

GOD PROVIDES ADOPTION

STORY: REDEMPTION

BIG TRUTH: GOD PROVIDES ADOPTION

John 1:11-13; Romans 8:14-17; Galatians 4:4-7; Ephesians 1:3-6; 1 John 3:1-3

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 8:15

"For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!'"

BIG IDEAS

- Our sin separates us from God.
- In His mercy and grace, God sent Jesus to save us from our sin.
- In His love, God not only saves sinners, but also adopts them into His family.
- Being adopted into God's family means we get all the rights and privileges of sonship.

BIBLE STORY: 2 SAMUEL 9

David showed mercy and grace to Saul's grandson, Mephibosheth when David restored all of Saul's land to Mephibosheth. David did not have to show Mephibosheth grace and mercy, but he chose to do so because of his love for Mephibosheth's father, Jonathan. David treated Mephibosheth as his own family. He brought him into his family and gave him rights and privileges. God brings us into His family when we repent and believe in Jesus.

STORY: REDEMPTION

Thankfully, God does not just leave us in the broken world, but is repairing the brokenness through His Son. From the very beginning of time, God promised He would fix creation, and He kept His promise by sending Jesus to rescue us from our sin. Jesus came to live on the earth and willingly died on the cross so that sin's power over creation would be broken forever.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- God adopts His children into a new family by His grace



Every child should feel:

- Awe at the gift of adoption that God has given to His people



Every child should:

- Treat others in the church with honor and respect because in Christ we are all members of the same family



Every child should want:

- To be adopted into God's family through faith and repentance

FAMILY DEVOTION: THE FAMILY OF GOD

When we repent and believe in Jesus, we are adopted into God's family. We become His sons and daughters and we receive rights and privileges as His children. We are no longer separated from Him, but are now part of His family forever.



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ROMANS 8:15

“For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’”

We are adopted into God’s family through repentance and belief in Jesus.

- When we repent of our sin and believe in the work of Jesus on the cross, we are set free from the slavery of sin.
- We are no longer separated from God.
- Not only are we no longer separated, we become His sons and daughters.
- We are adopted into God’s family through belief in His Son, Jesus.
- Our repentance is our turning away from our sin and deciding to follow God.
- Our belief in Jesus means that we believe He paid our sin debt and He is our Savior.

Our adoption means we do not have to fear God’s wrath.

- Before we repent and believe in Jesus, we live in rebellion to God.
- We do not follow God. Instead, we reject Him and follow our own way.
- Before we repent and believe, we are due God’s wrath towards us.
- After we repent and believe, we no longer have to fear God’s wrath and judgment.
- Because God makes us His children, we do not have to fear His wrath.
- He is our Heavenly Father and loves us as His children.

Because we are adopted, we call God “Father”.

- When we become part of God’s family, we call Him our father.
- He is our Creator and Father. He loves us like a father and cares for us as His children.
- We receive all the rights and privileges of being God’s child.
- We are not outsiders and are no longer separated from God.
- God desires to interact with us as our father. He is not a God who is distant or unapproachable.
- He is loving, kind and long-suffering with us. He cares for us by providing for us and protecting us.

BIBLE STORY: 2 SAMUEL 9

David and Mephibosheth

Opening Illustration:

Use craft sticks or small wooden dowels to create a scepter. Cut a crown out of cardstock and connect the ends and then attach it to the top of the scepter. Before attaching it, allow the children to decorate their crowns. Next, attach streamers to the scepter. Talk with the children about how God is the ruler of everything. He is fixing our broken creation, showing us grace and mercy and rescuing us through Jesus.

BIG IDEA: OUR SIN SEPARATES US FROM GOD.¹

God is a holy and perfect God.

- God is holy and He is worthy of our worship.
- God is without sin because He is righteous.
- Everything God does is right and good because He is perfect.
- He is the Creator of all things and He sustains all life.
- He is worthy of all worship and praise because He is righteous and holy.

Our sin is a turning away from God.

- Our sin is a rejection, or turning away from God.
- Our sin causes us to disobey God's commands.
- We walk away from God when we sin.
- When we disobey God's commands, we are disobeying Him.
- When we disobey Him, we are really rejecting Him as our God and Lord.

Sin keeps us from God.

- Our sin causes a great divide between God and us.
- He is holy and we are not, so we are separated from Him.
- He lives rightly and we do not. This separates us from Him.
- Our sin makes us choose a life separate from God.

What separates us from God? (Our sin separates us from God.)

Why does our sin separate us from God? (God is holy and righteous and because of our sinfulness, we are not.)

1. Isaiah 59:2: Our sin and iniquities have separated us from a holy and righteous God.

BIG IDEA: IN HIS MERCY AND GRACE, GOD SENT JESUS TO SAVE US FROM OUR SIN.²

God shows mercy by not giving us the death we deserve.

- Because we are all sinful and we sin against God, we all owe God a debt.
- The price of our sin is death. A blood sacrifice is what God requires as payment for our sin.
- The blood sacrifice must be without blemish or sin. No one is without sin.
- We are all born with a sin nature and we all sin.
- Jesus is the only person who was born without a sin nature. He is also the only person who lived a sinless life.
- He is the perfect sacrifice for our sin and God showed mankind mercy when He sent Jesus to be our substitute.



Give the children a piece of paper and ask them to make two columns on their paper and to write “mercy” at the top of one and “grace” at the top of the other one. Next, set a timer and ask the children to list as many things as they can that are examples of mercy and grace before the timer goes off. Allow the children to share their lists and then remind them that God sent Jesus to pay our sin debt because of His grace and mercy.

God shows grace by giving us something we do not deserve.

- We all deserve death because we willingly sin against God.
- We choose to rebel against God even after God has revealed Himself through His creation.
- We follow our sinful hearts instead of following God.
- Because we sin against God, we all deserve death.
- God showed mankind grace by sending Jesus to die in our place.
- We can do nothing to earn God’s grace. We are not worthy or deserving of His grace, yet He shows us grace.

We are redeemed from our sin because of God’s grace and mercy.

- God chose to send His only Son to be our substitute.
- God sent Jesus to join us in our humanity, to become like us by taking on a human nature so that He might be our substitute.
- When Jesus came to the earth, He lived a sinless life. Though He is fully man and fully God, He never sinned against God.
- He willingly went to the cross to pay our sin debt. He took on the full wrath of God that we had earned and paid our sin debt in full.

How does God show His grace and mercy to us? (He sent Jesus to pay our sin debt.)

2. Ephesians 2:8-9: It is through God’s grace and mercy that our sin is forgiven through the blood of Jesus.

BIG IDEA: IN HIS LOVE, GOD NOT ONLY SAVES SINNERS, BUT ALSO ADOPTS THEM INTO HIS FAMILY.³

God rescues us from our sin nature.

- We are all born with a sin nature that leads us to sin even more.
- No one is able to rescue himself from his sin nature.
- We are blinded by our sinfulness and we choose our own way instead of God's.
- God sent Jesus to pay our sin debt and to set us free from our sin nature.
- He rescues us from our sin nature and makes us part of His family.
- Just like David made Mephibosheth a part of his family, God makes us part of His.



Write the word "Adoption" on the board. Ask the children to name some of the things that can be adopted, such as pets, children, new names, new personas, etc. Remind the children that we become God's sons and daughters when we repent and believe because He adopts us into His family.

God makes us His children.

- We are born separated from God because of our sinfulness.
- Left to ourselves, we move away from God, not toward Him.
- He draws us to Himself through the work of His Spirit.
- When we repent and believe in Jesus, we become God's children.
- He no longer sees us as enemies, but sees us as His sons and daughters.
- We are freed from our sinfulness and are no longer separated from God.

We are known and loved by God as His children.

- Our sin causes a chasm, or great separation between God and us.
- God knows each of His children and understands us completely.
- When we repent and believe in God, we are known as His children.
- God knows us as His sons and daughters. He loves us as His children.
- We can have a personal relationship with God because we are His children.
- He is our heavenly Father and loves us perfectly.

What causes God to make us His children? (His great love for us is why He adopts us into His family.)

3. Galatians 4:7-8: We become God's sons and daughters when we repent and believe in Jesus.

BIG IDEA: BEING ADOPTED INTO GOD'S FAMILY MEANS WE GET ALL THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF SONSHIP.⁴

We are heirs of God.

- Adoption means becoming a member of a family, though we are not born into that family.
- We are not born into God's family. We are born separated from God.
- When we turn away from our sin and believe in Jesus, we are no longer separated from God.
- Our repentance and belief in Jesus means we are adopted into God's family.
- He willingly calls us His children even though we are born sinners and separated from Him.
- Because we are His children, we are His heirs.
- We have the same rights and privileges as a natural born son or daughter has.



Have the children look up the word "heir" in a dictionary. Ask them to describe what it means to be someone's heir. Next, remind them that we become God's heir and have all the rights and privileges of His children.

We become fellow heirs with Christ, God's Son.

- When we become God's children, we gain the rights and privileges of being His child.
- We join with Jesus as His children and we become His heir like Jesus is His heir.
- God looks on us and sees sons and daughters. He doesn't make a distinction between us.
- We gain access to Him like Jesus has access to Him.
- We gain the right to call Him Father and to spend eternity with Him.

God considers us His children always.

- God's adoption of us is final and forever.
- He considers us His children always.
- There is nothing that we can do to lose our position as His sons and daughters.
- He loves us always as our heavenly Father.
- Just like David took in Mephibosheth as part of his family for the duration of his life, we are God's children for all of eternity.

What rights and privileges do we gain when we are adopted by God? (We become His sons and daughters and have the same privileges as if we had been born His sons and daughters.)

4. Romans 8:17: *We are adopted as God's sons and daughters and we become fellow heirs with Christ.*

HOOKS

**Adoption Decree**

Give the children a blank piece of paper and markers. Help the children write an adoption decree declaring themselves part of God's family. Talk with the children about how we become a part of God's family when we repent and believe in Jesus.



- When we turn away, or repent of our sin and believe in Jesus, we become part of God's family.
- He makes us His sons and daughters by adopting us into His family.
- We receive the same rights and privileges of His children as if we were born His children.

**Brothers And Sisters**

Help the children create a paper chain using construction paper. Give each child a piece of construction paper and help him cut out the outline of a person on the fold of the paper to create a paper chain. Connect each child's paper chain to one another using staples or tape. Talk with the children about how we become brothers and sisters with one another when we repent and believe in Jesus. We become God's children and He calls us sons and daughters.

