

# THE FAITHFUL FATHER PROVIDES A NEW FAMILY

STORY: REDEMPTION

## BIG TRUTH: THE FAITHFUL FATHER PROVIDES A NEW FAMILY

John 1:11-13; Romans 8:12-17; 1 Corinthians 1:9; Galatians 3:26-29; Ephesians 1:11-12;  
2 Thessalonians 2:16; 1 John 3:1-3

## BIBLE VERSE: EPHESIANS 2:19

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.”

## BIG IDEAS

- In God’s love, He provides adoption into His family through Jesus even when we were far away.
- Being a part of God’s family means that we get a new family.
- God’s family is the redeemed church.
- As members of God’s family, our connection and relationship to one another is deeper than any connection that we could ever have to our physical family.

## BIBLE STORY: PHILEMON

In Paul’s letter to Philemon, he shared the good news of Onesimus’ salvation with Philemon. Onesimus had been one of Philemon’s slaves, yet now, Paul encouraged Philemon to welcome Onesimus as a brother rather than as his slave. Paul’s letter shows the power of Jesus to change the way we are viewed by God and others.

## 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

## BIBLE STORY: PHILEMON

In Paul’s letter to Philemon, he shared the good news of Onesimus’ salvation with Philemon. Onesimus had been one of Philemon’s slaves, yet now, Paul encouraged Philemon to welcome Onesimus as a brother rather than as his slave. Paul’s letter shows the power of Jesus to change the way we are viewed by God and others.

# THE FAITHFUL FATHER PROVIDES A NEW FAMILY

## BIBLE VERSE: EPHESIANS 2:19

*“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.”*

### We are strangers and aliens to God before saving faith.

- When we are living in our sin, we are separated from God.
- We are not in a relationship with God because of our sinfulness.
- Our sin leads us to rebel against and reject God.
- Because of our rebellion, we do not move toward God, but away from Him.
- Our sin makes us His enemy. It causes us to be aliens to Him.

### Christ makes a way for us to be forgiven.

- Because we are all born sinful, there is no person who can save himself or anyone else for that matter.
- We are all in need of someone to save us.
- God made a way for our sin debt to be paid.
- He sent, His Son, Jesus to live the perfect life and to die on the cross for our sin so we could be forgiven.
- God didn't leave us as His enemies. Instead, He made a way by sacrificing on our behalf so that we can be reconciled to Him.

### When we are forgiven, we become part of God's family.

- The joy of being reconciled to God is more than just having our sins forgiven.
- Not only do we have our sins forgiven, but we also become part of God's family
- We are no longer considered separate from Him or aliens to Him.
- We are reconciled to Him, have a relationship with Him and get to call Him our heavenly Father.

## BIBLE STORY: PHILEMON

*Philemon and Onesimus*

### Opening Illustration:

Give each child a blank piece of paper and then small strips of paper. Ask the children to create a cross out of the strips of paper. Use tape or glue to attach the cross to the blank piece of paper. Next, give the children stickers and markers to decorate their crosses. Talk with the children about how Jesus is the way that God fixes our brokenness and takes away our separation from Him.

# THE FAITHFUL FATHER PROVIDES A NEW FAMILY

**BIG IDEA: IN GOD'S LOVE, HE PROVIDES ADOPTION INTO HIS FAMILY THROUGH JESUS EVEN WHEN WE WERE FAR AWAY.<sup>1</sup>**

**Jesus makes a way for us to be reconciled to God.**

- We are separated from God by our sin. We are not part of His family while we are sinners.
- Just like Onesimus was not part of Philemon's family because he was Philemon's slave, we are not part of God's family when we are in our sin.
- God sent Jesus to pay our sin debt so we could become part of God's family.
- Jesus makes a way for our sins to be forgiven so that we can become part of God's family.
- When we are reconciled to God, we are part of His family.



Divide the children into small groups and ask them to define the words "adoption" and "family". Next, allow the groups to share. Talk with the children about how God adopts those who believe in Jesus into His family and makes them His sons and daughters.

**Being forgiven means we are adopted into God's family.**

- Because it is our sin that keeps us away from God, when our sin is forgiven, there is no barrier between God and us.
- Having our sins forgiven means we can be friends with God instead of enemies.
- Because our sins are forgiven, we become part of God's family.
- He sees us as His children. We are no longer separated from Him.
- We gain a whole new life and new family when we have saving faith in Jesus.

**God chooses us to be a part of His family.**

- We do not choose God. Our sin keeps us blind to God's truth and causes us to move away from God and not toward Him.
- We do not decide one day to believe God. Instead, He draws us to Himself through His Spirit.
- He chooses us and makes us part of His family.
- He chooses to do more than just forgive us. He chooses to call us sons and daughters.

*How does God show us love through adoption? (He makes a way through Jesus for us to be adopted into His family.)*

1. John 1:12-13: Those who believe in Jesus become members of God's family.

# THE FAITHFUL FATHER PROVIDES A NEW FAMILY

## BIG IDEA: BEING A PART OF GOD'S FAMILY MEANS THAT WE GET A NEW FAMILY.<sup>2</sup>

### Being adopted into God's family joins us to other believers.

- Being adopted into a family means that a person becomes a son/daughter, brother/sister automatically.
- A person's status as an orphan changes forever when he or she is adopted into a family.
- A person gains parents, siblings and extended family through adoption.
- When we are adopted into God's family, we gain relationships with other followers of Christ.
- We become part of a larger group of people known as the family of God.



Give each child an index card and ask him or her to write a family member's name on the card. Gather the cards together and place them in a pile. Have the children take turns drawing a card from the pile and guessing whose family member is on the card. Once everyone has had a turn, remind them that when God adopts us into His family, we gain a new family.

### We not only gain eternal spiritual life, but a family of fellow believers, too.

- Because God calls us sons and daughters when we are saved, we gain relationships with the other people He calls sons and daughters.
- All the people that God adopts into His family are joined by their shared forgiveness.
- Those who have put their faith and trust in Jesus are no longer isolated, but instead are part of a larger, bigger group of people known as God's children.
- Once, every person was separated from God by sin, but now, His redemption of the world has enabled us to join together as spiritual brothers and sisters.

What does being part of God's family mean? (It means a person gains a new family through the other believers in God's family.)

2. 1 Corinthians 12:12: When we believe we are no longer separated from God, we are part of His family.

# THE FAITHFUL FATHER PROVIDES A NEW FAMILY

## BIG IDEA: GOD'S FAMILY IS THE REDEEMED CHURCH.<sup>3</sup>

### Every member of God's family is considered part of His church.

- When we have saving faith and become part of God's family, we are part of His church.
- The church is made up of God's sons and daughters adopted into His family through the blood of Jesus.
- Every person in all of the world who has believed in Jesus is part of God's church.

### God's church is built upon Christ as its cornerstone.

- The church could not exist without Jesus.
- Jesus is the cornerstone of the church because it is through His life and death that people are reconciled to God.
- Without the life and death of Jesus, there would be no reconciliation and no family of God.
- Because Jesus is the Redeemer of the world, the church is rooted in Him.
- God's sons and daughters are redeemed and His church is made up of His redeemed people.



Divide the children into small groups. Give each group a small set of Legos and ask each group to build something with the Legos they have been given. Allow the groups to share their creations and ask each group to explain what the creation is made up of. Remind the children that the church is made up of God's redeemed family.

*What is the redeemed church? (God's family, or His sons and daughters, are the redeemed church.)*

3. Ephesians 2:19: *When we have saving faith, we are part of God's family. God's family is His church.*

# THE FAITHFUL FATHER PROVIDES A NEW FAMILY

**BIG IDEA: AS MEMBERS OF GOD’S FAMILY, OUR CONNECTION AND RELATIONSHIP TO ONE ANOTHER IS DEEPER THAN ANY CONNECTION THAT WE COULD EVER HAVE TO OUR PHYSICAL FAMILY.<sup>4</sup>**

**Being a member of God’s family is eternal.**

- The earthly family unit does not last forever. It lasts only as long as each member of it is alive on this earth.
- When we become a member of God’s family, our membership is everlasting.
- We can never be removed from God’s family once we are members of it.
- Because our membership in God’s family is based upon the work of Jesus, we can never lose it.
- Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross paid our sin debt once and for all and our redemption is final and complete. We can never lose it and we can never lose our position in God’s family.



Bring in a box of colored pencils, crayons, and markers. Ask the children to share the differences they see in the colored pencils, crayons, and markers. Next, talk with the children about how our relationships are different with unbelievers than they are with believers.

**As members of God’s church, we can build true lasting relationships that are eternal.**

- Our earthly relationships do not last beyond death if they are with people who are not in God’s family.
- Any relationship we have with someone here on earth that isn’t with a fellow believer will not last beyond the grave.
- When we have relationships with other believers, our investment in one another is eternal. It goes beyond this life and into our eternity.
- Our relationship is based upon a common desire to glorify God and this brings us closer than any other earthly relationship.
- The relationships we have with other believers are more meaningful because we share the common bond of salvation and we can relate to one another in a more glorifying way.

*How are our relationships with other believers different than our relationships with unbelievers? (Our relationships with other believers are eternal and hold a common bond. Our relationships with non believers are not eternal and are not as close.)*

4. Ephesians 4:15-16: *The body of Christ is joined together through Christ and works to build one another up.*

# THE FAITHFUL FATHER PROVIDES A NEW FAMILY

## HOOKS



KNOW

### United In Forgiveness

Bring in a large piece of white paper and markers. Ask the children to create an illustration of what they think forgiveness and friendship look like. Talk with them about how Paul asked Philemon to forgive Onesimus and receive Onesimus as a brother and not as a slave. Talk with them about how we can have eternal relationships with one another when we share the bond of forgiveness given to us through Jesus.



DO

- When we have been forgiven for our sin, we can have deeper, more personal relationships with other believers because we share the bond of common forgiveness.
- Our relationships with other members of God's family are deeper and eternal.



FEEL

### Friends For Life

Divide the children into small groups or pairs. Give each pair an index card and colored pencils. Ask the children to make a list of friends that each of them has. Next, ask the children to share their lists. Talk with the children about how the friendships we have with fellow believers are eternal.



WANT