

GOD OFFERS A NEW RELATIONSHIP

STORY: NEW CREATION

BIG TRUTH: GOD OFFERS A NEW RELATIONSHIP

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 11:19-20; 36:22-28; Romans 5:1-5; 6:17-18; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Ephesians 2:19; Colossians 1:19-22

BIBLE VERSE: 1 PETER 2:9

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

BIG IDEAS

- Our sin separates us from God who is holy.
- Through the cross we not only have forgiveness of our sin, but we also have peace with God.
- Through Jesus we become God’s holy, chosen people.

BIBLE STORY: ACTS 10

God calls Peter to enter Cornelius’ house to show both of them that His salvation is for all. Cornelius worshiped God, but he was not a Jew, so he did not practice the Jewish traditions. Peter was a Jew and for him to enter Cornelius’ house would mean he would likely break Jewish tradition. God showed them both that His salvation through Jesus did away with their separation. All who believe and follow Jesus are one people brought together by the blood of Jesus.

STORY: NEW CREATION

Part of the beauty of the gospel is that God does not just rescue us from the power of sin, but He is also making everything new. God offers new creation to those who place their faith in Jesus. This newness comes in two ways. The first is that by breaking the power of sin, Jesus is making men and women into brand new people with new identities. Second, God is not only making people new, but He is also going to make a new heaven and a new earth for us to live on and worship Him in.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- God offers us a new relationship with Him through Jesus



Every child should feel:

- Valued by God because of the new relationship He offers



Every child should:

- Remember the sacrifice of Jesus that makes it possible to have a new relationship with God



Every child should want:

- To be a part of God’s family as one of His holy, chosen people

FAMILY DEVOTION: A CHOSEN PEOPLE

Every person is separated from God by his sin. God offers salvation and a new relationship to everyone who believes in Jesus. When we repent and believe, we become a chosen people for God. We become His people.

BIBLE VERSE: 1 PETER 2:9

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

Those who follow Christ are God’s people.

- Christ is the foundation for God’s people.
- Those who believe and follow Christ are part of God’s family.
- They are drawn by God into His family.
- Anyone who rejects Christ is not in God’s family.
- Christ is the Stone upon which God’s family is built. He is the rock, or foundation, upon which God’s family is established.

God’s people are a chosen people.

- No one seeks God without God drawing them to Himself.
- No one discovers his own sinfulness without God showing him his sin.
- God works in the hearts of people and draws them to Him.
- God brings people into His family through Jesus.
- God’s family is chosen and set apart for Him.
- They are a special people chosen especially by Him and for Him.

God’s people belong to God.

- When we repent and believe in Jesus, we are no longer separated from God.
- Before our repentance and belief, we are God’s enemies.
- Once He draws us to Him, shows us our sin, and we repent and believe, we belong to Him.
- We are no longer our own person. We are chosen by God for His glory.
- We are His people and we are special.

BIBLE STORY: ACTS 10

Peter And Cornelius

Opening Illustration:

Give each child a copy of the “Jesus Makes All Things New” bookmark or allow them to cut it out themselves. Have them decorate their bookmarks with crayons, colored pencils or markers. Finished bookmarks can be mounted to colored cardstock strips or covered in clear Contact paper to make them more sturdy. As the children work, talk about how caterpillars are transformed into beautiful butterflies through the process of metamorphosis and we can be transformed (or made new) by believing in Jesus’ saving work on the cross for us.

BIG IDEA: OUR SIN SEPARATES US FROM GOD WHO IS HOLY.

Discuss the idea of “holy” with the children. Help them define what it means to be holy and how God is always holy, or righteous.

Our sin makes us unclean.

- Because all people are sinners, all people are unclean.
- Our sin nature affects every part of us.
- It shows itself in our thoughts attitudes, and actions.
- It is revealed in our choice to reject God and His way for our own.
- Before Cornelius and Peter had visions, the Gentiles were separated from the Jews.
- The Gentiles were considered unclean because of their worship of false gods and they did not follow the traditions of the Jews.
- The two people groups did not mix together, nor did they eat together.

Our sin causes us to reject God.

- The Gentiles had never followed God as a people. Some Gentiles had been converted, but the Gentiles were still separated from God.
- They were blind to the truth and had followed their own way.
- Our sin blinds us and causes us to go our own way.
- We reject God by worshiping idols of our own making. We worship our own ideas, dreams, or things we create instead of worshiping God.
- We are separated from Him because He is holy and doesn't look on sin.¹
- God's holiness means that He is right and perfect.
- We are not right and perfect and God chooses to not look on sin, so we are separated from Him while we are still sinners.



Divide the children into groups and then give each group a bag of small items, such as marbles, paper clips, buttons, etc. Make sure that in each bag of items, there is one item that is completely different from the rest. For example, if you have a bag of blue buttons, add one red button. Ask the children to separate the items in their bag and to put all similar items together. They should each have one item that stands alone. Tell the children that the item that stands alone is like God who is holy and righteous. We are like the other items that are separate from the one item.

What separates us from God? (Our sin separates us from God because He is holy and we are not.)

1. Isaiah 43:15: God is holy and righteous. He is worthy to be praised and because of His holiness and our sinfulness, we are separated.

BIG IDEA: THROUGH THE CROSS WE NOT ONLY HAVE FORGIVENESS OF OUR SIN, BUT WE ALSO HAVE PEACE WITH GOD.²

The cross covered the cost of our sin.

- Our sin debt is great. It is too great for us to pay.
- There is no person who seeks God or chooses God because of our sin nature.
- We all deserve to die for our sin, but God sent Jesus to die in our place.
- Jesus is perfect and holy.
- He paid the price for our sin on the cross.
- Because of His sacrifice, our debt is paid in full.

Saving faith in Jesus brings peace with God.

- The Gentiles and Jews did not associate with one another because the Gentiles had always worshiped false gods.
- The Jews were God's chosen people and had followed His special rules, or laws for how they should live their lives.
- Anyone who has rejected God is at war with Him. When we reject God we are choosing to be at war with Him.
- When someone has saving faith, they experience peace with God.
- Peter's vision reveals God's mercy to everyone.
- God told Peter in his vision that the rules about food were not important anymore because Jesus had come to pay the sin debt.
- Peter's vision showed that God was sending the gospel to everyone who would believe.
- Anyone who believes in Jesus becomes part of God's special family. They are His chosen people.
- When we turn from our sin and believe in Jesus, we have peace with God.
- We are no longer at war with Him because we are no longer living according to our sin nature.



Bring in a box or stand fan. Place the fan near the tables where the children are sitting. Give each child a piece of paper and a pencil. Ask the children to copy their memory verse that you have written on the board. While they are trying to copy their memory verse, turn on the fan so that it blows on them making it difficult for them to write. Turn the fan off and then talk with the children about how much more peaceful it is without the fan on. We receive peace when we have saving faith in Jesus.

What brings us peace with God? (Our salvation brings us peace with God.)

2. John 16:33: Through salvation we receive peace with God. When we have saving faith, we are no longer at war with God.

BIG IDEA: THROUGH JESUS WE BECOME GOD'S HOLY, CHOSEN PEOPLE.**Jesus makes a way for us to be redeemed.**

- The Jews and Gentiles had been two separate groups of people.
- The Gentiles were not God's special people. They were pagan people. People who worshiped false gods instead of the true God.
- God had always commanded the Jews to remain separate from the Gentiles because the Gentiles worshiped false gods.
- After Jesus' ministry and His work on the cross, God was sending the gospel to all of the world, including the Gentiles. It was no longer just for the Jews.
- The Gentiles would no longer be separated from God because they would hear the gospel and some would believe it.
- Jesus came to earth and made a way for all people to be redeemed.
- He paid the sin debt that all people owe.



Trace each child's forearm and hand beginning at the elbow and ending at the fingers. Use the tracing to create a family tree. Help the children draw a picture of or write the names of their family members. Talk with them about how we become a part of God's family when we have saving faith.

Jesus' death enables us to be part of God's family.³

- Jesus cleared the way for us to be with God.
- Because of Jesus, we no longer have to be separated from God.
- We can be part of God's chosen people. We actually become God's chosen people when we have saving faith in Jesus.
- When we repent and believe in Jesus, we are adopted into God's special family.
- We are in His family and He is our Father.
- Because of Jesus, we are God's chosen people.

How does God make a way for us to be in His family? (He sent Jesus to die for our sin debt and now we can be in His family when we have saving faith.)

3. Ephesians 2:19: Jesus made a way for us to be part of God's family. When we have saving faith, we join God's family.

HOOKS



KNOW

No More Separation

Bring in a large sheet and several stuffed animals, such as stuffed cows, pigs, chickens, etc. Place the animals in the sheet and help the children take turns raising and lowering the sheet. Talk with the children about how some animals were unclean and the Jews weren't allowed to eat them, but Peter's vision showed that those rules did not apply to them anymore. Just like we are separated from God because of our sin, the Jews had to separate themselves from unclean things. When we have saving faith in Jesus, we are no longer separated, just like Peter's vision revealed that the Jews no longer had to separate from the unclean food.



DO



FEEL

Peaceful, Easy Feeling

Bring in several small musical instruments, such as a toy drum set, tambourine, cymbals, rhythm sticks, etc. Hand the instruments to the children and have them play them as loudly as they can all at once. Stop them and ask them what it sounds like and if it gives them a peaceful feeling.

Next, ask the children to be as still and quiet as they can. After a few moments, ask the children to describe how the quiet made them feel. Talk with them about how when we are in our sin, we are like the loud, noisy instruments. We are not peaceful. When we have saving faith, we are like the quiet, we have peace with God.



WANT