

GOD OFFERS LOVE INSTEAD OF SELFISHNESS

BIG TRUTH: GOD OFFERS LOVE INSTEAD OF SELFISHNESS

John 13:31-35; Ephesians 5:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13; 1 John 2:7-10; 3:11; 3:23

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 15:12-13

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”

BIG IDEAS

- Sin makes us selfish.
- Love is selfless and sacrificial.
- God loved us through His Son when we didn't deserve it.
- When we experience the love of God we extend love to others.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 10:25-37.

Jesus died on the cross because He loved us. His love for us was greater than any other we experience. Our response is to love others as Christ loved us. Jesus teaches His listeners that we should love all people regardless of how we feel about them.

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

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LOVE VERSUS HATE

Create a scavenger hunt for your family that involves looking for things that show love versus things that show hate. Some examples are flowers show love to someone, while rocks might show hate. We know what love is and how to love because God first loved us.

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

Luke 10:25-37.

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

A Jewish man was on his way to the temple when he was attacked and robbed. The robbers beat the man so badly that he was close to death. They left him in the ditch on the side of the road leading to the temple. A priest came down the road. When he saw the Jewish man in the ditch, he didn't stop to help him. The next person to pass by the Jewish man was a Levite. The Levite didn't stop to help the Jewish man either. He crossed over to the opposite side of the road to pass by. The third person to come by was a Samaritan. The Jews and Samaritans had a long history of hating one another. The Samaritan saw the Jewish man in the ditch. He didn't pass him by. He felt compassion for him, so he stopped and treated the man's wounds. He took the man to town to an inn. There he paid for the Jewish man to have treatment, food, and a place to stay until he was well. Jesus taught a valuable lesson in telling this story. He showed that God's love is perfect. He loves us even while we are sinners. We should love like God loves us.

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

- Who came by the Jewish man first? (The priest came by first.)
- Who was the only person to stop and help the Jewish man? (The Samaritan was the only person to stop and help.)
- How did the Samaritan love the Jewish man like God loves us? (He loved him unconditionally and sacrificed for him.)



KNOW

As a family, memorize John 15:12-13 by dividing the verse into smaller sections and creating a matching game from them. Write the smaller sections onto index cards twice. Play the matching game and when all of the matches are made, put the verses together and say them out loud.



DO

Plan a special meal or outing for your child this week. On the day of the outing, talk with your child about how you love them because God first loved you.



FEEL

Place an empty jar on a counter that is visible and easily accessed. Each day, place a small pom-pom in the jar every time a family member does something loving. At the end of the week count the number of pom-poms and talk with your child about how we love because God loves us and showed us how to love.



WANT

As a family, put together goodie bags to take to your neighbors or to your local assisted living facilities. As you put them together, talk with your child about how love sacrifices for others just like God sacrificed for us.

Spend some time this week praying, thanking God for loving us sacrificially.