

BIG TRUTH: GOD OFFERS ETERNAL LIFE

John 3:36; 5:24; 6:40; 10:27-30; Romans 10:11-13; 1 John 5:11-13

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”

BIG IDEAS

- God loves everyone He has created.
- In His overflowing love, God sacrificed His beloved Son for rebellious sinners.
- Anyone and everyone who places their faith in Jesus will be saved.
- God’s gift of salvation is eternally endless.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 23:32-43

Jesus was crucified alongside two other criminals. One of the criminals who was crucified ridiculed Jesus and rejected Him. The other criminal believed Jesus is who He said He was and that criminal was saved. God loves the people He created and He sent salvation to all the world.

STORY: NEW CREATION

Part of the beauty of the gospel is that God does not just rescue us from the power of sin, but He is also making everything new. God offers new creation to those who place their faith in Jesus. This newness comes in two ways. The first is that by breaking the power of sin, Jesus is making men and women into brand new people with new identities. Second, God is not only making people new, but He is also going to make a new heaven and a new earth for us to live on and worship Him in.

BIG AIMS**Every child should know that:**

- Through Jesus, we can have new, true, eternal, abundant life in God

**Every child should feel:**

- Excitement for the opportunity to live eternally with God

**Every child should:**

- Talk about how this life will pass away, but eternal life in God is forever

**Every child should want:**

- To live for eternity rather than what feels right in the moment

ALL WHO BELIEVE

Look at a map or globe with your child and help him identify different countries and continents. Remind your child that God sent Jesus to die for everyone. Anyone in the entire world who believes in Jesus receives eternal life.

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

Luke 23:32-43.

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

Because all people are born sinful and reject God, all people are in need of salvation. Our sinfulness keeps us from being able to pay our own sin debt. God made a way for us to be saved. He sent His Son, Jesus to die in our place. Jesus was crucified on a cross to pay our sin debt. As He was dying on the cross, He was crucified with two criminals—one on each side of Him. One of the criminals rejected Him. This criminal reviled Him and ridiculed Him. The other criminal believed in Jesus. He believed that Jesus was who He said He was. Because of this man's belief, he received eternal life with Jesus in heaven. When we repent of our sin and believe in Jesus, we receive eternal life, too. Our sins are forgiven and we are no longer held accountable for our sin debt. God gives us eternal life through Jesus.

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

- Why was Jesus crucified? (Because of the sin of mankind, Jesus died on the cross for our sin debt.)
- Who was crucified with Jesus? (Two criminals were crucified with Jesus.)
- What did one of the criminals receive? (One criminal received eternal life because he believed in Jesus.)

**KNOW**

As a family, memorize John 3:16 by racing one another to see who can write the verse from memory the fastest. Say the verse out loud together several times.

**DO**

Share with your child what it means to have your sins forgiven. Talk with your child about how you came to believe in Jesus and how it has changed your life.

**FEEL**

Role play Jesus' interaction with the two criminals. Remind your child that anyone who believes in Jesus receives eternal life with Him.

Take your child on a drive throughout your city. Point out all the people that Jesus died for and who can receive eternal life if they believe.

**WANT**

Spend some time this week praying, thanking God for offering eternal life.