

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS FATHER

Psalm 84:11; Matthew 7:7-11; John 1:14-18; Romans 8:12-17; Galatians 4:4-7; Ephesians 1:3-5; Hebrews 12:7-10

BIBLE VERSE: 1 JOHN 3:1

"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God, and so we are."

BIG IDEAS

- We are outside of the family of God.
- God sent His Son to rescue us from our separation.
- Adoption is applied through faith in Jesus.
- Adoption is final and forever.

BIBLE STORY: JOSHUA 2; 6:22-25; MATTHEW 1:5

Rahab was not part of God's special people, the Israelites, but when Joshua sent two spies into Jericho to scout the city, Rahab knew they were followers of the one, true God. Rahab had faith in God and believed He is the true God and because of her faith she was adopted into God's family and became one of His special people. Our faith makes us part of God's family, too.

STORY: REDEMPTION

Thankfully, God does not just leave us in the broken world, but is repairing the brokenness through His Son. From the very beginning of time, God promised He would fix creation, and He kept His promise by sending Jesus to rescue us from our sin. Jesus came to live on the earth and willingly died on the cross so that sin's power over creation would be broken forever.

BIG AIMS**Every child should know that:**

- God provides mercy and grace through Jesus
- Mercy is when God does not give us what we deserve; grace is when God gives us what we do not deserve

**Every child should feel:**

- Awe at God's goodness in His mercy and grace to us

**Every child should:**

- Give thanks because God is merciful and gracious to us

**Every child should want:**

- To accept God's gifts of mercy and grace that He extends to us through Jesus

ORPHANS NO MORE

Take your child on a trip to your local pet store or local humane society. Talk with your child about how the animals in the store or at the humane society don't have a family. We are without a family, too, before we have saving faith in Jesus. When we do have saving faith in Jesus, we are orphans no more because God makes us part of His family and becomes our Father.

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

Joshua 2; 6:22-25; Matthew 1:5.

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

Joshua took over leading the Israelites into the Promised Land when Moses passed away. As the Israelites prepared to enter the Promised Land, Joshua sent two spies into the land of Jericho to scout. The spies entered the house of Rahab, a prostitute. She had heard about God's special people and the many ways God had taken care of them when they left Egypt and then when they wandered in the wilderness. Rahab had heard the way God had parted the Red Sea and how He had provided for them. She believed the God they were following was the true God. When the spies asked her to hide them from her own people, she did because she had saving faith in God. The spies promised to not kill her or her family and to take her back with them. When the Israelites came into Jericho to destroy it, they did not destroy Rahab or her family. Instead, they took them back with them to the other Israelites and made her a part of their family. God adopted her into His family and made her his daughter. She was His daughter forever because God's adoption of His children is forever. God does the same thing to us. When we have saving faith in Him, He makes us His children. He adopts us into His family and calls us His sons and daughters. We are His children forever. Nothing can take us away from God.

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

- How did Rahab become part of the Israelites? (She believed in the true God.)
- How did Rahab help the spies? (She hid them and didn't say where they were hidden.)
- How do we become part of God's family? (We have saving faith.)



As a family memorize 1 John 3:1 by playing a game of catch with your child. When someone misses the ball, he or she gets to say the verse out loud.



Take your child on a walk through your neighborhood or a park. Ask your child to pick up any leaf that is separated from its tree. Talk with your child about how we are separated from God like the leaves are separated from their trees. God made a way for us to be in His family though when He sent Jesus to pay our sin debt.



Help your child create a comic strip detailing when he or she came into your family. Tell your child the details of that day and help him or her draw pictures and write the facts of that day. Talk with him or her about how we become part of God's family when we have saving faith.



Spend some time this week talking with your child about when you became a part of God's family. Share some special details about that day and what your life has been like since then. Talk with your child about how it is to have God as your Father.

Spend some time this week praying with your child and thanking God for bringing them into your family. Thank God for bringing us into His family when we believe.