

GOD IS FATHER

STORY: REDEMPTION / YEAR: ETERNITY

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS FATHER

Psalm 84:11; Matthew 7:7-11; John 1:14-18; Romans 8:12-17; Galatians 4:4-7; Ephesians 1:3-5; Hebrews 12:7-10

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.”

BIG IDEAS

- We are outside of the family of God.
- God sent His Son to rescue us from our separation.
- Adoption is applied through faith in Jesus.
- Adoption is final and forever.

BIBLE STORY: JOSHUA 2; 6:22-25; MATTHEW 1:5

Rahab was not part of God’s special people, the Israelites, but when Joshua sent two spies into Jericho to scout the city, Rahab knew they were followers of the one, true God. Rahab had faith in God and believed He is the true God and because of her faith she was adopted into God’s family and became one of His special people. Our faith makes us part of God’s family, too.

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



KNOW

Every child should know that:

- God sent Jesus to die in our place as our substitute
- We need a substitute because we cannot pay our sin debt on our own



FEEL

Every child should feel:

- Awe at Jesus’s willingness to sacrifice Himself as our substitute



DO

Every child should:

- Talk about why we need a substitute and how Jesus is our substitute



WANT

Every child should want:

- To believe in Jesus’s work on their behalf to pay their sin debt

FAMILY DEVOTION: CHILDREN OF GOD

Just like Rahab was outside of the family of God, we are outside of His family, too. We have no way of saving ourselves or making ourselves part of God’s family. Only Jesus can save us. He made this possible when He died on the cross in our place.

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.”

Our sin leaves us separated from God.

- God is holy and righteous. He has no sin and is unable to look on sin.
- God created us to be with Him.
- Our sin separates us from God.
- Our sinful hearts lead us to sin against God and they cause us to be broken.
- Our sin breaks our relationship with God.
- We are left outside of God’s family because of our sinful hearts.
- We are outsiders and without a family because of our sinful hearts.

God does not leave us separated from Him.

- God made a way for us to get back to Him.
- He made a way for our brokenness to be repaired.
- He made a way for our sin to be forgiven.
- God sent His Son to make a way for us to be brought back to Him.
- He made a way for us to be under His protection and care again.
- He sent His Son to make a way for us to be His children.

God adopts us into His family and calls us His children.

- God sent Jesus to pay our sin debt so that we could be in His family.
- None of us deserve to be a part of God’s family because we are all sinful and broken.
- When we have saving faith in Jesus Christ, we become part of God’s family.
- God brings us into His family and makes us His children.
- God is our Creator and our Father.
- He adopts us into His family and makes us His children forever and always.
- We then become heirs of His promise and receive eternal life.

BIBLE STORY: JOSHUA 2; 6:22-25; MATTHEW 1:5

Rahab and the Spies

Opening Illustration:

Help the children make “spy glasses” using empty toilet paper rolls. Help them wrap them in aluminum foil or decorate them with markers and crayons. Use clear cling wrap to make the “glass”. Talk with the children about how the spies found Rahab and then she believed and followed God. God finds us and makes us part of His family just like Rahab became a part of God’s family.

- We all are outside of God’s family because of our sin.
- When we have saving faith, He makes us His children.
- We become part of God’s family forever.

BIG IDEA: WE ARE OUTSIDE OF THE FAMILY OF GOD.

What is a family? (A family can be parents and children living together and also a group of people who love and care for one another.)

Our sin causes us to be outside of God's family.¹

- God is a holy God who cannot look on sin.
- We are a sinful people who are led to sin even more by our sinful hearts.
- Our sin separates us from God.
- Rahab was living in sin.
- She was not one of God's people.
- She was in a pagan land, a land that didn't follow the true God.
- Her sin separated her from God and His family.
- Our sin separates us from God.
- We are outside of God's family because of our sin.



Ask the children to write their own definitions of the following words: "children", "mother", "father", "family". Allow the children to share their definitions, then lead them in a discussion about how we become a part of God's family when we repent and believe in Jesus.

Our sin makes us orphans.

- When Adam and Eve sinned against God, they broke their relationship with Him.
- Their sin broke all of mankind's relationship with God.
- They were sent out of God's home that He had prepared for them.
- They were separated from Him, their Father and Creator.
- Our sin separates us from our Heavenly Father.
- Our sin makes us orphans because we are separated from our Father and Creator.
- We are away from God because of our sin. God is holy and just and will not look on sin.
- Rahab was outside of the family of God. She was not a part of God's special people, the Israelites.
- Our sin causes us to be Fatherless, to be orphans.

What causes us to be Fatherless? (Our sin causes us to be Fatherless and orphans.)

1. Isaiah 59:2: Our sin separates us from God. It makes us His enemies and causes us to be orphans.

BIG IDEA: GOD SENT HIS SON TO RESCUE US FROM OUR SEPARATION.

What are some things that can be separated? (Food on a plate can be separated, blocks can be separated, piles of paper can be separated, etc.)

God made a way for us to be in His family.

- We are all outside of God's family when we are in our sin.
- God didn't leave us in our sin.
- He didn't leave us separated from Him, He pursues us to bring us back to Him.
- God sent Jesus to pay our sin debt so we could be in God's family.
- When the Israelite spies went to Rahab's house, God made a way for her to be in His family.
- It was not by chance that the spies went to Rahab's house.
- God pursued Rahab just like He pursued us in sending Jesus to be our Rescuer.
- God loves us and He sent Jesus to overcome our separation just like He sent the spies to Rahab's house to make her a part of His family.



Divide the children into groups and give each group a bag of different colored buttons. Ask the children to separate the buttons according to their color family. Show the children that each button may not be the exact same shade of one particular color, but it's part of a color family. For example, there may be a light blue button and a dark blue button. Remind the children that we become part of God's family when we repent and believe in Jesus.

Jesus paid our sin debt on the cross to bring us into God's family.²

- We are incapable of paying our sin debt.
- God sent Jesus to pay our sin debt so that we could be in His family.
- Jesus took on our sin on the cross in order for us to be with God again.
- God sent Jesus to overcome our separation from Him.
- God sent two spies to Rahab in Jericho to bring her into His family.
- God sent Jesus to rescue us from our separation.
- Rahab was outside of the family of God. She was not part of His special people, but He made a way for her.
- He made a way for every person to be in His family through the blood of Jesus, His only Son.

How can we be part of God's family? (Because Jesus paid our sin debt we can be in God's family when we have saving faith in Jesus.)

2. Ephesians 2:19: Jesus paid our sin debt so that we might be in God's family. When we have saving faith, we are no longer separated from God, but we are part of His family.

BIG IDEA: ADOPTION IS APPLIED THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS.³

What is adoption? (Adoption is when someone is taken into a family he or she was not born into and considered a part of that family.)

Our sin is forgiven when we have saving faith in Jesus.

- Jesus is the only way to be in God's family.
- When Jesus paid our sin debt, He overcame the separation between God and man.
- Jesus' death and resurrection is the payment for our sin debt. .
- When we have saving faith in Jesus, we receive forgiveness for the sin debt we owe.
- Rahab believed in God when the two spies came to her house and had the faith to risk her life to hide them in her house.
- She had faith in the one, true God.
- She immediately turned away from her old life and followed God.



Ask the children to define the word "faith". Talk with the children about how it is faith that causes us to become part of God's family. Because we have faith in Jesus' life and death, we repent and believe, and then become one of God's children.

We become God's children when we have saving faith in Jesus.

- Not only is our sin debt forgiven when we have faith in Jesus, but we become part of God's family.
- We become God's children when we place our faith in Jesus.
- Rahab became part of God's people when she believed.
- She left Jericho and lived as one of God's children.
- Our saving faith means we are turning away from our old life of sin and rebellion and are choosing to follow God.
- God adopts us into His family. He makes us His children forever.

How are we adopted into God's family? (When we have saving faith in Jesus we become God's children.)

3. Ephesians 1:5: We are adopted into God's family when we have saving faith and we are counted as His children.

BIG IDEA: ADOPTION IS FINAL AND FOREVER.**God's forgiveness is eternal, or forever.**

- God does not give us forgiveness then take it away.
- When we have true saving faith in Jesus, we are forgiven forever.
- We become one of God's children forever.
- When we have saving faith in Jesus, nothing can remove us from God's family. God does not leave us or remove us from His family.
- Rahab became a part of God's family and she stayed in His family.
- She didn't stop being a part of His family ever.
- When Jesus died for our sins, His death covered our sins forever.
- We do not have to worry about losing His forgiveness because it is forever.



Bring in different circular objects. Show the objects to the children and ask the children to find the beginning and end of the circles. When the children cannot, lead the children in a discussion about how God's adoption of man is forever and everlasting just like the circle doesn't have an end.

God makes us part of His family forever.⁴

- When Rahab became one of God's people, she was one of them forever.
- Even when we sin again and again, God continues to offer His forgiveness.
- He does not remove us from His family.
- God's adoption of us as His children is final and forever.
- God's adoption of us can never be undone.
- Once we become His children we are His children forever.
- Rahab became one of God's special people even though she was not born as one.
- She never stopped being one of God's special people.
- She married an Israelite and was part of Jesus' genealogy on the earth.
- She is recorded as a great woman of faith even though she was born in a pagan land and lived a sinful life before God.
- God adopts us into His family and becomes our Father forever.
- We can have new life in God's family as Rahab did when she became part of God's family.

How long does God's adoption last? (It lasts forever because God Himself is eternal.)

What can remove us from God's family? (Once we are adopted as one of God's children, nothing can separate us from God's love)

4. John 10:28: Nothing can tear us out of God's hand. His adoption of us into His family is secure and forever.

HOOKS

**Outsiders**

Write the following verses on the board: Romans 3:23, Psalm 51:5, Mark 7:21, Ephesians 5:8, and Ecclesiastes 7:20. Ask the children to look up and read each of the verses. Lead the children in a discussion about what the verses say about mankind.



- Every person is born sinful.
- We cannot save ourselves.
- Because we are sinful, we are outside of the family of God.
- God sent Jesus to reconcile us to Himself.
- He adopts us into His family through His Son, Jesus.

**Family Collages**

Place a blank poster board on the wall. Give each child a piece of paper and ask the children to draw a picture of his or her family. Allow the children to also use old magazines and newspapers to cut out pictures that represent their families. Ask the children to create one large collage by gluing their pictures of their families on the poster board. Talk with the children about how we become part of God's family when we repent and believe in Jesus.



- God sent Jesus to pay the price for our sin.
- When we repent and believe in Jesus, we are adopted into God's family. We become His sons and daughters.