

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

A CHOSEN PEOPLE

As a family create a placemat that shows the story of Peter's vision. Help your child draw and write the story of Peter's vision onto a piece of construction paper. Use markers and crayons to color the picture. Next, use contact paper or laminating paper to cover the construction paper in plastic. Use scissors to curve the edges of the plastic. God offers us a new relationship with Him through Jesus.

DISCOVER IT: *(Use the passage to illustrate the Big Truth.)*

Acts 10.

THINK ABOUT IT: *(Use the commentary to reinforce the Big Truth.)*

Many years before Jesus came to earth, God chose a people to be His children. He called them the Israelites, or Jews. As the number of Jews grew, God gave them special rules, or laws to help them live for Him. For example, they were allowed to eat certain types of food, and they could not eat any food that had been sacrificed to false gods. The Gentiles were all the people who weren't Jews. God made the Jews stay separate from the Gentiles because the Gentiles worshiped false gods. After Jesus came to earth and died on the cross, His loyal follower, Peter, received a vision from God. God showed Peter a cloth with all types of animals on it. God told Peter to eat the food, but Peter couldn't. Peter knew the food on the cloth was not clean. God told Peter that those rules didn't apply anymore because Jesus had come to pay our sin debt. God told Peter to go to Cornelius' house, but Cornelius was a Gentile and Jews and Gentiles weren't supposed to be together. Peter obeyed God. Peter understood that God was sending the gospel to all people, not just the Jews. Because God sent the Gospel to all people, we have the gospel today. We can be in a relationship with God when we turn away from our sin and believe in Jesus. Just like God was showing Peter that He was taking away the barrier between the Jews and Gentiles, God has taken away the barrier of our sin through Jesus.

TALK ABOUT IT: *(Use the questions to discuss the Big Truth)*

- Why were Jews and Gentiles not supposed to mix together? (The Jews were God's special people and the Gentiles worshiped false gods.)
- What did God show Peter in his vision? (He showed him that He was removing the barrier between Jews and Gentiles so the gospel could go to the whole world.)
- How has God removed the barrier between man and Him? (He sent Jesus to pay our sin debt.)



KNOW

As a family, memorize 1 Peter 2:9 by taking turns saying the verse in a loud voice and a soft voice.



DO

As a family, spend some time separating the loose change you have around your house. Talk with your child about how the coins are separated from one another, just like we are separated from God by our sin. Ask your child to place the coins into a container all together. Tell your child that when we have saving faith, we are no longer separated from God like the coins are no longer separated.



FEEL

Ask your child to help you plan a menu for the week. Talk with your child about how we no longer have food restrictions because Jesus paid our sin debt. We can be in a new relationship with God because of Jesus.



WANT

Spend some time this week praying, thanking God for offering us a restored relationship with Him through Jesus.