



### 10.25.09 – 1 Corinthians 15:1-19

**Materials Needed:** Hardboiled eggs (enough for each kid, age appropriate), a corresponding number of *big* bowls to break the eggs in, an assortment of colored, permanent markers, tape, glue, string

#### Opening Activity:

- Gather in a circle and have the kids make their own Humpty Dumpty characters with the hardboiled eggs. (Only spend a few minutes decorating.)
- Once the characters are completed, have the kids stand over a bowl with their egg and drop it repeatedly into the bowl until it is severely cracked and mangled.
- After each kid has the chance to break his/her egg, talk to the kids about the difference between the unbroken egg and the broken egg. Discuss ways to possibly 'put Humpty Dumpty back together again.' Try tape, glue or string.

#### Discussion

Just like poor Humpty Dumpty, we too are broken. As you experienced with Humpty Dumpty, there's nothing you can *really* do to put Humpty Dumpty back together again. Glue, tape, and string won't do it, and it certainly won't fix us when our *souls* are damaged. God did not create us like this, but when sin entered the world (remember back to Adam and Eve?), we all became broken people, and this is why, as we'll find out today, the gospel is for EVERYONE! Let's look at this more closely.

#### Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 (Paul is talking here)

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ...."

In these verses and all throughout the Bible, God tells us about the *gospel* and how that gospel *saves* us from our brokenness. But what does that mean: What is the gospel? How does it save us? What do we need to be saved from? (Why are we broken?) (Continue on to answer these questions.)

Well, I'm sure you'll remember some of this from the last couple of weeks because we've been talking about the gospel a lot lately. But here's the scoop ... we'll go in reverse order:

**Question One:** What do we need to be saved from? (Why are we broken?)

*Sadly, there is nothing good about any of us -- you, me, your parents, your friends, etc. We all do things that we're not supposed to do.*

- What are some of the things that you do that you're not supposed to do?

*Every time you do these things -- disobey your mom and dad, hurt your brother or sister, or even just do the things that you want to do while disregarding others (being selfish) -- you're disobeying God and that's called **sin**! Sometimes we don't even know we do it! Yikes! And no matter how much we try not to sin, we do it anyway. We're not perfect. And this is why we need to be fixed, like the activity in the beginning. This is why we need something bigger and greater than ourselves to **SAVE** us! This is why the gospel is so important!*

**Question Two:** What is the gospel?

*Since we've figured out that there's a problem that we can't solve or fix -- that problem being sin -- we need to find a way to fix it. Just like you tried to put Humpty Dumpty back together again, we need to find a way to fix ourselves so that we're no longer broken.*

*And since sin is the reason why we're broken, we can't just fix ourselves with tools or sew ourselves back together. Sin creates a problem in our soul and no person can fix it. Not even doctors! The solution requires God!*

*God created us because He LOVES us and when He sees us hurting other people and ourselves, it makes Him very sad.*

- Do you have a special thing or possession that you LOVE very much? What would you do if someone was hurting that thing or if it broke?

*This is how God feels about us -- every person in the whole world! He wants to save us from our sin. But there was only one way to do that! Remember how we said that we're not perfect? Well, the only thing that can save us has to be PERFECT, and Jesus Christ, God's Son is perfect. So ... because God loved us soooooo much, He sent Jesus to earth (born in a manger), to live on earth, to teach us and then to die for us! (In the Old Testament, before Jesus, the Jews had to sacrifice animals to seek forgiveness for their sins. Because Jesus died, we no longer have to do that.) But unlike the animals in the Old Testament, Jesus did not stay dead. Since Jesus was God's Son, He ROSE from the dead and defeated death. This is how He's able to fix our brokenness. Jesus is greater than the power of death and brokenness!*

**Question Three:** How does the gospel save us?

*We just have to believe in Jesus, believe that He's our Lord, and believe that He did live on earth, die for our sins and rise again! This is when He saves us and fixes us! It's good to thank him and tell Him that we're sorry for the hurtful things that we do. What a wonderful gift!*

*Once we know and understand this good news, we should be so excited about what Jesus has done for us that we should want everyone to know and understand it too! Because like we said before, the gospel, this good news, is for EVERYONE, and it's our privilege to be able to share it with our family, friends and people we meet.*

**Clarification**

Since Christ died for us, He made it possible for us to be redeemed from our brokenness (He *fixed* us!) He has forgiven our sin and disobedience He has made us a part of His family if we believe in Him and accept his gift of salvation.

**Wrap Up**

Close with a prayer thanking God for loving us and for giving His Son, the PERFECT gift, to redeem us from our brokenness. Ask Him to help us understand that more and more each day. Pray that we would be so excited about Jesus and what He has done for us that we can't help but tell our family, friends and other people about Jesus!