



Introduction

Over the past several weeks, we have been following the sermon series *Big Story*. It began with creation, where humanity was God's crowning achievement. Though man and woman were greatly loved by God, they chose to sin, which brought devastating effects to all creation. God could have rejected humans, but instead He promised to renew them. A second chance was given, but humans again rejected God's mercy. God should have abandoned mankind, but this week Pastor John shows us how God's mercy and love goes far beyond our human failures.

Discussion

1. What does it mean to you that God is holy? If God is holy (perfect), then what chance did mankind have after refusing to follow Him? Discuss how a perfectionist might treat you after you continually fail.
2. Read **Ecclesiastes 7:20, Isaiah 53:6, Isaiah 64:6, Romans 7:14-24** and **1 John 1:8**. Is there any way we could have personally paid for our sinfulness and appeased a holy God?
3. We are all sinful because we inherited sin from former generations, and in turn each of us have sinned ourselves. Because we all have sinned, we need a rescuer to keep us from God's wrath. Read **Romans 5:6-11, Romans 6:23, 2 Corinthians 5:21** and **Revelation 1:5**. Who came to rescue us, and how did He rescue us?
4. Discuss what it means to have faith in what Jesus did for believers. How should that affect your life personally?

Think About It

Many think our goodness, or work for God, will earn us a chance to stand before Him and enter Heaven. We rationalize we can overcome our past failures and sins because we perform enough good deeds to offset the bad. But consider this. If I smash your foot with a sledgehammer, can I take away the pain you suffer by paying your medical bills, time off work, and an extra sum of money because I hurt you? No way! Nothing I can do through my well-intended restitution could ever take away the pain and suffering I caused you. Neither can we make up for our sin to a holy God. That's why Jesus came and took our sins upon Himself and shed His perfect blood to cover those sins.

Do Something

1. Take fifteen minutes this week to think, pray and/or journal about how Jesus willingly came to this earth to suffer and die for your sins. Then spend time in worship by enjoying nature or listening to Christian music.
2. Ponder how life has changed since you accepted Jesus as your Savior. Share how Christ has changed your life with fellow Christians, your spouse and/or your children.
3. Is there someone in your circle who needs to hear and accept the Good News of Jesus? Share with your group; then pray about an opportunity to be intentional and invitational with and a blessing to that person.