4 | 5 GUIDE

7

GOD'S MISSION IS TO SHARE THE GOSPEL

STORY: NEW CREATION / YEAR: PURPOSE

BIG TRUTH: GOD'S MISSION IS TO SHARE THE GOSPEL

Romans 5:6-11; 8:1-4; Galatians 3:13-14; Ephesians 5:1-2; 1 Peter 2:22-24; 3:18; 1 John 2:1-2; 4:9-10

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 15:15

"No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you."

BIG IDEAS

- Jesus followers have experienced the unconditional love and forgiveness of God.
- Jesus calls us His friends because He made known God's story of redemption to us.
- Friends share the good news of God's story with their friends.
- The most unloving thing we can do is withhold the Gospel.

BIBLE STORY: ACTS 9:1-22; ROMANS 10:14-15

God has given His followers the mission of sharing the good news of the gospel with those who have not heard. Paul set the example of someone who shared the gospel with those who had not yet believed and we are to follow that example in sharing the good news of the gospel.

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:

- God has given us a holy mission to make Him known to others

Every child should feel:

- Burdened for those in their lives who do not know Jesus

Every child should:

- Share the gospel with someone who does not know Jesus

Every child should want:

- To live faithfully on mission for God and be aligned with His purposes instead of our own

FAMILY DEVOTION: THE GOOD NEWS

The good news of the gospel is that we do not have to perish for our sin. We can be forgiven by believing in Jesus. Paul was faithful to share this good news and we should be too.

FDP
FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP PLAN

Property of Tri-Cities Baptist Church
171 Promise Land Dr. Gray, TN 37615

GUIDE 7

STORY: NEW CREATION

GOD'S MISSION IS TO SHARE THE GOSPEL

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 15:15

"No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you."

Those who believe are known as Jesus' friends.

- Before a person has saving faith in Jesus, he or she is an enemy of God.
- Our sin nature leads us to rebel against God and causes us to move away from Him.
- In our sin, we rebel against Him and seek our own way.
- We do not please Him or bring Him glory, nor do we want to do either.
- When we have saving faith in Jesus, we are no longer strangers or aliens to God.
- We become His friends and sons and daughters.

Being Jesus' friend means being a part of His mission.

- Jesus' mission is to share the good news of the gospel with all people.
- When we believe in Jesus, we join in that mission because we are friends of God.
- Being part of Jesus' family means sharing in the call to share the gospel with those who are perishing in their sins, unredeemed before God.
- When we are friends with Jesus, we will want to share the goods news of the gospel with others.

Every believer receives the knowledge necessary to tell others about Jesus.

- When we have saving faith in Jesus, we have the knowledge to tell others about the saving power of Jesus.
- Knowing Jesus means we understand the work that He did on the cross and we understand what it means to believe in Him.
- We also know what it means for others to have saving faith and how others can have saving faith.

BIBLE STORY: ACTS 9:1-22; ROMANS 10:14-15

Paul And The Mission Of God

Opening Illustration:

Give each child a large piece of paper or poster board and markers or colored pencils. Ask the children to create a comic strip that tells of the many things that God offers us, such as salvation, a new home, love, the opportunity to serve Him, eternal life, etc. Talk with the children about how God offers us a new way that is better than our old sinful way.

GUIDE 7

STORY: NEW CREATION

GOD'S MISSION IS TO SHARE THE GOSPEL

4/5

BIG IDEA: JESUS FOLLOWERS HAVE EXPERIENCED THE UNCONDITIONAL LOVE AND FORGIVENESS OF GOD.[1]

All those who confess their sins receive forgiveness.

- When we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against God and we believe that Jesus is the way to have forgiveness, we are forgiven.
- After we have saving faith in Jesus, Jesus is faithful to forgive us of the sins we commit.
- Because of our sin nature, we continue to sin while we are alive on this earth, but when we confess them, God forgives us.
- As believers, God's forgiveness is a constant part of our lives.
- We experience this forgiveness daily as we confess our sins to Him daily.

Have the children define the words "forgiveness," "unconditional," and "love." Share the definitions that the children come up with. Remind them that every follower of Jesus has experienced His unconditional love and forgiveness.

Anyone who looks to Jesus for salvation receives forgiveness.

- Any person who turns to Jesus for salvation receives that salvation.
- God's salvation is for every person who believes that Jesus is the way to have salvation.
- When a person recognizes his or her sinfulness and turns to God, he or she receives eternal forgiveness for that sin debt owed by every person.
- Jesus continues to forgive when His people are faithful to confess their daily sins to Him.

All who believe have experienced the love of Jesus.

- It is Jesus' love that led Him to die on the cross.
- His love is for God the Father and for God's people.
- Jesus died on the cross because He loved the world and desired to offer a way for mankind to be saved from the sin debt that it owed.
- Jesus showed His love for us by dying on the cross on our behalf.
- Anyone who believes in Jesus as the way to salvation experiences His love.

What have Jesus followers experienced? (They have experienced the unconditional love and forgiveness of God.)

1. *1 John 1:9: We have saving faith when we believe in Jesus. After we believe in Jesus, we continue to experience His forgiveness when we confess our sins and ask for His forgiveness. He is faithful to forgive us.*

GUIDE 7

STORY: NEW CREATION

GOD'S MISSION IS TO SHARE THE GOSPEL

BIG IDEA: JESUS CALLS US HIS FRIENDS BECAUSE HE MADE KNOWN GOD'S STORY OF REDEMPTION TO US.[2]

When Jesus came to the earth, He was light in the dark world.

- Because of the sin of Adam and Eve, the world was broken.
- Sin entered the world and darkness came with it.
- When Jesus came into the world, He came as light to shine the truth on the darkness of men's hearts.
- Jesus is light and His truth sets men free from their sin nature.
- Paul was blinded by his sin nature, but when he met Jesus, the light of Jesus set him free to see and believe the truth.

Give the children a blank piece of paper and ask them to create a comic strip showing the main parts of Paul's conversion story. Ask them to share their stories and remind them that we are saved when God reveals His redemption story to us.

Those who believe have seen the light and walked away from darkness.

- When God draws a sinner to Him, He shines the light of the gospel on the darkness of a person's heart.
- When a person believes in Jesus, it means that he or she sees the truth and believes that Jesus is the way to forgiveness.
- Those who believe in Jesus are set free from the power of their sin nature and are considered friends of God.
- Because God reveals His redemption story to people they follow Him by believing that Jesus is the way to forgiveness.

Believers are welcomed as God's friends.

- Before we walk in freedom from our sin, we are enemies of God.
- Our sin keeps us away from God and separates us from His truth.
- When we believe in Jesus, we are no longer aliens or strangers to God.
- Instead, we become the friends of God and are considered part of His family.
- Being part of His family means we are part of His mission.

Why are we called friends of Jesus? (God reveals His redemption story to us and we believe in Jesus.)

2. *2 Corinthians 4:6: We know God because He has sent the Light in the world to shine on the darkness of our sinful hearts.*

GUIDE 7

STORY: NEW CREATION

GOD'S MISSION IS TO SHARE THE GOSPEL

4/5

BIG IDEA: FRIENDS SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD'S STORY WITH THEIR FRIENDS.[3]

God gives His people the mission of sharing about Him to others.

- God's mission involves His people.
- God has designed that His followers share the truth of the gospel with others.
- In order for people to believe in Jesus they must hear the truth about Jesus.
- When God's followers experience this forgiveness, they share this truth with others so that other people may experience the same forgiveness.

Help the children work together as a group to create a breaking news story about the good news of the gospel. Remind them that when we know God's forgiveness we will share this good news with our friends.

When we have experienced God's forgiveness, we will share that with others.

- God saves us to be a part of His family and to share in His mission on this earth.
- When we fully comprehend what God has saved us from and our part in His redemption story, we will share the good news of Jesus with our friends.
- We will see that to be truly loving is to share this good news with others.
- Paul experienced this forgiveness and immediately began sharing it with the world.

God's forgiveness is so astounding we want to tell others.

- To fully understand God's forgiveness is to understand our own sinfulness.
- When we understand our own sinfulness and what God has saved us from, we will be compelled to share this truth with others.
- We will be like Paul and seek others out to share the good news of the gospel with them.

What do friends share with their friends? (Friends share the good news of the gospel with their friends.)

3. *Matthew 23:14: God's mission is that His people tell others about His love for them and the sacrifice of Jesus on their behalf.*

GUIDE 7

STORY: NEW CREATION

GOD'S MISSION IS TO SHARE THE GOSPEL

4/5

BIG IDEA: THE MOST UNLOVING THING WE CAN DO IS WITHHOLD THE GOSPEL.[4]

Those who love God will love others.

- The love of God transforms us to be like Him.
- It is impossible to know God and to love Him and not love others.
- If we hate others, we do not truly know and love God.
- God loves all people and in order to love like He loves, we must love others, too.
- When we know God and love Him, we will love all people.

Help the children practice sharing the gospel by dividing them into small groups and having the children take turns sharing the gospel with each other. Remind them that the most loving thing we can do is share the gospel with others.

Those who have experienced God's love will love like God.

- When we have a right view of ourselves and understand how much God loves us, we will love like Him.
- We can love like Him when we know Him because He gives us His Spirit to transform us to be like Him.
- When we have experienced the sacrificial love of God, we will love like He does when we encounter others.
- Paul showed this sacrificial love by making his life about sharing the good news of the gospel with others.

To share God's offer of forgiveness is the most loving thing we can do.

- When we experience the greatest love ever known to the world and we fail to share this love with others, we are being unloving.
- We cannot truly love others and keep the truth of the gospel to ourselves.
- In order to truly love God and love others, we must join in God's mission.
- When we are quiet about the truth of the Gospel, we are withholding the most vital piece of information and truth for any person's life.
- Paul immediately began sharing the good news of the gospel because he understood the love that had been shown to him.

What is the most loving thing we can do? (The most loving thing we can do is share the gospel with others.)

4. *1 John 4:21: We are commanded to love others and to truly love others is to share the good news of the gospel with them.*

GUIDE 7

STORY: NEW CREATION

GOD'S MISSION IS TO SHARE THE GOSPEL

4/5

HOOKS

A Transformed Life

Divide the children into small groups and have them role-play Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus and his immediate sharing of the gospel with others. Lead them in a discussion about how we will share the gospel when we fully understand the forgiveness and love that have been shown to us.

- When we are like Paul and fully understand our own sinfulness, we will understand what God has done for us.
- When we understand what God has done for us, we will share the gospel with others.

A Loving Letter

Give each child stationery and an envelope. Ask the children to choose a friend or family member who does not know Jesus to write a letter to. In the letter ask the children to share the truth of the gospel with that person. Encourage the children to give their letters to their friends. Spend time praying with the children about sharing the truth with anyone who may not know Jesus as their Savior.

Property of Tri-Cities Baptist Church 171 Promise Land Dr. Gray, TN 37615