

# GOD GIVES CARE AND DISCIPLESHIP

## STORY: CREATION

### BIG TRUTH: GOD GIVES CARE AND DISCIPLESHIP

Deuteronomy 4:9-10; 6:1-2; Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:12-16; Hebrews 10:23-25

### BIBLE VERSE: DEUTERONOMY 6:6-7A

*“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children,”*

### BIG IDEAS

- Parents should love God most.
- Parents are to teach God’s Word to their children.
- God has given the family of faith to help the family at home know and follow God.
- The fear of the Lord is the pursuit of God’s family.

### BIBLE STORY: PROVERBS 2:1-15

God is our wise Father. He gives wisdom to those who follow Him. He instructs those who have ears to hear and cry out for His commands. His way is better than any way we could ever have. He is the perfect example of how earthly parents should teach their children.

### STORY: CREATION

God created everything. Everything we see, hear, feel, taste, and that exists was created by Him. Not only did He create everything, but He created everything perfectly, including humanity. He created mankind in His very image and likeness to reflect His worth. All of creation was made just like He wanted and designed it to be. To His delight, God looked at everything He made and declared that it was good. All creation exists for God, is good, and was created to bring Him glory.

### BIG AIMS



#### Every child should know that:

- God created the family



#### Every child should feel:

- Thankful for the gift of family that God has given them



#### Every child should:

- Practice serving the members of their family



#### Every child should want:

- To honor and respect their family

### FAMILY DEVOTION: THE FEAR OF THE LORD

God commands parents to teach and instruct their children. They are responsible for helping their children understand what it means to fear the Lord. Fearing God is not being afraid only, but it is understanding who He is and submitting to His perfect will.

**BIBLE VERSE: DEUTERONOMY 6:6-7A**

*“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children,”*

**A believer should have a heart that totally loves the Lord.**

- God calls those who have repented and believed in Jesus to deny themselves, their desires and wants, and to follow Him.
- As God prepared the Israelites to inhabit the Promised Land, He commanded them to love Him with all of their heart.
- When we love God with all of our heart, we seek after Him and His will first.
- God created us to bring Him glory. We bring Him glory when we love Him wholeheartedly.

**We should know God’s commands in order to know Him and love Him wholeheartedly.**

- Part of loving God with all of our heart is knowing Him.
- When we know His commands and seek to obey Him, we show Him and the world that we love Him.
- We should know His commands so we can teach others.
- We should know His Word so we can teach our children His Word and we can teach them how to obey God.
- God’s commands are perfect and true. They are the most helpful thing to each person who follows Him.

**Parents should diligently teach their children about God.**

- God places a high value upon parents.
- He gives parents as a gift and He commands them to guide their children.
- Being a parent is more than taking care of a child and making sure they are clothed, fed, and safe.
- God expects parents to be the number one teachers of their children.
- It is the parent’s responsibility to teach his or her children about God.
- God commanded parents to train their children in the way to obey Him.
- It is parents’ responsibility to teach their children about God and point them to Him.

**BIBLE STORY: PROVERBS 2:1-15**

*The Wise Father*

**Opening Illustration:**

Bring in several plastic cups and straws for each child. Allow the children to take turns racing each other as they blow a cup across a table with a straw. After each child has had an opportunity to race, lead them in a discussion about how God is our Creator, controls all things, and gives all things.

- How did you control what the cup did? (Each child controlled the cup by blowing through a straw.)
- Did the cup move on its own or when you blew on it? (It moved only when it was blown on.)
- You each controlled your cups with the straw just like God controls all of creation with His power.
- God is our Creator. He created everything and He controls everything.
- There is nothing that is outside of Him or His power.

**BIG IDEA: PARENTS SHOULD LOVE GOD MOST.<sup>1</sup>****We are all commanded to love God more than we love anything else.**

- God created us for Himself.
- We are not created for our own desires or to fulfill our own dreams.
- We are created by God and for Him.
- God created us to know and love Him.
- We are not only made to know and love Him, but God commands us to love Him more than we love anything or anyone else.
- He wants our full devotion and our hearts to be completely His.



Have the children play a Bible drill in which they race one another to look up different verses about loving God. Call out different verses and see who can find it first. Read the verses and remind the children that we should love Him the most.

**Parents should seek to love God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength.**

- God gives parents a special role. He gives them children and commands them to raise their children to love Him.
- In order for parents to teach their children what it means to love God with all that they have, parents must first love God wholeheartedly.
- God commands His people to love Him completely.
- He asks for a complete abandon of our own desires and dreams.
- Parents can teach their children how to love God when they love God themselves with their hearts, souls, minds, and in all their strength.

**Parents should love God more than they love their children.**

- In order for parents to love God as He commands, they must love Him more than they love anyone else.
- Children are a precious gift from God. They bring their families great joy, yet God does not give children for parents to place a greater value on them than they do on serving God.
- Children are given to parents to be trained and then sent out into the world for God's purposes.
- Parents should love God more than they love children.
- Only when parents love God more than anything or anyone else can they truly say they love God the most.

*Why should parents love God the most? (He commands His people to love Him with everything they have and all that they are.)*

1. Luke 10:27: All believers should love God with all of their hearts, minds, souls, and strength.

## BIG IDEA: PARENTS ARE TO TEACH GOD'S WORD TO THEIR CHILDREN.<sup>2</sup>

### All of God's people should learn His Word.

- God gives His Word so that His people might learn about Him and know how to obey Him.
- All people who have repented and believed in Jesus should diligently learn God's Word.
- God has given us a way to know Him and to learn about Him every day.
- In order for His people to truly know Him and know how to glorify Him, they must learn His Word.



Bring in several narrow sheets of paper, a stapler and markers. Give each child several strips of paper and ask him or her to write down some things he or she has learned from a parent. Create a paper chain using the strips of paper the children wrote their responses on. Remind them that parents should teach their children about God.

### Parents should faithfully teach their children about God.

- Parents are the primary way in which children learn about God.
- God has given parents the task of teaching their children about Him.
- Parents are commanded in His Word to train their children to fear Him and to point them to Him.
- Though other people can help point children to God and even teach them about God, the responsibility is on the parent.
- Parents should diligently teach their children about God.
- Daily, they should train their children and look for ways to point their children to God.

### Parents are responsible to teach their children who God is and how He interacts with people.

- Parents can be the most influential people in their children's lives.
- God has commanded them to use their influence to point their children to Him.
- God has also given parents the responsibility of living righteously and in such a way that their children see God.
- Every day parents should seek to point their children to God in the hopes that one day, their children repent and follow Christ.
- Parents are also the way that children can learn how God interacts with people.
- When a parent shares how God has taught them or guided them, their children can learn the ways in which God works.

*How can children first learn about God? (They can first learn about God from their parents.)*

<sup>2</sup> Deuteronomy 4:9; Ephesians 6:4: Parents should know God's Word to teach their children. Parents should faithfully teach their children about God.

## BIG IDEA: GOD HAS GIVEN THE FAMILY OF FAITH TO HELP THE FAMILY AT HOME KNOW AND FOLLOW GOD.<sup>3</sup>

### The body of believers should encourage one another in their walk with God.

- Those who have followed Christ are part of the family of God.
- This body of believers is given the opportunity to work together to encourage one another to walk with God.
- When we join with other believers, we gain a family that is joined by faith in God.
- Because we are joined by our faith in God, we can offer encouragement to one another as we seek to be holy as God is holy.
- This body of believers exists to glorify God and it can bring glory to Him by encouraging one another to obey God's commands.



Help the children create a family tree of believers using a large poster board, leaves cut from construction paper and markers. Ask the children to write their names and the names of anyone else they know in your church on the leaves. Tape or glue the leaves on the outline of a tree you've drawn on the poster board. Remind the children that the family of faith should encourage each other to grow in God.

### We should challenge one another to know God.

- We are not created to live life alone. We are created to live in community with one another.
- When we are in a body of believers, or a faith family, we have a responsibility to one another.
- We are to show love and seek to encourage one another to grow in their walk with God.
- In order to grow in our walk with God, we must grow in our knowledge of Him.
- We can encourage each other to learn more about God, to show love to the world, and to share the good news about Jesus with others.

### The body of believers serves as a tool to help the family know God.

- The family of God is a resource to every family.
- As a family seeks to know God and grow in Him, the church, or body of believers can act as a resource to them.
- The church can provide support to the family in many ways.
- Most importantly, the church can be a place of learning and growing as parents seek to teach and train their children.

*How can the family of faith help families know God? (They can be a resource for them and a place of support.)*

3. Hebrews 10:23-25: As we hold fast to our own faith, we can join with others who believe to encourage one another to follow Christ.

**BIG IDEA: THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE PURSUIT OF GOD'S FAMILY.<sup>4</sup>****Every person is created in the image of God for His glory.**

- We all have a purpose. No one is by accident or exists for no reason.
- We are all created in God's image. He not only created us in His image, but we all have a great purpose.
- Our purpose is to bring God glory.
- We do not have to live purposeless lives. We are made to reflect God to the world.
- We are made to live lives that glorify Him.



Play a game of two lies and one truth. Have the children to take turns making three statements about themselves, two that are untrue and one that is true. The other children get to guess which statement they believe to be true. Remind the children that fearing God means we live like we believe that God's Word is true and we seek to glorify Him.

**We bring God glory when we fear Him.**

- Fearing God means that we understand who He is and we show Him the honor and respect that He is due. It means we stand in awe of who He is and what He does.
- When we fear God, we do not have to live afraid of Him, but we respect Him and are in awe of Him.
- When we fear God, we seek to live lives that show respect to God.
- We can show respect to God by obeying His commands.
- When we live every day in the understanding that God is the one true God and He controls all things, we will live in fear of Him.

**The family glorifies God when it fears Him.**

- The family's purpose is to bring God glory.
- God did not give families only for man to enjoy and cherish.
- God created families and places people in families for His glory.
- Families can glorify God by obeying His commands.
- When parents seek to train their children to follow God, they are living in fear of Him because they are showing that they believe His Word is true and He really means for them to teach their children about Him.

*How does fearing God bring Him glory? (When we fear God, we obey Him because we believe His Word is true and He means what He says.)*

4. Ecclesiastes 12:13: *The chief end of man is to bring God glory. Families have the purpose of bringing God glory by fearing HIM and obeying Him.*

## HOOKS

**In Awe Of You Game**

Give the children narrow strips of white paper. Ask them to choose several markers and then ask them to use the markers to write down something spectacular they've seen or experienced, such as seeing a rainbow or being in a thunderstorm. Talk with the children about how fearing the Lord means we are in awe of Him like we are in awe of rainbows and other natural wonders we see in the world.



- When we fear the Lord, we stand in awe of who He is and what He does.
- Fearing Him doesn't mean that we are always afraid or scared of Him. It means that we understand how powerful and mighty He is.
- It also means that we show Him the respect and honor that He deserves.

**Fear Of You**

Print off the lyrics to several different praise songs. Give the children a copy of the lyrics and markers. Ask the children to decorate their copy of the lyrics. Place the lyrics around the classroom. Lead the children in a discussion about how families should fear the Lord and what it means to fear Him.



- When we fear the Lord, we are in awe of who He is and what He does.
- When we fear Him, we may sing praises to Him because we are gaining an understanding of just how great He is.
- Families should have a goal to fear the Lord.
- Parents should seek to teach their children how to fear the Lord because that is why we are each created.