



MIDDLE SCHOOL RESOURCE

The Story of God's Kingdom: Session 4

The Rebellion on Earth

Key Statement: The first people 1) refused God's loving rule, 2) ruptured their relationship with Him, and 3) were exiled from the kingdom.

::CONNECT::

Activity 1: A New Penal Code

- Inform students that the United States Justice Department has written to the class, asking for help. The current jail system is so over-crowded and expensive that they've decided to start from scratch with a new system. Tell students that they have been hired as consultants to determine the new punishments for crimes.
- Pick a couple of crimes and lead each student to come up with a new punishment for those crimes. Then guide each student to share and explain his or her suggestion.
- As students go through their arguments (or after they're done), make connections between the points of the lesson and the justification of their punishments. The crimes they're addressing are acts of rebellion that refuse appropriate rule, rupture relationships, and result in punishment. Likewise, Adam and Eve's sin, and our sin today, results in dire consequences apart from the work of Jesus.

Activity 2: Role-Playing

- Break students into small groups. Give them the following scenario to act out:
 - At least one person must be a trusted authority figure (parent, teacher, coach, military officer, etc.). At least one person must be someone under that authority. The person under authority must do something in rebellion against their authority figure. Then, the authority figure must respond to the rebellion appropriately.
- Allow students a few minutes to act out their skits.
- Make connections to the lesson. Chances are, in many of the skits there will be two levels of hurt: the level of violating the rule in and of itself (corresponding to part one of the lesson), and the level of personally

offending the authority figure who trusted them (corresponding to part two). Make connections between the acts of rebellion (and authoritative response) from the skits and our/Adam and Eve's rebellion against the Lord.

:: CONVEY ::

If you are pressed for time this week, consider only covering points one and two of the lesson.

Remember, this is merely a suggested outline adaptation for a middle school group. If you decide to incorporate one or more option into your group time, you will likely have to be very selective on the material you decide to teach through. Keep in mind that each class is different, and as the leader guide suggests, personalize the lesson content for your class by determining what elements are most applicable. Don't feel pressured to teach through all of the content in a single meeting, but instead help middle school students to see the main overall point and big picture the lesson is conveying.

:: COLLIDE ::

See Leader Guide