though JESUS spent His life helping others and serving GOD, and never doing anything bad, some people didn't like Him. They were so mean to Him. They beat Him and whipped Him so badly, and spit on Him. It was terrible. Since He was the SON of GOD, He could have saved Himself from it at any time; He could have done anything. After all, He brought dead people back to life, but he didn't do anything to save himself.

Leader: You know why that is don't you?

Zeek: (*still sad*) Yeah, I know.

Leader: Do you mind telling the rest of us?

Zeek: JESUS was taking all the punishment for our sins. He didn't save Himself because He was saving us. He loves us so much that He took our place. After they beat Him, they nailed Him to a wooden cross, they hammered nails through His hands and His feet. When He was on that cross dying, since He never sinned or did anything wrong, He took all of our sins on His heart. Jesus died for your sins so you wouldn't have to.

Leader: That's right. He died for all of us.

Zeek: (*scared*) When He died, it was so scary! The daytime sky went black like night and the entire earth shook! After it all calmed down, everybody knew that JESUS was surely the SON of GOD! After JESUS died, they took his body and placed it a tomb. The tomb looked like a big cave, and when they put his dead body in the cave, they rolled a big rock over it to seal it shut. The devil thought he won because the SON of GOD was now dead.

Leader: What happened next?

Zeek: Well, I got back in my Geeklactic Time Contraption and traveled 2,000 or so years into the future, went home and made myself a bologna and peanut butter sandwich and a glass of milk.

Leader: That's gross!

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PUPPET SKIT

Zeek: Well the milk did taste somewhat funny, but how would you know?

Leader: I mean that a bologna and peanut butter sandwich is gross. But back to JESUS in the tomb, did you ever go back?

Zeek: Oh yeah, after I washed down my yummy peanut butter and bologna sandwich with some semi-sour, but not bad enough to kill me milk, I went back three days after JESUS died. IT WAS AMAZING!

Leader: What did you see?

Zeek: JESUS was alive! I think I even saw Him do a little tap dance on the devil's ugly head. JESUS crushed satan down to the ground! That old ugly devil went crawling away; dummy was crying and yelping like a beat dog! After I had seen that nasty ol devil, I knew where the saying "ugly as sin" came from. Believe me; if you had seen how ugly the devil was because of sin, you would never want to sin again! JESUS was and is alive! JESUS stayed on the earth about 40 more days after He rose from the dead. He even ate and drank with His disciples. He was totally alive! He wasn't a ghost. He was alive! After that, JESUS rode into heaven in a cloud! It was the most amazing thing ever! Can you imagine JESUS being taken into heaven in a cloud? HALLELUIAH!!

Leader: That is absolutely incredible!

Zeek: That reminds me...

Leader: Yes, Zeek?

Zeek: That present over there. The one you refused to take. It is a lot like JESUS' free gift of salvation. If we want to go to Heaven, and if we want everything bad we have ever done to be washed away, no matter how big or how bad, all we have to do is open GOD'S free gift of salvation.

Leader: How do you open salvation?

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PUPPET SKIT

Zeek: All you have to do is ask JESUS into your heart, and to forgive you of your sins and the gift is yours. All your sins will be gone forever, and you will know that you will go to Heaven. If you don't ask JESUS into your heart, it is just like having a gift that you never opened. JESUS died on the cross to give you the gift of salvation.

Leader: That's true. That is why I have this gift here. I wanted to show everyone that not asking JESUS into their hearts is like telling JESUS that they don't want His gift. It is like refusing a gift that will change your life and save your life.

Zeek: So, what's in the box?

Leader: The box is actually empty. I was just using it to prove a point.

Zeek: I thought maybe you had something in it for me.

Leader: Nope, just air.

Zeek: Got enough of that. Speaking of air, I need to go and check the gauges on my Geeklactic Time Contraption.

Leader: Bye Zeek.

Zeek: Bye everybody, and bye girls, pretty pretty girls! (*exits*)

Leader: Zeek!

Zeek: (*from behind the stage*) I'm already gone!

Together Again

SERMON

(Continued)

Earlier, we talked about how the punishment for sin is death. The first part of Romans 6:23 says, "The wages of sin is death..." The second part tells us that "...the gift of GOD is eternal life through CHRIST JESUS our Lord." This means we can live forever with Him in Heaven if we choose to. Remember, we learned about choices yesterday and free will? GOD leaves it up to us to decide. If you choose GOD and JESUS, then you will live forever with Him in Heaven, but if not, you will go to that other place called hell. Hell is a real place; it's not a joke. The Bible says you will go to Heaven with JESUS and be happy forever, or you will go to the other place and be sad, and hurt forever. It's up to you. I think all of us here tonight would like to choose JESUS and His gift of salvation.

- **Allot plenty of time for altar call.**

GAME

Worth 500 million points + 200 million X 3

What You Will Need: Balloons (enough for every child), two shoelaces, 6 pieces of candy, a box of the largest garbage bags you can find, and perhaps a balloon pump.

➤ You will need to do the following twice, once for the girls balloons and once for the boys. It is best to do this the same day of the service, just a couple hours before so the balloons don't deflate. After you prepare the first set of balloons, make sure you bag them and separate them so they are not mixed up with the other team's balloons. It helps to label or mark the bags so they are not mixed up.

➤ Write each word of the Bible verse on a piece of paper. Only write one word per paper. Stuff the balloons with the words of the verse. Only put one paper in each balloon. Stuff the balloons with 3 pieces of candy (one per 3 balloons), and stuff a balloon with a shoelace. Now comes the fun part, blow up all the balloons, tie them, and bag them. Don't forget to mark the bags; you don't want to get them mixed up with the other teams balloons.

Together Again

~ Have your Bible verse written on your dry erase board, projector, or on a poster in advance. The first team to assemble the Bible verse together up front wins points for their team.

~ After the points have been handed out, announce that the team who can first find the shoelace will win another 200 million points for their team.

~ When the kids start coming up front with their shoelace, let them know that you forgot to mention that it has to be laced in a tennis shoe. They will have to unlace a tennis shoe and replace it with the new lace.

~ Whoever can make it up front first with one of the candies (unwrapped) earns another 200 million points for their team.

~ Whoever can make it up front first with just a candy wrapper earns another 200 million points for their team.