

BIG TRUTH: GOD CREATED ME FOR LOVE

Deuteronomy 7:7-8; Micah 7:18; John 13:34-35; 15:12; Ephesians 2:4-10; Colossians 3:12-14; 1 John 2:9-11; 3:10-14; 4:8

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 13:34

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another."

BIG IDEAS

- God is love.
- God loves us.
- God demonstrates His love for us through Jesus.
- We are called to love others the way Jesus loves us.

BIBLE STORY: MATTHEW 5:38-48

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches that to truly love someone is to love even those who don't love us. Loving others is a sign that God lives inside of us because we understand that He loved us first and loves us unconditionally.

STORY: CREATION

God created everything. Everything we see, hear, feel, taste, and that exists was created by Him. Not only did He create everything, but He created everything perfectly, including humanity. He created mankind in His very image and likeness to reflect His worth. All of creation was made just like He wanted and designed it to be. To His delight, God looked at everything He made and declared that it was good. All creation exists for God, is good, and was created to bring Him glory.

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

- God created them with purpose for a purpose

**Every child should:**

- Live in a way that is honoring to the Lord

**Every child should feel:**

- Awe at the intentionality of God in giving purpose to our lives

**Every child should want:**

- To learn more about God's purposes for their lives

CREATED FOR LOVE

As a family, make cookies or salt dough ornaments in the shape of hearts. As you make the cookies or ornaments, remind your child that God is love and He loves us. He commands us to love others just as Christ loves us.

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

Matthew 5:38-48.

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

Jesus gave a special sermon called the Sermon on the Mount. During this sermon He taught many things. One of the things He taught His followers about was love. Jesus taught His listeners what it means to really love. God is love. He is the beginning of everything and He is the beginning of love. He loved us first and He loves us unconditionally. Jesus showed this love by sacrificing His own life to save the world. He taught His listeners about this type of love as He spoke during this sermon. He taught them to love their enemies, not to hate them. He taught them to love others. These truths Jesus lived out perfectly. He loved the world even though the world hated Him. He died for the world even though it rejected Him. We should love like God loves us. We should consider others more important than ourselves like Jesus considered us more important than Himself. When we do these things, we are loving like Christ loves us.

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

- What did Jesus teach about? (He taught about love and how to love.)
- What did Jesus say we should do to our enemies? (He said we should love them.)
- Why should we love our enemies? (We were God's enemies and He still loved us.)

**KNOW**

As a family, memorize John 13:34. Talk about how God has loved us and how we are called to love others in the same way.

**DO**

Spend some time this week making cards for your neighbors, friends, and family members. Talk with your child about the importance of showing others love because God first loved us.

**FEEL**

Spend some time this week showing your child love in special ways. As you do different things with your child or for your child, share with him why you are loving him. Remind him that we love because God first loved us and He commands us to love like He loves.

**WANT**

Spend time with your child this week praying and thanking God for loving us first. Ask Him to help your family love others as He loves us.