

**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

**INDIVIDUALLY DEPENDENT**

Take your child on a walk through your local park or neighborhood. Ask your child to collect leaves, flowers, twigs, etc. Talk about how the leaves, flowers and twigs are individual, yet they depend upon something else to grow and thrive. Remind him or her that the body of Christ is made up of individual members, but it depends upon the whole body to grow and thrive.

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

Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12.

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

Paul wrote letters to different believers in many different cities. Two of the letters he wrote were to the Romans and the Corinthians. In these letters, Paul talked to the believers there about what it means to be a part of God's family. When a person repents and believes, he or she becomes part of God's family. This new family that God is making is made up of many different individuals. These different individuals have many unique gifts and talents, but they are still just one body of Christ. The body of Christ is known as the church and it serves a great purpose. God gives each member of His family talents and gifts to be used for His glory. The body of Christ can bring God glory when it edifies or builds up one another. These gifts and talents can be used together to help the body grow and become more like Christ. Paul stressed the importance of working together as one body though there are many members.

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

- To whom did Paul write letters? (He wrote to the Romans and the Corinthians.)
- What did Paul say about the body of Christ in these letters? (He reminded believers that there is one body of Christ made up of many different members.)
- What is the purpose of the body of Christ? (It's purpose is to bring God glory by edifying one another.)



As a family, memorize Romans 12:5 by playing a game of Hangman. Use the verse as the puzzle and spend time saying it out loud together.



Spend time as a family identifying the different talents that each member has. Make a list of the different things that each family member contributes and place the list in a room where it can be seen easily. Each day talk about the different talents of family members and how each member works together with others to contribute to the family.



Invite your child to help you accomplish a task this week, such as making a grocery list and buying groceries. Talk with your child about how more gets accomplished when you work together and depend upon one another. Remind him that the body of Christ depends upon one another, too.



Share with your child an experience of when another member of the body of Christ encouraged you or helped you become more like Christ. Remind your child that the body of Christ has many members who depend upon one another.

Spend time as a family praying and thanking God for making a new family and bringing those who have believed into His family.