

# GOD'S FAMILY IS DIVERSE

## STORY: NEW CREATION

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

Daniel 7:14; Matthew 28:19; Romans 12:4-8; 1 Peter 4:10-11

### BIBLE VERSE: REVELATION 7:9

*"After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,"*

### BIG IDEAS

- God created every race, ethnicity, and people group for His glory.
- God is redeeming a family through Jesus.
- This family is made up of people from every race throughout history.
- We have a deeper connection and belonging to this family over any other family members we might have.
- These people are united by the blood of Jesus and will worship Him forever together.

### BIBLE STORY: ACTS 8:26-40

As Jesus' disciples went out preaching the gospel, Philip encountered an Ethiopian eunuch on his way back to Ethiopia after having worshipped in Jerusalem. Philip joined the eunuch in his chariot and shared the truth of Jesus with him. This eunuch believed the gospel and was baptized into the family of God.

### 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: ALL GOD'S PEOPLE

God's family is diverse. It is made up of all people groups. All those who believe no matter their race or ethnicity are part of God's family and will spend eternity worshipping Him.

**BIBLE VERSE: REVELATION 7:9**

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**God's salvation is for all people.**

- God sent His Son to save anyone who believes in Him.
- The salvation of God is not for one particular people group or race.
- The salvation of God is for the whole world.
- Jesus' death was sufficient to pay for the sin of every single person in the world.
- God's salvation includes every ethnicity and people group.

**God's love does not discriminate based upon ethnicity.**

- God's love is perfect.
- His love is unlike man's love.
- Man's love is distorted and broken because of sin.
- God's love does not discriminate because of a person's ethnicity or skin color.
- God loves all people no matter the color of their skin or their genealogy.

**All believers from all people groups will live in Heaven together.**

- God's family is not one ethnicity.
- God's family is made up of all the people who believe in Jesus all over the world.
- God's family will live in heaven with Him forever and with one another.
- Heaven will be made up of people from all ethnicities.
- These people will worship God together as His children. They will worship together as brothers and sisters for all of eternity.

**BIBLE STORY: ACTS 8:26-40**

*The Ethiopian Eunuch*

**Opening Illustration:**

Give each child a large piece of paper or poster board and markers or colored pencils. Ask the children to create a comic strip that tells of the many things that God offers us, such as salvation, a new home, love, the opportunity to serve Him, eternal life, etc. Talk with the children about how God offers us a new way that is better than our sinful way.

## BIG IDEA: GOD CREATED EVERY RACE, ETHNICITY, AND PEOPLE GROUP FOR HIS GLORY.<sup>1</sup>

### When God created man, He created all ethnicities.

- When God created Adam and Eve, He created the human race.
- Adam and Eve are the beginning of every other person.
- When the humans living on the earth chose to build a tower high enough to take them to heaven, God confused their plan by causing them to speak different languages.<sup>2</sup>
- Because the people were confused and could no longer work together, they dispersed in groups.
- Different ethnicities were created from this as people groups formed with similar languages and then they moved to different areas around the world.
- The result today is different skin colors, physical traits, and cultural characteristics.
- All these people are God's people. They are all created in God's image and are intended to bring Him glory.



Have the children define the words “ethnicity” and “people group”. Have the children list different ethnicities and people groups and then remind them that God created all of them to glorify Him.

### All nations and people groups are created to glorify God.

- God created all people for His glory.
- Every person is created with the same purpose and that is to glorify God with his or her life.
- All nations are included in God's plan, not just one nation or people group.
- God included all people in His plan of salvation when He sent Jesus' disciples to carry the Gospel to all people.
- God's plan has always been that all ethnicities worship Him and bring Him glory.

*Why did God create all people? (He created all people to bring Him glory.)*

1. Psalm 47:1: All people are created for God's glory and to worship Him.

2. Genesis 11:1-9: The people disobeyed God by trying to build a way to Heaven on their own. God confused them by causing them to speak different languages.

**BIG IDEA: GOD IS REDEEMING A FAMILY THROUGH JESUS.<sup>3</sup>****The death of Jesus makes the redemption of all people possible.**

- When Jesus came to the earth, He lived a perfect life that He might die the death that we deserve to die.
- When He died on the cross, He took on the sin of the whole world.
- His death was sufficient to pay for the sin of every single person who has ever lived and will ever live.
- Jesus' death was the perfect sacrifice for the sin of every person no matter their ethnicity.
- Because Jesus lived the perfect life and gave His life for the world, redemption is available to all who believe.



Create a small obstacle course for the children by placing chairs and other materials from the classroom in the path from one side of the room to the next. Talk with the children about how they can find a way through the obstacle course. Remind them that Jesus is the way that we are redeemed into God's family.

**God's family consists of all who believe.**

- God's family is made up of many different people groups and ethnicities.
- God's family is not one ethnicity or people group because it is composed of all the people who believe in Jesus.
- Because the world is a diverse place with many different ethnicities and people groups, God's family is diverse.
- All who call on the name of Jesus to save them from their sin are in God's family.
- God's family is unique in that it does not favor one particular group over another.
- It is full of many different people who all have their belief in Jesus in common.

*How is God redeeming His family? (God redeems His family through Jesus' perfect sacrifice on our behalf.)*

3. Ephesians 2:19: God redeems people to be a part of His family.

## BIG IDEA: THIS FAMILY IS MADE UP OF PEOPLE FROM EVERY RACE THROUGHOUT HISTORY.<sup>4</sup>

### God's family is made up of all believers from the past.

- Before Jesus came to the earth, many people believed in God and they believed that He would send the Savior to rescue the world.
- These people had faith in the Messiah that was to come.
- God's family is made up of many people who believed that God would send His Son to save the world.
- After Jesus came, people believed in the work that Jesus did on the cross.
- All the people who believed in Jesus and have already died are part of God's family.
- These people will spend eternity praising God.



Gather the children together and ask the children to share the names of some of their family members. Talk with the children about how every person who believes in Jesus is part of God's family.

### God's family is made up of all believers from the present and the future.

- Every person who is alive today and believes in Jesus is part of God's family.
- These believers alive today are joined with the believers of the past to make up God's family.
- Every person who will believe in Jesus in the future is part of God's family, too.
- All people who believe are part of God's family.
- This family is made up of many people from different ethnicities and people groups.

*Who is a part of God's family? (Every believer from the past, present, and future.)*

4. Daniel 7:14: God's kingdom is made up of all people and all nations.

## **BIG IDEA: WE HAVE A DEEPER CONNECTION AND BELONGING TO THIS FAMILY OVER ANY OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS WE MIGHT HAVE.<sup>5</sup>**

### **Our connection to fellow believers is eternal.**

- Because nothing can separate a believer from Jesus, we are eternally part of God's family.
- Once we have believed in Jesus as our Savior, we are forever part of God's family because the forgiveness is from Him.
- There is nothing we can do to undo the forgiveness that God has given us.
- Our relationships with other believers don't end when we pass away. Instead, they are eternal and we take them with us to Heaven.
- Because Jesus is our connection to other believers and Jesus is eternal, our connection to other believers is eternal.

### **The family of God is connected through the blood of Jesus.**

- Jesus' blood is sufficient for all our sin. It covers all of our sin and makes us right with God always.
- The family of God is connected by the blood of Jesus.
- Because it is the blood of Jesus that allows a person to receive forgiveness and enter into a relationship with God, it is the blood of Jesus that unites fellow believers.
- The blood of Jesus is the one connection that every believer has with one another.

### **Our relationship with other believers is more real and lasting than any other relationship.**

- The blood of Jesus makes us right before God. When we believe in Jesus, our sin debt is taken away and we have a right relationship with God.
- Because our relationship is right with God, our other relationships are better too.
- When our other relationships are better, we are able to love one another like we should.
- When two believers are in a relationship together, the relationship is everlasting because they will both spend eternity in Heaven together.

5. 1 Peter 4:7-11: *God's family loves more deeply and serves more freely because of the connection of Jesus Christ.*

**BIG IDEA: THESE PEOPLE ARE UNITED BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS AND WILL WORSHIP HIM FOREVER TOGETHER.<sup>6</sup>**

**God's people are joined forever by Jesus' blood.**

- Because our connection to Jesus is forever and can never be removed, our connection to other believers is forever.
- The power of Jesus' blood is eternal. It is everlasting.
- When He died on the cross, His death was sufficient for all of time and for all people.
- His blood cleanses and connects forever.



Lead the children in praise songs that worship Jesus for His sacrifice on our behalf. Remind them that all of God's redeemed people will worship Him for all of eternity.

**God's people will worship forever as His redeemed people.**

- Part of being redeemed means a person gets to spend eternity in Heaven with Jesus.
- All those who have been redeemed will spend eternity together in Heaven with Jesus.
- All of God's redeemed people will worship Him for all of eternity.
- This is what our eternity will look like. It will be a time when all of God's family is finally together forever and they will worship God for all that He has done and who He is.
- Everything will be right again and we will worship as we were created to worship.

*What will all redeemed people do in Heaven? (They will worship Jesus forever together.)*

6. Isaiah 51:11: All God's people will praise Him and rejoice forever in eternity.

## HOOKS

**All People Groups**

Bring in the outline of a world map. Give the children markers and ask the children to draw hearts on the map where God's people live. Make sure that they draw hearts on many different countries and continents. Lead them in a discussion about how God's family is made up of people from all ethnicities and people groups.



- All who believe in Jesus are part of His family.
- His family is made up of people from different ethnicities and people groups.
- This means that people from all over the world are part of God's family and will worship Him together in Heaven for all eternity.

**All Praise Forever**

Give the children a blank piece of paper and colored pencils. Ask the children to write down words of praise to Jesus on their papers. Next, ask the children to share their words. As they share, write down the words on the board. Next, have the children say all the words that are on the board out loud together. Lead the children in a discussion about how all of God's people will worship Him in Heaven forever.

