

GOD'S FAMILY IS FOREVER

STORY: NEW CREATION

BIG TRUTH: GOD'S FAMILY IS FOREVER

Daniel 7:14; Isaiah 51:11; John 3:16; 1 John 3:1-2; Hosea 2:19-20; John 3:36; Revelation 7:16-17; Revelation 21:1-5

BIBLE VERSE: 1 JOHN 5:12-13

"Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life."

BIG IDEAS

- Life is found in Jesus.
- Sin leads to death and eternal separation from God.
- Everyone who repents of their sin and places their faith in Jesus finds life and a place in God's family.
- Our families are temporary, but God's family is forever.

BIBLE STORY: JOHN 14:1-11

As Jesus prepares His disciples for His crucifixion, He reminds them that He is the way to eternal life. Only through Jesus can a person know God and become a part of God's family. When we are part of God's family, we are His forever.

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: A FOREVER FAMILY

Through Jesus God is building a family. His family is for all eternity and will never end. When we become a part of His family through Jesus, we are in His family forever.

BIBLE VERSE: 1 JOHN 5:12-13

"Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life."

Saving faith means knowing and living for Jesus.

- When we have saving faith, we have come to an understanding of our own sinfulness and we have believed that Jesus is our Savior.
- When we have saving faith, we know Jesus and when we know Jesus, we know God.
- Saving faith also leads to a life change for all who turn to Jesus.
- When we have saving faith, we live for Jesus. We believe that our purpose is to live in a way that brings Him glory and shows others that He is the Savior of the world.

Knowing Jesus means believing He is our Savior and we should live for Him.

- Knowing Jesus involves first believing He is our Savior.
- When we believe that He is the way we receive salvation from our sin, we enter into a relationship with Him.
- When we are in a relationship with Jesus, we learn more and more about Him every day.
- As we grow in our knowledge of Him, the way in which we live our lives changes.
- We understand that our greatest fulfillment is found in living for Him instead of living for ourselves.

All who believe can be assured of their faith.

- We can live for Jesus with the security that we have eternal life with Him.
- Knowing Jesus gives us eternal life. We can be secure in our eternal life because nothing can take us away from Him.
- Even when we sin against Him, He is faithful to forgive us.
- When we receive life through Him, we have that life forever.

BIBLE STORY: JOHN 14:1-11

Jesus Is The Way, The Truth, And The Life

Opening Illustration:

Make a "Pearl of Great Price" by folding a small white paper plate in half. Using paint, crayons or markers color the outside of the plate gray and the inside pink to resemble an oyster. Glue a copy of the Bible verse for the week inside the oyster along with a small white bead as the pearl. After the children finish making their oysters, help them think of the different things that God offers us in place of our sin, such as joy instead of emptiness, a new eternity instead of our sinful life, etc. Lead the children in a discussion about how God offers us many things that are better and perfect compared to our sinful choices.

BIG IDEA: LIFE IS FOUND IN JESUS.¹**God is life and Jesus is God.**

- All life comes from God because He is the source of all life.
- He is the beginning of all things and the Creator of everything.
- He gives physical life to all things.
- Jesus is God and new life is found in Him.
- In order for a person to truly live, he must know Jesus.
- Jesus reminded His disciples that the way for them to have life is through belief in Him.



Bring in several different types of leaves, twigs, and flowers. Help the children identify the type of tree, plant, or flower the leaves, twigs, and flowers came from. Talk with the children about different sources of life for the leaves, twigs, and flowers. Remind them that we get life from Jesus.

Anyone who looks to Jesus for salvation finds Him.

- God's promise to all people is salvation to anyone who looks to Jesus.
- When a person looks to Jesus to save him or her from the sin debt they owe, God is faithful to give salvation.
- When we look to Jesus for salvation, we receive new life in Him.
- He offers forgiveness of sins and a new life lived for God.

Finding Jesus means finding a new and eternal life.

- Our sin leaves us spiritually dead.
- When we find Jesus, we find new spiritual life because Jesus makes us alive in Him.
- When we look to Jesus for salvation and have saving faith in Him, we receive a new heart that is able to obey God's Word.
- Finding Jesus means finding eternal life.
- When we are made new in Jesus, we receive eternal life with Him in heaven.

Where do we find life? (We find life in Jesus when we look to Him as a Savior.)

1. Proverbs 8:35: Life is found in Jesus.

BIG IDEA: SIN LEADS TO DEATH AND ETERNAL SEPARATION FROM GOD.²**Death and destruction entered the world because of sin.**

- When God created the world and mankind, everything He created was good and without sin.
- There was no death and destruction.
- When man sinned, sin entered the heart of all mankind.
- Man's very nature changed after Adam and Eve sinned.
- The world changed from perfect to broken.
- Because of sin, death entered the world and destruction became a part of life.



Have the children define the words "separation" and "destruction". Ask the children to give examples of things that are separated. Talk with the children about how our rejection of Jesus leads to our eternal separation from God.

Sin separates us from God.

- A consequence of sin is complete separation from God.
- God is holy and righteous. When Adam and Eve sinned, God banished them from His presence by sending them out of the Garden of Eden.
- All of mankind is separated from God because of the sin nature inside of each person.
- Sin leads us away from God and not toward Him.
- We do not naturally seek God, but instead seek our own way and our own glory.

Rejecting Jesus leads to eternal destruction and separation.

- When a person rejects Jesus and never believes in Him, he or she is condemned to an eternity of total separation from God.
- Jesus is the only way to know God and when we reject Jesus, we reject God.
- Eternal destruction is a state of dying for all of eternity.
- Rejecting Jesus leads to this eternal destruction because this type of continual death is the consequence of man's sin.

What leads to eternal destruction and separation from God? (Our rejection of Jesus as Savior leads to our eternal separation from God and eternal destruction.)

2. 2 Thessalonians 1:9: The consequence of rejection of God is eternal punishment and separation from God.

BIG IDEA: EVERYONE WHO REPENTS OF THEIR SIN AND PLACES THEIR FAITH IN JESUS FINDS LIFE AND A PLACE IN GOD'S FAMILY.³

When we repent of our sin, we are looking to Jesus for salvation.

- Repentance means that we have arrived at an understanding of our own sin and we know that we owe a debt that we cannot pay ourselves.
- When we understand this about ourselves and then we look to Jesus for salvation, we are turning away from the sinful life that we were leading.
- When we look to Jesus, we are choosing to accept His offer of salvation and we are acknowledging our own inability to save ourselves.
- When we look to Jesus for salvation, we are believing and trusting in God and His plan and purpose.



Have the children use index cards to create membership cards for God's family. As they create their cards, have them include that being in God's family has no expiration date. It is forever.

Our repentance gives us eternal life.

- Our turning away from our sin not only gives us forgiveness in this life, but it gives us eternal life with Jesus in heaven.
- We have the promise of eternal life when we look to the one, true Savior.
- Our repentance is more than being forgiven. It is the way in which we can have real life and have it for all of eternity.
- Jesus shared with His disciples that the only way to have true eternal life is through Him.

Our repentance gives us membership in God's eternal family.

- When we look to Jesus for salvation, we are forgiven and we receive membership in God's family.
- This membership is not just for our time on earth, but it is eternal.
- Our membership in God's family is forever.
- God's family is everlasting. It will never end or be overtaken.
- We can rest in God and trust that we are always His.

What do we receive when we repent? (We receive forgiveness and membership in God's family.)

3. 1 John 3:1-2: When we believe in Jesus, we become part of God's family. He calls us sons and daughters.

BIG IDEA: OUR FAMILIES ARE TEMPORARY BUT GOD'S FAMILY IS FOREVER.⁴**Those who repent and believe belong to God forever.**

- When we repent and believe in Jesus, we have forgiveness of our sin debt forever.
- We do not owe that sin debt again. Even though we may sin against God, we do not owe our initial sin debt. When we sin on a daily basis, God is faithful to forgive us if we ask Him.
- When we do repent and believe in Jesus, we are God's children and nothing can ever take us away from Him.
- We are always a part of God's family and we can never lose our membership in His family.



Ask the children to make a list of things that last forever. Help them think of things that last for a long time and then things that don't last very long at all. Remind them that our membership in God's family never ends. It is eternal.

Our membership in God's family is everlasting.

- When we become a part of God's family, there is nothing we can do to lose our place.
- Because our membership in God's family is a gift from God and not based upon anything we do, there is no way for us to lose it.
- Just like our salvation is a gift from God and not based upon any work that we do, our membership in God's family is God's doing on our behalf.
- It's impossible for us to remove ourselves from the family of God because we do not make ourselves a part of it.
- God is gracious and forgiving and even after we are saved, He forgives us of our sins when we ask.

How long does our membership in God's family last? (It lasts for all of eternity.)

4. Hosea 2:19-20: Hosea paints a picture of what it means for a person to believe in Jesus and to know God forever. Knowing Jesus means being a part of God's family forever.

HOOKS

**Only One Way**

Give the children a piece of cardstock or poster board. Ask the children to make a ONE WAY road sign. Talk with the children about how there is only one way to know God and to have life and that is through Jesus.



- ONE WAY signs tell us that there is only one way to go down a particular street or to get to a particular place.
- There is only one way to know God and that is through Jesus.

**The Right Way**

Have the children sit in a circle and close their eyes. Hide an object very well in the room while their eyes are closed. Next, ask the children to open their eyes and then give them directions to find the object, except give them the wrong directions. Next, give them different directions, but still lead them away from the object. Third, ask for one volunteer and then give that volunteer clear directions to find the object. Talk with the children about how there is only one way to know God and that is through Jesus.

