

BIG TRUTH: GOD'S FAMILY IS THE CHURCH

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: EPHESIANS 2:19

"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,"

BIG IDEAS

- Our sin makes us spiritually dead, isolated, and separated from God.
- Through Jesus God has made a way to adopt us into His family.
- All of the people who make up God's family are the church.
- As Jesus followers our deepest belonging and connections in life are to God's family.

BIBLE STORY: RUTH 1-4

Ruth chose to go with Naomi and to make Naomi's God her God. Ruth's choices brought her into the genealogy of Jesus and the family of God. When we know Jesus, we are brought into the family of God, too.

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

THE FAMILY OF GOD

Help your child make a list of people who attend your church. Talk with your child about how these people are part of your church. Everyone who repents and believes in Jesus is His church. Our local bodies are made up of people who have repented and believed in Jesus.

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

Ruth 1-4.

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

Ruth was the daughter-in-law of Naomi. When Naomi lost her husband and then both of her sons, she decided to return to her homeland. Naomi gave her daughters-in-law the freedom to stay in their own native land instead of going with her. Ruth chose to stay with Naomi. Ruth made a choice to follow Naomi wherever she went. Ruth not only chose to be with Naomi, but she chose to believe in Naomi's God as well. When Ruth believed in Naomi's God, she became a part of God's family. Ruth and Naomi returned to Naomi's homeland, but they were in great trouble. They were widows and had no way of taking care of themselves. Ruth worked in the fields of a distant relative of Naomi's. Naomi knew that there was a chance that her distant relative could help them by marrying Ruth. Boaz, the distant relative, did help Ruth and Naomi by marrying Ruth. He redeemed them and brought them into his family to care for them for the rest of their lives. Ruth not only became a part of God's family, but she was also a part of the genealogy of Jesus. We are outside the family of God while we are sinners, but through belief in Jesus, we are adopted into God's family. We become part of His church when we believe in Jesus. His church is made up of all the believers in all the world. Our deepest and greatest relationships are with fellow believers because of our joint faith in Jesus and our eternal relationships.

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

- What choice did Ruth make after her husband died? (She chose to stay with Naomi and to believe in Naomi's God.)
- How were Ruth and Naomi rescued? (Boaz, Naomi's distant relative redeemed them by marrying Ruth.)
- How do we become a part of God's family? (When we believe in Jesus, we are adopted into God's family.)
- What is God's family called? (God's family is called the church.)



As a family, memorize Ephesians 2:19 by playing a game of Hangman using the verse as the puzzle.

Play a game of dodgeball as a family. As you play, talk with your child about how our sin separates us from God just like getting hit by the dodgeball separates us from the group.

As a family, create a list of things that are characteristic of your family. Make a list of things that are unique to your family or that cause someone to easily recognize a person as belonging to your family. Talk with your child about how every person who believes in Jesus becomes part of God's family and is joined forever to fellow believers.

Spend time as a family praying and thanking God for adopting us into His family when we believe in Jesus.