

GOD OFFERS A NEW FAMILY

STORY: NEW CREATION

BIG TRUTH: GOD OFFERS A NEW FAMILY

John 1:11-13; 14:6; Romans 8:14-17; Galatians 3:26-29; 4:4-7; Ephesians 1:11-12; Hebrews 2:10-11; 1 John 3:1-2

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 12:5

“So we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.”

BIG IDEAS

- God is making a new family.
- The only way to become a part of God’s family is through Jesus.
- God’s family members are uniquely gifted and yet, interdependent.
- God’s family exists to glorify Him by building up one another.

BIBLE STORY: ROMANS 12 AND 1 CORINTHIANS 12

Every person who repents and believes becomes a part of God’s family. This family is called the church, or the body of Christ. Each member of the body of Christ is gifted in a unique way, yet the body depends upon each member’s gifting. God uses the body of Christ to bring Himself glory and further His mission.

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:

- The church is God’s family
- The Christian life cannot be faithfully lived apart from the local church



Every child should feel:

- Loved by the church family that God has placed them into
- Love for their church family



Every child should:

- Participate in their local church
- Serve someone within their local church



Every child should want:

- To grow together in Christ with other members of God’s family

FAMILY DEVOTION: INDIVIDUALLY DEPENDENT

Each believer has a unique set of gifts and talents given to him or her by God, but each member of God’s family is dependent upon the rest of the body. The body works together to glorify God.

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 12:5

“So we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.”

The church is made up of Christ followers everywhere.

- Every person who repents and believes in Jesus is part of the family of God, or His church.
- There are members of God’s church in all parts of the world and from all walks of life.
- The church isn’t confined to one area or one town. It is made up of people from all over the world in every part of the world.
- The church is the global body of people who have repented and placed their faith and trust in Jesus.

Christ followers everywhere are united by Jesus.

- The body of Christ is made up of unique and individual people.
- These people are joined to one another through the blood of Christ.
- Those who have placed their faith in Christ are joined to other people who have done the same.
- The one common thread in the body of Christ is a common belief in Jesus as Savior.
- Christ followers in one part of the world are joined as family to other believers in another part of the world.

The church is one body with many individual members.

- Just like a person’s body is one body with many different parts, the body of Christ is one body of Christ made up of many different members.
- There isn’t more than one body of Christ. There is just the body of Christ and different members of it gathering in smaller numbers across the world.
- This church is one church that exists to bring God glory.

BIBLE STORY: ROMANS 12 AND 1 CORINTHIANS 12

The Body Of Christ

Opening Illustration:

Give each child a copy of the “Jesus Makes All Things New” bookmark or allow them to cut it out themselves. Have them decorate their bookmarks with crayons, colored pencils or markers. Finished bookmarks can be mounted to colored cardstock strips or covered in clear Contact paper to make them more sturdy. As the children work, talk about how caterpillars are transformed into beautiful butterflies through the process of metamorphosis and we can be transformed (or made new) by believing in Jesus’ saving work on the cross for us.

BIG IDEA: GOD IS MAKING A NEW FAMILY.¹**When Christ came to the earth, He conquered sin and death.**

- God's perfect creation was broken by man's sin.
- Man's heart and nature were changed by the sin of Adam and Eve.
- Everything began dying and man's relationship with God was broken.
- Christ came to the earth to pay the sin debt that man could not pay.
- Christ died on the cross in place of man and His death conquered death and sin.
- Sin and death have no power now because of the work of Christ.



Have the children write their own definition of the word "family". Discuss their definitions and then use a dictionary to define it. Talk with them about how God makes every believer a part of His family.

Christ's victory means the old things have passed away.

- Because of Christ's victory, sin has no hold over man when he repents and believes in Jesus.
- The old way of life enslaved to sin and evil is no longer present in a person who has placed his faith in Jesus for salvation.
- The victory that Jesus has is transferred to those who are His followers.
- The old spiritually dead life is changed into the new life filled with the Spirit of God.

Through Christ, God is making a new family of believers.

- Those who repent and believe in Jesus become part of God's family.
- This new family is made up of all people who become Christ followers.
- This new family is made possible through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
- It is possible to be part of God's family because of the work of Jesus.

How is God making a new family? (He is making a new family through the work of Jesus on the cross.)

1. Isaiah 43:18-19: *When God sent Jesus to save the world, He made a new thing. He is making a new family as sinners repent and believe in Jesus and are joined to the body of Christ.*

BIG IDEA: THE ONLY WAY TO BECOME A PART OF GOD'S FAMILY IS THROUGH JESUS.²

The only way to be saved is through repentance and belief in Jesus.

- Everyone is born spiritually dead and separated from God because of sin.
- The sin nature that is inherent in every person keeps that person from being a part of God's family.
- Jesus came to the earth to remove the separation that man's sin caused between God and man.
- When Jesus died on the cross, He paid the sin debt that man owed and He removed the separation.
- The only way to be saved is through repenting and believing in Jesus because Jesus is the only way to know God.

Those who believe in Jesus are reconciled to God.

- Man's sin brought about a separation between God and man.
- Man's sin prevents people from having a relationship with God.
- Jesus' death on the cross fulfilled the sin debt that was owed by man and made a way for man to be united with God in relationship.
- Because of Jesus' sacrifice, people can be reconciled to God.
- We can have a relationship with Him through the blood of Jesus.

Because of Jesus, His followers are joined together into one family.

- Jesus' death removed the barrier that prevented man from knowing God.
- When a person repents and believes in Jesus, he or she is joined to God's family.
- Before repentance and belief a person cannot be a part of God's family.
- After repentance and belief, that person becomes God's son or daughter.

How can a person become a part of God's family? (When a person repents of his sin and believes in Jesus, he becomes a part of God's family.)



Give each child an index card and a marker. Ask the child to write the name of one of his or her family members on the card. Mix the cards together and then ask the children to take turns drawing a card out of the pile and guessing whose family member's name is written on it and how they are related. After each child has a chance talk with them about how God has a family made up of those who repent and believe. Remind them that we become part of His family through Jesus.

2. John 14:6: No one comes to the Father except through Jesus.

BIG IDEA: GOD'S FAMILY MEMBERS ARE UNIQUELY GIFTED AND YET INTERDEPENDENT.³

The body of Christ is made up of many gifted believers.

- The body of Christ consists of many different members who have all turned away from their sin and believed in Jesus for salvation.
- This body is made up of people who have been redeemed by God and who are created with special gifts and talents.
- There are many different people in the body of Christ.
- No two people are the same.
- The common thread is that all have been redeemed and have believed in Jesus.



Bring in a bandana to use as a blindfold. Ask the children to take turns wearing the blindfold as they try to write their name or walk across the room. Talk with the children about how we depend upon each of our body parts to complete a lot of different tasks. Remind them that the body of Christ depends upon each of its members.

Each member has a unique set of gifts and talents.

- God has created every person with abilities and talents.
- These talents and abilities are given to people to be used for God's glory.
- When a person repents and believes, he or she also receives spiritual gifts that are used for the edification, or building up of the body of Christ.
- These gifts are unique and individual, yet the body of Christ depends upon each unique gift and talent.

The body is depended upon its members.

- Just like a person's physical body is made up of different parts, the body of Christ is made up of different people with different talents.
- The body of Christ depends upon each member just as the human body depends upon each of its parts.
- The body of Christ works together to bring God glory.
- This interdependence brings God glory as individual people work together seamlessly.

Why is the body of Christ interdependent? (Just as the physical body depends upon its parts, the body of Christ depends upon its members.)

3. 1 Corinthians 12:14-20: The body of Christ consists of many members that are interrelated and interdependent.

BIG IDEA: GOD'S FAMILY EXISTS TO GLORIFY HIM BY BUILDING UP ONE ANOTHER.⁴

Each member's gifts are given for edification and growth.

- God uniquely creates each person to bring Him glory.
- He gifts His people with talents, abilities and spiritual gifts that are used to bring glory to Himself.
- Each person's gifts are to be used to build up the body of fellow believers.
- When a person uses his or her gifts for God's glory, it helps other believers live for Him and grow in Him.



Have the children gather in a circle and then give each child an opportunity to say something nice or kind to another child. Use this opportunity to model what edification looks like. Remind the children that the body of Christ brings God glory when it builds up one another.

The body exists to build up one another.

- Edification is the building up or encouraging of others.
- The body of Christ exists to glorify God by helping one another live for Him.
- When the body comes together, it can use its gifting to spur others on to live for Christ.
- The body of Christ can help struggling believers become stronger. It can encourage strong believers to remain steadfast.

When the body fulfills its God-ordained purpose, God is glorified.

- The body of Christ has a purpose to bring God glory.
- When the body of believers comes together and collectively fulfills this purpose, God is glorified.
- When the world sees unique and individual people working in peace and harmony with one another, it glorifies God.
- The body of Christ exists for this very reason and the peace and harmony that can happen is only possible in a body of people who are united through Christ.

Why does the body of Christ exist? (It exists to bring God glory through edifying one another.)

4. 1 Corinthians 14:26: The church exists to build up one another and glorify God.

HOOKS



KNOW

All Hands

Give each child a piece of construction paper and scissors. Ask the children to trace their hands and then cut them out. Next, place the outline of a person on the board or wall. Have the children take turns taping their hands to the outline of the person. Talk to the children about how the body of Christ is made up of many members, and how we are dependent on each other as members of the same body.



DO

- If our physical bodies were all hands, it would be hard for us to get anywhere.
- Our physical bodies are made up of different parts just like the body of Christ is made up of different members.
- These members are used by God to bring Him glory.



FEEL

Two Are Better Than One

Bring in something to use to tie the children's feet together. Take turns tying one foot of one child to the foot of another child and asking them to walk together. Talk with the children about how two people can learn to walk together when they work together and depend upon one another.



WANT