

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS FATHER

Psalms 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 has provided a rescue plan for us through Jesus

**Every child should feel:**

- A desperate need to be rescued from sin and death

**Every child should:**

- Remember that God proved He is more powerful than sin and death through Jesus

**Every child should want:**

- To be rescued by Jesus who is our Savior

JESUS MADE A WAY

Create an obstacle course for your child. Make it difficult to pass through. After your child has tried once or twice, give them a map or guide them verbally through the course. Tell them that Jesus made a way for us to get to God. Our sin had separated us from God, but Jesus made a way for us to be in God's family.

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.)

**KNOW**

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.

**DO**

At the beginning of the week, ask your child to help you plan the chore chart, the menu, or some other weekly task that happens at your house. Talk with your child about how a family works together and takes care of each other. Remind your child that when we have saving faith in Jesus we are part of God's family and He takes care of us forever.

**FEEL**

Help your child create a family tree listing the names of your immediate family. Next, ask your child to think of people who "feel" like family from church and other places. Talk to your child about how when we have saving faith and someone else has saving faith, even if we aren't in the same earthly family, we are in the same Heavenly family. We are brothers and sisters in Christ.

**WANT**

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.