

THE FAITHFUL FATHER PROVIDES A NEW NAME

STORY: REDEMPTION**BIG TRUTH: THE FAITHFUL FATHER PROVIDES A NEW NAME**

John 1:11-13; Romans 8:14-17; 1 Corinthians 1:9; Galatians 3:26-29; 4:4-7; Ephesians 2:19-22; 2 Thessalonians 2:16

BIBLE VERSE: 1 JOHN 3:1

“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know Him.”

BIG IDEAS

- In our sin, we are separated from God.
- In His grace, God provides adoption into His family.
- Through adoption, we are given a new name, children of God.
- A new name means, in Christ, we are given a new identity.

BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 17:1-14

God made a covenant with Abraham and Sarah. His covenant was His promise to make a great nation from them. When God made His covenant with them, He changed their names from Abram and Sarai to Abraham and Sarah. God is a good Father who gives us a new life when He redeems us.

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: A NEW IDENTITY

When we come to know God through His Son, Jesus, we receive a new life and identity. He calls us His sons and daughters and we are no longer outcasts. We have a new name as His children and a new hope in our eternal life with Him.

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BIBLE VERSE: 1 JOHN 3:1

“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know Him.”

God’s love compels Him to adopt us into His family.

- God’s love is perfect and everlasting.
- He loves the world and His love for the world compelled Him to send His Son to pay the sin debt of the world.
- God not only loves us enough to pay our sin debt, but He loves us so much, He makes us His children.
- He calls us His sons and daughters and makes us His family.
- He doesn’t just want us to be free from the penalty of our sin, but He wants us to be with Him and to have fellowship with Him.

We are given a new identity as part of His family.

- When we become a part of God’s family, we receive a new identity as His child.
- We are no longer enslaved to our sinful hearts, but are set free to follow and obey God.
- We become new creations through our belief in Christ.
- His righteousness is credited toward us and God no longer sees us as sinners, but as righteous.
- We are new people, with hearts that are full of the Holy Spirit who helps us obey God.

Our new identity makes us different from the world.

- Because we are made into new creations, we are no longer bound by our sinful ways.
- Our thoughts and feelings become more like Christ’s as we grow in our relationship with Him.
- We are united with Christ and just like the world did not accept Christ, it does not accept us.
- Our new identity as God’s child makes us different from the world around us.
- We walk in the light and not the darkness.

BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 17:1-14

God’s Covenant with Abraham and Sarah

Opening Illustration:

Give each child a piece of art paper and paint. On the board write the words “God is...” Talk with the children about the different things that God is. He is Savior. He is Father. He is Merciful. He is Gracious. He is our Rescuer. Ask the children to draw pictures with their paint of one of the things that God is. Tape the pictures together when they are dry to make a paper quilt. Place the quilt on the wall under the phrase “God is...” written on a long piece of paper.

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BIG IDEA: IN OUR SIN, WE ARE SEPARATED 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.)



Give each child a plastic bag with different colored pieces of paper in it. Ask the children to choose one color and separate it from the rest of the pieces of paper. Set a timer and see which child can separate his or her chosen color from the rest the quickest. Remind the children that our sin separates us from God.

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

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BIG IDEA: IN HIS GRACE, GOD PROVIDES ADOPTION INTO HIS FAMILY.²

When we believe in God, we receive the right to be His children.

- Though we are undeserving of God's offer of salvation to us, many privileges come with His salvation.
- Belief in Jesus and His work on the cross on our behalf brings us freedom from our punishment of death and also the privilege of being in God's family.
- God shows us grace by bestowing rights upon us when we believe the gospel.
- We do not deserve these rights, but they are a free gift from God.



Give each child a blank piece of paper, markers, and other craft supplies. Ask the children to create a picture of their family. Allow the children to share their pictures and then discuss with them how God adopts us into His family when we believe in Jesus.

It's through God's unmerited favor towards us that we get to be His children.

- God shows us grace, or unmerited favor when He offers us salvation.
- He saves us while we are still sinners and undeserving of His salvation.
- Our sin is against Him, yet He offers us forgiveness without us ever having to make it right ourselves.
- His grace is mighty in that He offers us the right to be called His children.
- We get to be a part of His family because He shows us grace and makes us part of His family when He saves us.
- We no longer have to be estranged from Him, but we can walk in the freedom of having our sins forgiven and being known as His sons and daughters.

Believing in Christ means we are adopted into His family.

- Not only do we have our sin forgiven, but we are adopted into God's family.
- Christ is the way for us to know God and to no longer be separated from Him.
- Because of Christ, our sin debt is paid in full. This means that we can have access to God through Christ.
- When we repent of our sin and believe in Jesus, God brings us into His family and makes us His children.

How do we become part of God's family? (God adopts us into His family when we believe in Jesus.)

2. John 1:12: We are considered God's children when we believe in Jesus.

THE FAITHFUL FATHER PROVIDES A NEW NAME

BIG IDEA: THROUGH ADOPTION, WE ARE GIVEN A NEW NAME, CHILDREN OF GOD.³

Because we are adopted into God's family, we become new people.

- When we repent and believe in Jesus, our lives change because our hearts change.
- We do not continue to do the same sinful things that we once did all the time.
- Now, we know when we sin and we turn to God for daily repentance.
- We become a new creation when we believe in Jesus. God makes us new as He makes us a part of His family.
- We gain a new family through God.



Give each child a blank piece of paper and colored pencils. Ask the children to write their name on the paper and then to draw pictures on their paper that represent their personalities. Next, talk with the children about different nicknames that they might have or could have. Talk with the children about how God calls us His children when we believe in Jesus. We become new people and have new names.

We are no longer aliens, but we become God's children.

- Before we know Christ, we are separated, or alienated from Him.
- We are separated from God and have no access to Him.
- After we believe in Jesus, we are no longer separated from God.
- We have a relationship with Him and can know Him in a personal way.
- We are no longer alienated from God, but we are His children.
- We are no longer called His enemies, but instead are called His children.

We join with God's other children to form His family.

- God's family is made up of all the people all over the world who believe in Jesus.
- Everyone who calls on the name of Jesus for salvation is saved and each one becomes a member of God's family.
- When we believe in Jesus, we join with God's other children.
- We are no longer outcasts, but are children of God.

What new name are we given? (We are called children of God.)

With whom do we join when we believe in Jesus? (We join with the other children of God.)

3. Ephesians 2:19-22: We are no longer strangers to God, but are fellow citizens with other believers.

THE FAITHFUL FATHER PROVIDES A NEW NAME

BIG IDEA: A NEW NAME MEANS, IN CHRIST, WE ARE GIVEN A NEW IDENTITY.⁴

Anyone who believes in Christ becomes a new creation.

- We are born with a sin nature and our minds are darkened to the truth about God.
- Our lives are full of rebellion and rejection of God.
- When we repent and believe in Jesus, we receive a new heart that is not enslaved to sin.
- We believe the Gospel and our lives change.
- Christ makes us a new creation in Him. We are reborn into a person who is righteous before God.
- We have a new identity. We no longer have to walk in shame and fear of God's wrath.



Give each child a small index card, scissors, and markers. Ask the children to create their own identity card that expresses some things about them that are unique. Remind them that we receive a new identity when we repent and believe in Christ.

Following Christ means gaining a new identity.

- When we believe in Christ, we are set free from the enslavement of our sin nature.
- Because we are no longer slaves to sin, we can walk as children of God.
- We can do things that bring God glory. We can truly love as God commands us to love. We can serve one another.
- This type of living is different from our sinful living, which is centered on ourselves and results in a self-centered lifestyle.
- Our new identity is one of righteousness and justification before God.

Our new identity sets us apart for Christ.

- When we repent of our sin and believe in Christ, we become a part of God's family.
- We are no longer strangers, but are brothers and sisters with Christ.
- We are a chosen people who are set apart to bring God glory.
- We are chosen to be God's children and to live our lives in relationship with Him.

What does it mean to have a new name in Christ? (It means we have a new identity.)

4. 2 Corinthians 5:17: When we repent and believe in Jesus, we become new creations. We receive a new identity as a child of God.

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HOOKS



Identity Change

Have the children sit in a circle. Choose one child to wear a blindfold. Next, ask the other children to describe someone in the circle to the blindfolded child. The blindfolded child should guess who is being described. Let the children take turns being blindfolded and guessing. Once you've played several times, lead the children in a discussion about how our identity changes when we repent and believe in Jesus.



New Name Badge

Give each child a name badge. Ask the children to write their names on the name badge. Before class on another set of name badges, write Child of God on enough badges for every child in the class. Ask the children a series of questions about what it means to be a child of God. Give each child one of the badges with child of God written on it. Lead the children in a discussion about how we receive a new name when we repent and believe in Jesus.



- Each of you has a name that you were given when you were born.
- This name is how people identify us.
- When we repent of our sin and believe in Jesus, we receive a new name.
- We are known as children of God. We become a part of His family.