

THE FAITHFUL FATHER PROVIDES A NEW STANDING

STORY: REDEMPTION

BIG TRUTH: THE FAITHFUL FATHER PROVIDES A NEW STANDING

1 Corinthians 1:9; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Romans 3:21-26; 5:6-11; Ephesians 2:11-13; Colossians 1:21-23;
2 Thessalonians 2:16; 3:3

BIBLE VERSE: 1 PETER 2:9-10

"But as you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."

BIG IDEAS

- In His mercy, God rescues us from our sin and makes us part of His holy family.
- Being a part of God's family means our standing is that of saint not sinner.
- As adopted children, we are no longer isolated individuals under God's wrath.
- As adopted children in God's eyes, we are chosen, royal, holy, and His.

BIBLE STORY: JOHN 8:1-11

As Jesus was teaching, the scribes and Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery to Jesus. They questioned Jesus about whether the woman should be stoned to death or not, but Jesus challenged their thinking about sin and one another. We are all sinners and are all in need of God's mercy and grace. Jesus rescues us and makes us a part of His family.

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: WRATH NO MORE

Before we know Christ, we are under God's wrath. We deserve his punishment of death, but God made a way for us to be free from that punishment. He sent Jesus to save us from our sin and make us a part of His family.

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We are born into darkness.

- Because we inherit a sin nature, we are all born into darkness.
- Our hearts are sinful and set on sinful things.
- We do not live in the light or even recognize the light.
- Instead, we move away from God and follow the ruler of this world.
- Our sin keeps us blinded to the truth about God and it separates us from Him.

We are chosen by God to be His people.

- Those who repent and believe in Jesus are chosen by God.
- God chooses us and sets us apart to be His people.
- He doesn't leave us in our sin. Instead, He seeks us out and makes us His sons and daughters.
- We are no longer outcasts or separated from God. We are His people and are part of His family forever.

It is God's mercy and grace that call us from darkness to light.

- We would not naturally move toward God because of our sinfulness.
- We do not naturally seek God. We seek our sin instead.
- God seeks us out and calls us to Himself.
- He opens our eyes and helps us see His truth.
- It is His mercy that brings us to repentance and His grace that forgives us for our sin without us having to pay for it.

BIBLE STORY: JOHN 8:1-11

The Woman Caught In Adultery

Opening Illustration:

Gather together clear contact paper, different colored tissue paper (torn and balled up), and black construction paper. Draw a cross on the construction paper and then cut the inside of the cross out leaving a 1" edge. Next, place the contact paper over the cross and place it sticky side up. Give the children different colored tissue paper to place on the contact paper. Once they finish filling in the contact paper with tissue paper, place another piece of contact paper on the back of the cross. Remind the children that the cross shows us that God rescues us from our sin and brokenness. He fixes our brokenness by sending Jesus to pay our sin debt.

THE FAITHFUL FATHER PROVIDES A NEW STANDING

BIG IDEA: IN HIS MERCY, GOD RESCUES US FROM OUR SIN AND MAKES US PART OF HIS HOLY FAMILY.¹

Before our faith in Christ, we are aliens to God.

- We are born separated from God because we are born with a sin nature.
- Our sin nature creates a great divide between God and us. We are not part of His family, nor do we have a relationship with Him.
- Our hearts lead us away from God, not toward Him.
- We willingly choose to reject Him. We are His enemies.
- We are not friends of God while we are sinners.



Bring in a poster board with an outline of a large house drawn on it. Next, give each child a small heart and a marker. Ask the children to write their name on the heart. Play a game of pin the heart on the house with the children. Use a bandana as a blindfold. Tell the children that the house represents God's family. The goal is for the children to place their heart in the center of the house. After you play, remind the children that it is God's mercy that rescues us and makes us part of His family.

God shows mercy by saving us from our sin.

- There is no way for us to save ourselves. We cannot set ourselves free from our sin nature.
- All people are in great need of being saved from their sin.
- God showed mercy to every person by sending His Son to pay our sin debt for us.
- He willingly sacrificed His only Son to die the death that we deserve to die.
- He lovingly gave up His Son to make us His friends.

God not only rescues us, but He makes us part of His family.

- God's mercy saves us from the eternal spiritual death that we deserve.
- His love and mercy also make us a part of His family.
- It would have been enough for God to save us and set us free from the sin debt that we owe, but He did more than that.
- He willingly adopts us into His family.
- When we become a part of God's family, we are no longer considered unrighteous. We are considered righteous in God's eyes.

What causes God to make us part of His family? (His love and mercy cause Him to make us part of His holy family.)

1. Ephesians 2:19: Through the life, death and resurrection of Christ we are no longer aliens, but are part of God's family.

THE FAITHFUL FATHER PROVIDES A NEW STANDING

BIG IDEA: BEING A PART OF GOD'S FAMILY MEANS OUR STANDING IS THAT OF SAINT, NOT SINNER.²

At one time we were sinners and separated from God.

- We are born separated from God because we are born with a sin nature.
- We inherit our sin nature from Adam and Eve. It is part of every human being born after them.
- Our sin keeps us from God. Our hearts lead us away from God. We reject Him and choose a life of rebellion.
- We stand before God as sinners. We are under His wrath and are deserving of His judgment and punishment.
- Our sin holds a consequence of death. We owe this great sin debt towards God.



Write the words “saint” and “sinner” on the board. Ask the children to write their own definitions of the two words and then share them. Lead them in a discussion of what it means to be a saint versus a sinner. Remind them that when we have saving faith in Jesus we are known as saints and no longer as sinners.

Christ's death paid our sin debt.

- No person is able to pay his or her sin debt. There is no human being who is without sin, except for Jesus.
- God sent His Son, Jesus to take on human flesh that He might be our substitute.
- Jesus lived a sinless life as a man on this earth. He went to the cross and took on the sin of the world.
- Jesus died on the cross and fulfilled the sin debt that we each owe.
- Our sin debt is no longer held against us when we repent and believe in Jesus.

Faith in Christ means we are saints not sinners.

- Christ's death on the cross completely paid the sin debt owed by every person who had ever lived and will ever live.
- His death is enough to satisfy the debt we each owe, yet we do not benefit from His death until we have saving faith in Jesus.
- Our faith in Christ, which means we believe that we are sinners and that He died for our sin, sets us free from the sin debt that we owe.
- We are no longer seen as sinful. Instead, we are seen as righteous before God.
- We are no longer sinners, but we are fellow saints in God's eyes.

How does our faith change the way God views us? (He views us as saints and no longer as sinners.)

2. Ephesians 2:19-20: When we have saving faith, we are no longer sinners, but are counted as fellow saints.

THE FAITHFUL FATHER PROVIDES A NEW STANDING

BIG IDEA: AS ADOPTED CHILDREN, WE ARE NO LONGER ISOLATED INDIVIDUALS UNDER GOD'S WRATH.³

While we are sinners, we are subject to God's wrath.

- Being a sinner means that we are willfully rejecting God.
- Our sin leads us away from God and towards our own sinfulness.
- We reject God's rule over our lives.
- Our sinful choices are against God and His Word.
- Our sin means that our hearts are in rebellion to the one true God who is the Creator of all things.
- Because of our sin, we are under God's wrath.
- He is the one true Ruler of all things. He alone is worthy to judge us and we stand guilty before Him.



Divide the children into small groups and ask the children to create a list of negative consequences for their sinful behavior. Ask the groups to share the consequences. Write the consequences on the board and allow the children to take turns coming to the board and marking through them or erasing them. Tell the children that when we have saving faith, our sins are no longer held against us.

Our sin isolates us from God.

- Because we are sinning against God and our sin is a rejection of Him, our sin creates a division between God and us.
- We are not in harmony with God, nor do we have friendship with God while we are living in our sin.
- We are enemies of God and isolated from Him.
- God is holy and righteous and chooses not to look on sin; therefore, we are separated from Him.

Our adoption into God's family means we are no longer subject to God's wrath.

- When we turn away from our sin, or repent of it, and believe in Jesus, we are no longer isolated from God.
- God no longer sees us as sinful. He no longer sees us as enemies.
- God sees us as righteous because of the death of Jesus on the cross on our behalf.
- We are no longer held accountable for the sin debt that we owe, so we are no longer under God's wrath.
- God brings us into His family and calls us sons and daughters.

How are we no longer under God's wrath? (When we have saving faith, we are adopted into God's family and seen as righteous.)

3. Romans 5:9: We are justified by Jesus' blood and saved from the wrath of God through Jesus' death and resurrection.

THE FAITHFUL FATHER PROVIDES A NEW STANDING

BIG IDEA: AS ADOPTED CHILDREN IN GOD'S EYES, WE ARE CHOSEN, ROYAL, HOLY, AND HIS.⁴

Our adoption into God's family means we are seen as holy.

- When we are adopted into God's family, God no longer sees our sin.
- When Jesus died on the cross, He fulfilled the sin debt required of every person.
- When we turn away from our sin and believe in Jesus, our sin debt is forgiven us.
- God sees us as righteous and holy because of the work that Jesus did.
- We can stand before God as a friend instead of as an enemy.



Give each child a strip of paper and markers. Help the children create a crown using their paper and markers. Ask the children to write their names on their crown. Lead them in a discussion about how we are God's chosen royal people.

God chose us to be in His family before the foundation of the world.

- Those who have saving faith in Jesus are a chosen people.
- Before God created the world and everything in it, He chose us to be in His family.
- When we are adopted into God's family, we are His chosen people.
- We are no longer separated from Him, but we are holy before Him.
- We belong to Him and we have a personal relationship with Him.
- He is our Heavenly Father and we are His children.

Being in God's family means we are His royal children.

- God is holy and royal.
- He is King of Kings.
- When we are adopted into God's family, we, too, are royal and holy.
- We are His royal children because He is royal.
- Our standing before Him changes and we are no longer outcasts, but we are children of the King.

What are we as God's adopted children? (We are holy, royal, chosen and His.)

4. Ephesians 1:3-4: We are a chosen race before God. He chose us before the foundation of the world.

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HOOKS



Sinner And Saint

Divide the children into two groups. Give each group a poster board and markers. Give one group the word “Saint” and the other group the word “Sinner”. Ask the groups to come up with their own definition of the word and then draw pictures that symbolize the meaning of the word. Allow each group to share their poster. Lead the children in a discussion about how we are no longer sinners, but are saints when we are adopted into God’s family.



- When we have saving faith in Jesus, God adopts us into His family.
- When we are adopted into His family, we are no longer seen as sinners, but are seen as saints.
- We become God’s sons and daughters and are free from the sin debt that we owe.



A New Standing

Give each child a cut out of a shoe and markers. Ask the children to write God’s Family on their shoe and then use their markers to decorate their shoes. Talk with the children about how we receive a new standing before God when we have saving faith in Jesus.



- Saving faith in Jesus means we turn away from our sin, repent of it and believe that Jesus died for our sin.
- When we have saving faith in Jesus, God brings us into His family. He makes us His children.
- We are no longer seen as sinners. We are seen as saints.
- We receive a new standing before God because we are no longer under His wrath.