

BIG TRUTH: GOD SHOWS UNDESERVED LOVE

1 John 4:10; Romans 5:8, 10; Ephesians 2:4-5; Titus 3:3-7

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

BIG IDEAS

- God provides mercy and grace.
- God's grace is a gift we do not deserve.
- God's grace is received through faith.
- God's mercy is just and loving.
- God's mercy is given through Jesus.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 15:3-7 (PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP)

God is love. He loves His people perfectly even though we don't deserve it. In Luke 15, Jesus tells a parable that helps explain this. He tells the story of a shepherd who has one hundred sheep. But because the shepherd loves all of the sheep, if one wanders off on his own, the shepherd will leave the other ninety-nine and will go after the one. Just like the single sheep did not deserve the shepherd's love and care, we don't deserve the love that God shows to us.

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 provided a way of redemption because of His love



Every child should feel:

- Loved by God



Every child should:

- Talk about God's mercy and grace



Every child should want:

- To love God because He first loved us

REVIEW

Guide 9 acts as a review for the preceding weeks. Use this guide and devotion to support, reinforce, and review concepts learned throughout the past weeks and to test your child's understanding and memory of these truths.

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

Luke 15:3-7

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

God is love. Love comes from Him. We know what love is and how to love others because God loves us first. God's love is perfect and good. He always loves perfectly and His love is never conditional. Jesus told a story, or parable, about a shepherd who had a hundred sheep. One day, one of his sheep wandered away and got lost. The shepherd could have left the one sheep and continued on his way with his ninety-nine sheep. It wasn't his fault his sheep had wandered away, but the shepherd loved the little sheep. He left the ninety-nine sheep and went looking for the lost sheep. He loved each and every one of his sheep and he showed his love by seeking after them. We are all like the little lost sheep. We wander away from God and we get lost. God doesn't leave us lost. He seeks us out and makes a way for us to be with Him again. God showed us how much He loves us by sending His only Son, Jesus to die for our sins on the cross. Jesus died in our place and now we can be with God always when we have saving faith. God's Word, the Bible tells us of God's love and how He sacrificed greatly to give us a way to be with Him again.

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

- What did the shepherd do when one of his sheep wandered away? (He left the others to look for the lost sheep.)
- How are we like the lost sheep? (We wander away from God and are lost.)
- How does God show us love? (He sent Jesus to die in our place on the cross.)

**KNOW**

As a family, memorize John 3:16 by saying the verse out loud several times. Take turns saying it out loud until you memorize it.

**DO**

Role play the story of the lost sheep with your child. Talk about how God loves each and every person just like the shepherd loved each of his sheep.

**FEEL**

As a family, spend some time thinking of the many ways that God shows love to us. Write or draw a picture of the many ways you think of on paper hearts. Tape the paper hearts up throughout your house and remind yourselves of them throughout the week. Remind your child that God is love and He showed us love by sending Jesus to die on the cross.

**WANT**

Spend some time this week praying with your child thanking God for His love for us.