

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

ALWAYS TRANSFORMING

Use blankets, chairs and other items to transform your living or family room into a fort. As you build the fort, talk with your child about how you're transforming the room for a little bit. Remind him that God transforms His believers in an instant and over a lifetime.

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

Luke 5, 22:54-62, John 21, and Acts 2.

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

Peter's life is a great example of how God works continually in a believer's heart to make them more like Him. When Peter first followed Jesus, he was bold and reckless at times. He didn't hesitate to follow Jesus. As he followed Jesus, he grew more like Him. When Jesus had been arrested and was being questioned, Peter hung back in the shadows. He loved Jesus, but he grew afraid when people began to associate him with Jesus. When Peter was asked if he knew Jesus, he denied Jesus three times. Peter's denial was by far a low point for him. He knew immediately that he had let Jesus down and sinned against Him. Jesus forgave Peter though and continued to work in Peter's heart. Peter grew more like Jesus and on the Day of Pentecost Peter preached the sermon that led thousands to believe in Jesus. Peter finished his life as one of the main leaders of the early church. He finished his life steadfast and faithful. God continues to work in our hearts, too. Even when we mess up and sin, He doesn't give up on us. He uses His church, or other believers to help us become more like Jesus. He continues to work in our hearts and lives until we pass away and are with Him in Heaven forever.

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

- How was Peter's life characterized when he first followed Jesus? (He was rash, reckless and bold.)
- What happened after Peter denied Jesus? (Peter was heartbroken, Jesus forgave him and Peter grew more like Jesus.)
- How did Peter end his life? (He ended his life steadfast and bold.)



As a family, memorize Ephesians 4:11-13 by dividing the verses into sections and writing them on strips of paper. Gather the strips together and then take turns timing yourselves to see who can put the verses in order the quickest. Say the verses out loud several times.



Help your child make a list of friends that he or she sees on a weekly basis. Next to a friend's name ask your child to write one thing that he or she can do to encourage that friend. Remind your child that God uses the church to help His people become more like Him.



Ask your child to help you make two batches of pudding. For one use instant pudding. For the other use pudding that requires you to cook it. Talk with your child about how God transforms us instantly when we believe and He transforms us over our lifetime as He works in our hearts.



Spend some time this week sharing with your child ways that God has worked in your life to transform you. Remind him that God never gives up on us.

Spend some time this week praying, thanking God for transforming us and for never giving up on us.