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“ HE SENT HIS SON SO THAT MY SINS COULD BE FORGIVEN AND MY RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM COULD BE RESTORED. ”

Inspire (for parents)

“Look, Mommy, I cut my hair!” My heart dropped. I had waited three long years for my daughter’s hair to grow long enough for me to use all the hair clips, ribbons, and bows I had been saving since she was born. She couldn’t really have done this, could she? I turned around to see my little peanut, her big blue eyes looking up at me. In her hand were the scissors I thought I had hidden in the kitchen cabinet. She had done it. Her already barely-long-enough hair was cut above her ears on one side of her precious little head.

As I inhaled sharply, she got it. She knew right away I wasn’t happy with what she had done. I took the scissors out of her hand and knelt down. My eyes filled with angry tears. “Oh no, honey, what did you do?!” I cried. I proceeded to give her a long list of all the things she had done wrong. She never should have taken the scissors. She never should have hidden them from me. She never, ever, ever should have cut her hair.

At that moment, our relationship was broken. I was upset and selfishly angry with my little girl.

She was frustrated and hurt that she had disappointed me. God moved me in that moment. I was flooded with emotion as I thought about all the ways I have disappointed Him. I was instantly reminded that when I am grieving over my sins, He doesn’t give me a laundry list of all the things I have done wrong. Instead, He sent His Son so that my sins could be forgiven and my relationship with Him could be restored. I wrapped my arms around my little girl, thankful and grateful that He could also restore my relationship with her.

by Alyson Crocket

Getting Started

Scripture: Luke 23:26–56, 24:1–35
(Jesus’ Death and Resurrection)

Main Point: God Restores Relationship

This resource is designed to allow your family to have time in God’s Word **before your children attend church**. Because God’s plan is for parents to be the spiritual nurturers of their children’s faith, we know that as you grow spiritually, your children will grow spiritually as well.

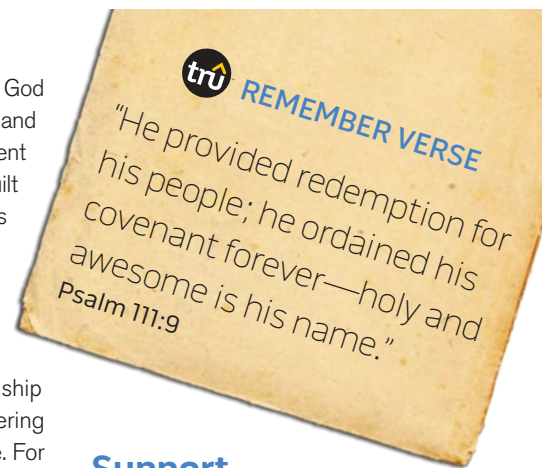
Equip (for parents)

Before the coming of the Messiah, God commanded Israel to make offerings and sacrifices. There were a number of different rituals, such as peace offerings and guilt offerings. The sin offering, however, is the one we can most easily relate to as Christians. Jesus’ death on the cross was the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

The sin offering was a sacrifice made to amend the broken relationship between humans and God. The type of offering depended on a person giving the sacrifice. For example, a high priest offered a young bull. A person considered royalty gave a young male goat. All others gave a young female lamb or goat. If an individual could not afford these animals, a turtledove was sufficient. Regardless, every sacrifice was unblemished and pure.

To give the sin offering, the person giving the sacrifice laid hands on the animal and confessed his sins over its head. Once killed, the blood of the animal was collected in a container. The rest of the blood was poured out, the container smashed, and the animal’s fat and organs burned. Later, the priest and his family ate the flesh of the sacrifice. After the sacrifice on the Day of Atonement, the people cleansed themselves, left their old garments behind, and replaced them with new clothing.

Like the sacrificial animals in the Jewish sin offerings, Jesus was unblemished, pure, and without sin. Yet, He took on our sins, and died for them. His blood was spilled out, and His earthly body smashed. As modern-day priests, we consume the elements at communion as symbols of His body and blood. Through Christ’s atoning sacrifice, we are cleansed, made new, and given new identities as His children.



Support (for parents & kids)

Read the biblical account of Jesus’ death and resurrection in **Luke 23:44–49** and **24:1–12** with your children. Spend some time discussing what they just heard. Have they already chosen to follow Christ? If so, what does this mean to them? What does this look like in their life?

If your children have not accepted Christ, go back and read John 3:16. Talk to them about the amazing promise of eternal life Jesus makes in this verse, and how it starts the moment we choose to follow Him. If they want to choose to follow Jesus for the first time (and it’s okay if they don’t), just pray with them. Don’t worry so much about choosing the perfect words. Explain that they only need to tell God they want Him in their lives, realize their need for forgiveness, and want to follow Him. Then let your children pray in their own words.

Explain to your children that what they just heard is true and is part of The Big God Story. Remind them they will learn more about how God restores relationship while at church this week. Pray together, thanking God that He loves us and wants us to be a part of His family.