

BIG TRUTH: GOD OFFERS A NEW LIFE

Romans 6:4-6; 8:3-6; Galatians 5:19-25; Ephesians 2:1-5; Colossians 2:13-15; 3:1-4

BIBLE VERSE: GALATIANS 2:20

"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

BIG IDEAS

- Sin makes us dead, but God raises us to life.
- In Christ our lives are no longer normal; we are made brand new.
- New life in Christ means new desires and a new purpose.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 19:1-10

Zacchaeus was a small man with a big job. He was a tax collector and he was rich because he took more money than he should have taken from people. He was not very well liked because people considered him a thief. Jesus passed through Zacchaeus' town one day and Zacchaeus met Him. His life was never the same. He believed in Jesus and his life was made brand new.

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 new life (new desires, purpose) through Jesus

**Every child should feel:**

- The need to live differently because of Jesus

**Every child should:**

- See life in light of God's promises to those who are in Jesus

**Every child should want:**

- To be freed and rescued from their sin and given new life in Jesus

A WHOLE NEW LIFE

Help your child create a new world. Talk with your child about what he would include in his world. How it would look? What the people would be like? What the food would be like? Using pictures from magazines or printed out, make a collage depicting the world your child creates. God offers us a new life through Jesus, too. When we have saving faith in Jesus, we become new creations.

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

Luke 19:1-10.

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

Zacchaeus was a very wealthy tax collector in the town of Jericho. He made a lot of money taking more money than he should from people. He was not well-liked by the people because he was corrupt and he stole from them. He had heard about a man named Jesus and when he heard that Jesus was passing through Jericho, he really wanted to see Him. A crowd had already formed by the road when Zacchaeus got there. He was a very short man, so he could not see over the crowd. He desperately wanted to see Jesus, so he climbed up the nearest tree to see over the crowds. When Jesus passed by his tree, He called out to Zacchaeus, asking him to come down and take Jesus to his house. Zacchaeus came down and joyfully welcomed Jesus into his home. He fed Jesus and listened to Him. Zacchaeus believed in Jesus that day. Even the rest of his household believed in Jesus. Jesus rejoiced that salvation had come to Zacchaeus and his family. Zacchaeus immediately promised to pay back the people he had stolen from four times what he stole. He promised to give half of what he had to the poor. His heart and life were radically different than before he met Jesus. We are like Zacchaeus. Before we meet Jesus, we are caught in our sin. We are selfish and we desire to please ourselves. After we meet Jesus our lives are different. We are new creations. We do not desire the same things. We have a new purpose. God offers us a new life through Jesus.

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

- What was Zacchaeus' profession? (He was a corrupt tax collector.)
- What did Zacchaeus do in order to see Jesus? (He climbed into a tree.)
- How did Zacchaeus' life change after he met Jesus? (He gave money away instead of taking it. He believed in Jesus.)

**KNOW**

As a family, memorize Galatians 2:20 by turning the verse into a jigsaw puzzle. Write the verse on a piece of paper and then cut it into puzzle pieces. Take turns putting the puzzle together and saying the verse out loud.

**DO**

Create a scavenger hunt for your child. Hide several things outside or around your house that pertain to the story of Zacchaeus. Have your child look for the things you've hidden. Once they are all found, talk with your child about the new life that Zacchaeus received when he met Jesus. Tell your child that we receive new life when we have saving faith in Jesus.

**FEEL**

Play a game of charades as a family. Write or draw pictures of people doing selfish things and unselfish things. After you play a few times, talk with your child about how our sin makes us selfish, but God gives us a new life.

**WANT**

As a family, spend some time praying and thanking God for giving us new life through Jesus.