

GOD OFFERS FRIENDSHIP WHEN WE ARE ENEMIES

BIG TRUTH: GOD OFFERS FRIENDSHIP WHEN WE ARE ENEMIES

John 15:15; Romans 5:6-11; Colossians 1:21-22; Hebrews 7:25

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 5:8,10

"But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life."

BIG IDEAS

- Our sin makes us enemies of God.
- God gave His Son for us while we were still His enemies.
- Through Jesus we become friends of God.
- Friendship with God means our relationship with Him is restored.

BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 42-45; JOHN 15:12-14

Though Joseph's brothers mistreated him greatly, when he sees them again years later, he chooses to forgive them. Even though they do not recognize him, nor do they ask for his forgiveness, he gives it. They were once his enemies, but his forgiveness allows them to be his friends. God's forgiveness of our sin allows us to be His friends.

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:

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



Every child should feel:

- Valued by God because of the new relationship He offers



Every child should want:

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

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FRIENDS WITH GOD

Help your child create a collage that shows how God makes us His friends. Use pictures from magazines or printed online to create the collage. The collage should show how God chooses to send Jesus even when we are His enemies. God loves us and offers us friendship even though we reject Him.

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

Genesis 42-45; John 15:12-14.

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

When Joseph was younger, his brothers became jealous of the love that Joseph's father showed him. Their jealousy led them to sell Joseph into slavery. Joseph was taken to Egypt. Joseph spent time in prison, but before long, Joseph rose to a prominent position in Egypt. He found favor with God, and so Pharaoh placed Joseph in charge of all the food in Egypt. Many years later, a famine struck the land. Joseph's brothers went to Egypt to buy food. When they arrived, they did not recognize Joseph, though he knew them. Joseph sold them food and when they weren't looking, he had their money and a special cup placed in one of his brother's sacks to test them. The brothers were told that they must go home and return with their youngest brother or they would be considered thieves. Joseph kept his brother Simeon with him to make sure the others would return. When the brothers returned home, their father was distraught that they had lost another brother. Eventually, they left with Benjamin, making their way back to Egypt. Joseph was so moved by his brother Benjamin, he had to leave the room. He returned and revealed who he was to them. They were shocked that he was alive. Joseph forgave his brothers even though they had mistreated him. He gave his brothers and father the best land to live on and Joseph took care of them. We are like Joseph's brothers. We have sinned against God, yet He still makes a way for us to be His friends.

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

- How did Joseph's brothers mistreat him? (They sold him into slavery.)
- When Joseph's brothers returned for more food, how did Joseph treat them? (He forgave them and revealed who he really was.)
- How does God make a way for us to be His friends? (He sent Jesus to pay our sin debt.)



KNOW

As a family, memorize Romans 5:8,10 by writing the verses on a large poster board. Help your child decorate the board and say the verses out loud several times as you do.



DO

As a family, use craft sticks to create figures of Joseph and his brothers. Use small pieces of cloth or construction paper as clothing. Role-play the story of Joseph forgiving his brothers using the stick figures you've created. Remind your child that God forgives us and offers us friendship through Jesus.



FEEL

Spend some time this week helping your child list the behaviors that show we are the enemies of God, such as lying, hurting others, disobeying, etc. For every behavior you list, help your child find a verse that shows how God makes us His friends or how He restores our relationship with Him when we repent and believe.



WANT

Make sugar cookies together as a family. Once the cookies are baked and cooled, help your child decorate the cookies with many different colors. Talk with your child about how God offers us friendship even while we are enemies. Once the cookies are finished, deliver the cookies to neighbors or friends nearby.

As a family, spend some time this week praying, thanking God for sending Jesus and offering us friendship while we are still His enemies.