

THE FAITHFUL FATHER PROVIDES A NEW NAME

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

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A NEW IDENTITY

On a large piece of paper trace the outline of your child. Next, use old magazines and newspapers to find pictures of things that portray your child's personality and identity. Use glue to place these pictures on the outline of your child. Talk with your child about how we all have an identity when we're born. When we repent and believe in Jesus, we are given a new identity in Christ.

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

Genesis 17:1-14.

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

God had big plans for Abraham. When God first called Abraham, his name was not Abraham. His name was Abram. God called Abram and made a special promise to him. He promised to make a great nation from Abram. Many years later, when Abram and his wife, Sarai were old, God reassured Abram that He was going to make a great nation from them. He promised Abram that one day, Abram's descendants would be more numerous than the stars. God even told Abram that He was giving Abram a new name. From now on Abram would be known as Abraham and Sarai would be known as Sarah. God promised to cause Abraham and Sarah to conceive and have a child. From this child, God would make His family. When we repent and believe in Jesus, we become part of God's family. Becoming part of God's family means we have a new identity in Christ. We are no longer seen as sinners, but God sees us as righteous. We have a new name as a child of God. We are no longer enslaved to our sin nature, but are set free to bring God glory with our lives.

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

- What promise did God make to Abraham and Sarah? (He promised to give them a child and to make their descendants more numerous than the stars.)
- When we become part of God's family, what happens to our identity? (It changes and we are known as His children.)



As a family, memorize 1 John 3:1 by dividing the verse into smaller sections. Assign a section to a family member. Set a timer and see who can memorize his or her section before the timer goes off. When the timer goes off, switch sections and set it again. Keep playing until each person has had each section.



As a family, create a calendar that shows the activities that your family enjoys doing. On the calendar write the activities that each of you does each day and the activities that your family enjoys doing. Talk through the activities with your child and remind him that these things give your family identity. When we repent and believe in Jesus, we receive a new identity in Him.



Help your child create a comic strip showing how we gain a new identity when we repent and believe in Jesus. Share with your child that we are adopted into God's family when we believe in Jesus.



Share with your child how your identity changed when you became a follower of Christ. Share what it means for you to be known as a child of God instead of a sinner.

Spend time as a family praying and thanking God for giving you a new name when you repent and believe in Jesus.