

# GOD'S FAMILY IS BECOMING

## STORY: NEW CREATION

### BIG TRUTH: GOD'S FAMILY IS BECOMING

1 Thessalonians 5:5-11; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Ephesians 4:17-32; Colossians 3:1-17; 2 Peter 1:3-11

### BIBLE VERSE: EPHESIANS 4:11-13

*"And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,"*

### BIG IDEAS

- God transforms sinners into saints.
- This transformation happens in an instant and over a lifetime.
- One of God's primary methods of producing Christlikeness in the life of a believer is His Church.
- God is committed to our becoming like Jesus.

### BIBLE STORY: LUKE 5, 22:54-62; JOHN 21; ACTS 2

The life of Peter is an example of God's commitment to His people. Peter's life was transformed over time as he became more and more like Jesus. Our lives are transformed over time, too, as we grow more like Christ.

### 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: ALWAYS TRANSFORMING

Peter's life looked radically different at the end of his ministry than it did at the beginning. Known as a somewhat rash man, his later life was characterized by faithfulness and steadfastness. Our lives are transformed continually until death.

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**God's redeemed people are given spiritual gifts.**

- God redeems people through Jesus Christ and He imparts spiritual gifts to them to be used for His glory.
- Each person who is redeemed through Jesus has spiritual gifts.
- These spiritual gifts are not for their own selves, but are for God's glory.
- These gifts are given by God so that His people can bring Him glory through His work in their lives.

**God's people are given the task of equipping one another.**

- God's people are set aside to be used for His glory.
- His people are given the task of building up one another using the spiritual gifts that God gives.
- God's people should edify one another and teach one another.
- God's people should also encourage one another to grow in a relationship with Jesus and to become more like Christ.

**God's people help each other become more like Jesus.**

- As God's people gather together and live life together, they help one another become more like Jesus.
- When God's people live life together, they encourage and teach each other how to live for Christ by obeying God's commands.
- God's people living together enables them to be the body of Christ to one another and to the world.

**BIBLE STORY: LUKE 5, 22:54-62, JOHN 21, ACTS 2**

*The Life Of Peter*

**Opening Illustration:**

Divide the children into small groups. Give each group construction paper and pencils. Have each group trace one another's hands. After they finish, have the children write their names on the hands and then write something that God offers to us, such as hope and friendship. Help the children cut the handprints out and use glue or tape to affix them to a paper plate to make a wreath around the edge. Talk with the children about how God offers us many things. He offers us hope and friendship. He offers us new life. All of these things are offered to us through Jesus.

**BIG IDEA: GOD TRANSFORMS SINNERS INTO SAINTS.<sup>1</sup>****Redeemed people are made into new creations.**

- When a person turns away from his sin and believes in Jesus, he is made into a new creation.
- The old sinful nature that once held him captive enslaves him no longer.
- Believing in Jesus means that a person gets a new redeemed heart to live for Christ.
- Knowing Jesus means that a person gets the Holy Spirit to guide, teach, remind, and transform.



Have the children define the word "saint." Look up the definition for the word "saint" and share with the children. Remind them that it is only God who can transform a sinner into a saint.

**God transforms unrighteous people into righteous people.**

- Even after we are saved, we cannot make ourselves good or like Christ.
- It is the power of the Holy Spirit inside of us that transforms us into people like Jesus.
- God uses His Spirit inside of a redeemed person to daily make that person more like Jesus.
- God used the Holy Spirit to make Peter more like Jesus every day.
- Our old sinful habits begin to disappear as God works inside of us to make us more like Jesus.

**God alone removes our sin.**

- Only God can transform us just like only God can save us.
- We cannot do enough good things to pay our sin debt and we cannot work hard enough after salvation to become like Jesus.
- God alone removes our sin and makes us more like Jesus every day.
- He works in our hearts through His Spirit, guiding us through His Word to become more like His Son.

Who does God transform into saints? (God transforms sinners into saints.)

1. 2 Corinthians 3:18: Every believer is being transformed to become more like Jesus every day.

## BIG IDEA: THIS TRANSFORMATION HAPPENS IN AN INSTANT AND OVER A LIFETIME.<sup>2</sup>

### The Spirit of God works daily to make people like Christ.

- God's Spirit works inside of His people to make them more like Christ every day.
- When a person believes in Jesus, that person is instantly seen as righteous because of the righteousness of Christ.
- Though that person is righteous, he still battles his sin nature until his physical death.
- The Holy Spirit works inside of a person to help him overcome the sin nature that still exists though it has no enslaving power over a believer.



Lead the children in a discussion about some of the things that they do that take a long time, such as cleaning their rooms. Also discuss some of the things that don't take long at all, such as brushing their teeth. Talk with the children about how our lives are transformed instantly when we believe and over our lifetime as the Holy Spirit works inside of us.

### Jesus' death takes away a person's sin debt instantly.

- The death of Jesus fulfilled the sin debt that every person owed.
- Jesus' death is enough to pay the sin debt for all people, yet all people will not believe in Jesus.
- Those who do believe in Jesus will have their sin debt taken away instantly when they believe.
- They do not have to work the rest of their lives to remove the sin debt.
- Their sin debt is counted paid in full.
- Jesus' death fulfills this debt and sets the sinner free from it.

### God transforms people into His likeness over their earthly lives.

- God works inside of His people to make them more holy each day of their lives.
- He does not give up working on them.
- Jesus did not give up on Peter though Peter sinned against Jesus.
- God continues to work through His Word, experiences in a person's life, and other people to make His people more like Christ each and every day.

*How does a person's transformation happen? (It happens instantly when they believe in Jesus and over a lifetime as the Holy Spirit works inside of them to make them more like Christ.)*

2. Romans 12:2: We are transformed according to the will of God through His work in our lives as we seek to not be conformed to this world.

## BIG IDEA: ONE OF GOD'S PRIMARY METHODS OF PRODUCING CHRISTLIKENESS IN THE LIFE OF A BELIEVER IS HIS CHURCH.<sup>3</sup>

### The church exists to encourage one another.

- The church, or body of Christ, exists to encourage one another as they seek to live for Christ.
- The church is meant to spur one another on to live for Christ in right and holy ways.
- The church also exists to serve as a system of support for other believers.
- As people gather together with one heart and one purpose, they become more and more like Christ.



Give each child an outline of a church building. Ask the children to decorate their church outline with markers and to fill in the outline with different ways that the body of Christ can help others become more like Christ. Remind them that the church is a primary way God produces Christlikeness.

### The church offers accountability to believers.

- When fellow believers live life together and gather together, they open their lives up to the encouragement of other like-minded people.
- This encouragement can serve as a method of accountability to help believers who may struggle with particular sins overcome them.
- The church is God's way of helping His people grow to be like Him by living closely with one another.
- As people gather together, their lives become intertwined and they can spur one another on to live for Christ and to recognize and overcome sinful behaviors.

### The church serves to allow believers to use their spiritual gifts.

- The church is the way that believers can use their spiritual gifts for the glory of God.
- When believers gather together and work together, using their spiritual gifts, they bring God much glory.
- The world can see people working together in peace and harmony and this brings God glory.
- It is only through the power of the Holy Spirit that people can join together in harmony and unity.

What is one of God's primary methods of producing Christlikeness? (God uses the church to produce Christlikeness in believers.)

3. 1 Thessalonians 5:11: Paul encourages the Thessalonians to continue encouraging and building one another up.

**BIG IDEA: GOD IS COMMITTED TO OUR BECOMING LIKE JESUS.<sup>4</sup>****Those who believe in Jesus are part of God's family forever.**

- Nothing can remove a person from the body of Christ when they believe in Jesus.
- God's adoption of believers into His family is for all eternity.
- When a person turns away from his sinful life and believes in Jesus, his citizenship in the family of God begins and it never ends.
- No matter what a person does, once he believes, he cannot be removed from God's family.
- God holds onto His people forever no matter how much they may slip and sin against Him.



Have the children make a list of things that they are committed to, such as a team sport, family, friendship, etc. Talk with the children about what would make them give up their commitment to that particular thing. Remind them that God is always committed to His people and He will never give up on them.

**God will never forsake His people.**

- Though there are times when we will sin against God, even after we have believed, God will never forsake us.
- Just like Peter denied Jesus three times, we will sometimes, if not often, sin against God because we battle our sin nature while we live on this earth.
- God will never turn away from His people, even when we sin against Him.
- God will always love us and always continue to work in our hearts through His Spirit to make us more like Jesus.

**God will never give up on His people.**

- God is always working in the lives of His people.
- He will never stop working in their lives or their hearts.
- He will always correct, discipline and encourage them.
- God will never give up on someone no matter how terrible his or her sin is.
- God will always love and continue working in their lives until they are fully sanctified and with Him in heaven.

*What is God committed to? (He is committed to seeing His people become like Jesus.)*

4. Psalm 94:14: God will never forsake His people. He will never abandon them.

## HOOKS

**A Rooster Crows**

Help the children make a rooster using the outline of a rooster, glue and different colored crepe paper. Help the children fill in the outline of the rooster using the crepe paper and glue. Lead the children in a discussion about how Peter denied Jesus three times, but Jesus never gave up on Peter.



- Even though Peter denied Jesus three times before the rooster crowed, Jesus didn't deny Peter.
- Peter was forgiven for his sin of denying Jesus and he continued to grow more and more like Jesus throughout His life.
- God doesn't give up on us either. He continues to work in our hearts to make us more like Jesus.

**The Church And The People**

Place the outline of a church on the wall or board. Next, ask the children to use a marker to write the name of someone who is a part of your church. Lead the children in a discussion about how God uses the people in the church to help one another become more like Jesus.

