

GOD OFFERS ADOPTION WHEN WE ARE ORPHANS

STORY: NEW CREATION

BIG TRUTH: GOD OFFERS ADOPTION WHEN WE ARE ORPHANS

John 1:11-13; Romans 8:14-17; Galatians 4:4-7; Ephesians 1:11-12; Hebrews 2:10-18; 1 John 3:1-3

BIBLE VERSE: EPHESIANS 2:19

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.”

BIG IDEAS

- Our sin separates us from God.
- God made a way to adopt us into His family through Jesus.
- Being adopted into the family of God means we have rights and privileges of adoption.
- Being adopted into the family of God means we can know God personally.

BIBLE STORY: 2 SAMUEL 9

Mephibosheth was not part of King David’s family. He was the grandson of Saul, the first king of Israel. David did not have to bring Mephibosheth into his family, but he did, giving Mephibosheth the rights and privileges as if he were born into David’s family. God does the same for us when we have saving faith in 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: HEIRS WITH JESUS

Jesus is God’s Son, but we, too, share in Jesus’ inheritance when we have saving faith in Him. God adopts us into His family and calls us sons and daughters.

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BIBLE VERSE: EPHESIANS 2:19

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.”

In our sin, we have no relationship with God.

- As sinners, we are alienated from Christ.
- He is holy and righteous and we are not.
- Because we are not holy and righteous, we are not part of God’s family.
- We have no relationship with Christ.

God’s sacrifice of Christ on our behalf makes us clean.

- God did not leave us as aliens.
- Even though we can do nothing to earn His forgiveness, He chose to make a way.
- Jesus is the perfect sacrifice and His death makes us clean.
- When we believe in Jesus, we are cleansed of our sin.
- We are no longer aliens.
- We are brought into the family of God.
- We become the children of God with full rights and privileges when we have saving faith.

God adopts us into His family and makes us His children.

- Before we believe in Jesus, we are aliens; we are not part of God’s family.
- When we repent and believe in Jesus, we become God’s sons and daughters.
- He adopts us into His family and we gain the same rights and privileges that His only Son has. We are His children.
- We are members of God’s household and we are no longer separated or isolated.

BIBLE STORY: 2 SAMUEL 9

David and Mephibosheth

Opening Illustration:

Bring in several different colored pom-poms. Divide the children into small groups and toss the pom-poms all together onto the floor. Have the groups race one another to gather a specific color of pom-pom. For example, one team will gather only red pom-poms. Once they are finished, talk with them about how God offers us a new relationship through Jesus and adopts us into His family, which brings us peace.

GOD OFFERS ADOPTION WHEN ARE ORPHANS

BIG IDEA: OUR SIN SEPARATES US FROM GOD.

We are aliens to God because of our sin.¹

- God is holy and righteous.
- He chooses to not look on sin, which means our sin separates us from Him.
- We are not part of God's family because of our sin.
- We do not enjoy the rights and privileges of being part of His family.
- We are outsiders and isolated from Him.



Hide several objects around the room, such as your Bible, pens, or other objects. Ask the children to hunt for the objects. Tell them that we are separated from God just like the hidden objects are separated from us.

Our rejection of God separates us from Him.

- Our nature is sinful.
- We do not seek God. We seek to please ourselves and to do our own thing.
- We do not seek a relationship with God.
- Instead, we live in our sin separated from God.
- We seek to fill the void of our missing relationship with God with other things and other people.
- Mephibosheth was separated from King David's family because he was not part of David's family.
- Mephibosheth did not have the rights and privileges of David's children because he wasn't David's child.
- We are like Mephibosheth because we are not part of God's family while we are sinners.

What makes us aliens to God? (Our sin makes us aliens to God and separated from Him.)

1. Colossians 1:21: Our sin makes us aliens to God. Our minds are wicked and our deeds are evil.

GOD OFFERS ADOPTION WHEN WE ARE ORPHANS

BIG IDEA: GOD MADE A WAY TO ADOPT US INTO HIS FAMILY THROUGH JESUS.

While we were still sinners, God made a way for us to be in His family.

- We are unworthy of God's mercy and love, but He shows us mercy and love.
- God sent His only Son to pay the price for our sin while we were still sinners.
- While we rejected God, He chose to sacrifice His Son for us.
- He sent Jesus so we could be in His family.
- Because Jesus paid our sin debt, we can be in God's family.



Help the children create family trees by tracing their forearms. They can cut out leaves to glue to the tree or draw them on. Have the children include on their trees their family members. Remind them that when we repent and believe, we become part of God's family.

When we have saving faith in Jesus, we become part of God's family.

- There is no way for us to earn our way into God's family.
- We cannot pay for our own sin, so we need a substitute.
- God provided Jesus as a substitute for us.
- When we repent of our sin and believe in Jesus, we are forgiven.
- In addition to being forgiven, we also become members of God's family.
- God adopts us into His family and makes us His children.

Jesus is the way that we become God's sons and daughters.²

- When Jesus died on the cross, He took on our sin and paid the price for it.
- We receive forgiveness of our sins and eternal life with God when we repent and believe in Jesus.
- We also become part of God's family.
- We get to share in Jesus' inheritance and are counted as like Him by God.

How do we become fellow heirs with Jesus? (When we repent of our sin and believe in Jesus, we become heirs with Him.)

2. Romans 8:17: *We are fellow heirs with Jesus when we repent and believe in Him.*

GOD OFFERS ADOPTION WHEN ARE ORPHANS

BIG IDEA: BEING ADOPTED INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD MEANS WE HAVE THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF ADOPTION.³

Before saving faith, we are completely separated from God.

- We are all born sinners.
- We all continue sinning after we are born because of the sin nature we are born with.
- Our sin keeps us away from God.
- Our sin causes us to reject God and rebel against Him.
- Mephibosheth was separated from King David because he wasn't part of David's family.

We become God's children when we follow Jesus.

- Following Jesus gives us so much more than eternal life in Heaven.
- When we repent and follow Jesus, we become God's sons and daughters just like Jesus is God's Son.
- Mephibosheth became part of King David's family because David chose to make him his family.
- Mephibosheth gained the rights and privileges of David's family as if he had been born into the family.
- We gain the rights and privileges of God's Son.
- We are heirs with Jesus.
- We inherit Heaven for all eternity and we inherit a relationship with God.



Help children create a collage describing their family using pictures from magazines. Allow the children to talk about their collages and then remind them that we become part of God's family when we repent and believe in Jesus.

What does adoption into God's family give us? (It gives us eternal life with Him and all the rights and privileges of His Son.)

3. 1 John 3:2-3: When we become God's children, we gain rights and privileges as His children.

GOD OFFERS ADOPTION WHEN WE ARE ORPHANS

BIG IDEA: BEING ADOPTED INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD MEANS WE CAN KNOW GOD PERSONALLY.

While we are in sin, we are separated from God.

- Our sin means we reject God and move away from Him.
- Our sin keeps us from being in a relationship with God.
- Our sin keeps us from being in God's family.

Saving faith means we have a relationship with God.⁴

- When we have a relationship with God, we can know Him.
- Our knowledge of God grows as we spend time with God.
- Mephibosheth got to be in David's family.
- He could know David personally.
- We can know God personally when we have saving faith because God adopts us into His family.

Our adoption into God's family means we can speak with Him one on one.

- When we repent and follow Jesus, we gain access to God.
- We don't have to go through someone else to talk to God.
- We have access to Him through His Spirit who comes to live inside of every person who believes in Jesus.
- Because He sends His Spirit, we can talk to God one on one.
- We can know God very personally and share our lives with Him.
- We can be known by God personally and be guided by Him through His Spirit.

What does our adoption into God's family mean for us? (It means we can know God personally.)



Bring in a small stool for the children to sit on. Have the children take turns sitting on the stool. The child on the stool gets to choose a person from the class to describe. He should name some of the child's likes and dislikes. When the children all get a turn describing a classmate, remind them that we can know God this way and be known by Him, too.

4. Colossians 1:9: Faith in God means knowing Him personally and being known by Him.

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HOOKS



An Invitation To Join

Give each child a piece of cardstock and supplies to draw and decorate cards. Have the children write an invitation to someone asking them to join their family. Have the children write or draw pictures of what it means to be in their family. For example, a child may write that the family goes for walks together or takes a vacation to a special place. Perhaps, being in their family means getting tucked into bed at night or read stories at night. As the children are creating their invitations, talk with them about how we gain rights and privileges when we become God's children.



A Family Of God

Bring in a piece of paper that has a large tree drawn on it and finger paint. Use the finger paint to help the children make handprints on the tree to represent leaves. While the handprints are drying, talk with the children about what it means to be in God's family. Help them think of some of the privileges of being God's child. For example, when you are God's child, you get to spend eternity with Him in heaven. After the handprints are dry, help the children write their name on their handprint. Hang the tree up in the room for the children to see.

