

# THE FAITHFUL FATHER PROVIDES A NEW FAMILY

## 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:

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



### Every child should feel:

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



### Every child should want:

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

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## BROTHERS FOREVER

Help your child create two people using craft sticks, felt, ribbon, craft eyes, and markers. Talk with your child about how the two people represent two members of God's family. God gives each believer a new family that is eternal when He adopts him or her into His family.

### DISCOVER IT:

(Use the passage to illustrate the Big Truth.)

Philemon.

### THINK ABOUT IT:

(Use the commentary to reinforce the Big Truth.)

Philemon was a Christian slaveholder who lived in the city of Colossae. One of Philemon's slaves, Onesimus escaped to Rome. Paul encountered Onesimus while they both were in Rome. Paul shared the good news of Jesus with Onesimus and Onesimus believed and became a follower of Jesus. Paul then wrote a letter to Philemon asking him to show Onesimus forgiveness by welcoming Onesimus back as a brother, not as a slave. Paul encouraged Philemon to treat Onesimus as one of the body of Christ. Onesimus' position had changed since he had turned from his sin and believed in Jesus. Our position changes when we repent and believe in Jesus. We are no longer outcasts. We also gain a new family. Every person who repents and believes in Jesus is part of His family. God gives us a new family when we believe in Jesus. We have deeper, more personal relationships with fellow believers because those relationships are based upon the bond of common forgiveness and they are eternal.

### TALK ABOUT IT:

(Use the questions to discuss the Big Truth)

- What did Paul ask of Philemon? (He asked him to welcome Onesimus back as a brother instead of a slave.)
- How does God give us a new family when we follow Jesus? (Every person who is a follower of Jesus is part of His family. When we follow Jesus, we become part of this family, too.)



As a family, memorize Ephesians 2:19 by creating a puzzle from the verse. Write the verse on a piece of paper and then have your child cut the verse into puzzle pieces. Take turns putting the puzzle together and saying the verse out loud together.



As a family, spend some time naming some of the members of your church. Have your child write down the names of the people he or she knows that are believers. Talk with your child about how the relationships you have with these believers are eternal and everlasting because you share forgiveness through Jesus.



Share with your child about a particular friendship you have with a fellow believer. Share what makes this friendship different from a friendship you have with an unbeliever.



Help your child create a people paper chain using cardstock or white paper. Help your child identify different friends or extended family who are fellow believers and write their names on each of the people in the paper chain. Remind your child that we gain a new family when we become followers of Christ.

Spend some time this week praying and thanking God for giving us a new family when we have saving faith.