

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**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

**Every child should feel:**

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

**Every child should:**

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

**Every child should want:**

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

CHILDREN OF GOD

Use popsicle sticks, glue, red yarn, and markers to create Rahab's house. Help your child glue the popsicle sticks together to make a house, and then place a piece of red yarn on one of the windows. Remind your child that Rahab became a part of God's family when she believed in God.

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

Joshua 2; 6:22-25; Matthew 1:5.

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

Joshua took over leading the Israelites into the Promised Land when Moses passed away. As the Israelites prepared to enter the Promised Land, Joshua sent two spies into the land of Jericho to scout it out. The spies entered the house of Rahab, a prostitute. She had heard about God's special people and the many ways God had taken care of them when they left Egypt and then when they wandered in the wilderness. Rahab had heard the way God had parted the Red Sea and how He had provided for them. She believed the God they were following was the true God. When the spies asked her to hide them from her own people, she did because she had saving faith in God. The spies promised to not kill her or her family and to take her back with them. When the Israelites came into Jericho to destroy it, they did not destroy Rahab or her family. Instead, they took them back with them to the other Israelites and made her a part of their family. God adopted her into His family and made her his daughter. She was His daughter forever because God's adoption of His children is forever. God does the same thing to us. When we have saving faith in Him, He makes us His children. He adopts us into His family and calls us His sons and daughters. We are His children forever. Nothing can take us away from God.

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

- How did Rahab become part of the Israelites? (She believed in the true God.)
- How did Rahab help the spies? (She hid them and didn't say where they were hidden.)
- How do we become part of God's family? (We have saving faith.)

**KNOW**

As a family, memorize 1 John 3:1 by writing the words of the verse on small paper plates. Make two sets of plates. Set a timer and race one another to see who can put the words in order and say the verse out loud the quickest.

**DO**

Take turns leading your child through several "faith" exercises, such as a blindfolded walk, a trust fall, etc. Talk with your child about what faith means and how we are adopted through faith in Jesus.

**FEEL**

Use popsicle sticks and felt to create a stick family that represents your family. Use different colored felt, craft eyes, yarn, and other supplies for the clothing, hair and eyes of each family member. Talk with your child about what it means to become a part of God's family.

**WANT**

Share with your child what it means to you to be a part of God's family. Share with your child what adoption is and how you have been adopted into the family of God.

Spend some time this week praying with your child and thanking God for bringing them into your family. Thank God for bringing us into His family when we believe.