

GOD'S MISSION IS FUELED BY POSITION

BIG TRUTH: GOD'S MISSION IS FUELED BY POSITION AND PURSUIT

Matthew 7:15-20; Colossians 1:9-14; Romans 6:15-19; Hebrews 10:19-25

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 15:5

"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

BIG IDEAS

- Our lives are supposed to bear fruit that brings glory to God.
- We cannot bear fruit unless we abide in the vine.
- Abiding is position, being connected to God through Jesus.
- Abiding is pursuit, an active and intentional love for and obedience to God's Word and Spirit.

BIBLE STORY: JOHN 15:1-15

Everyone who abides in Jesus, actively pursuing to stay connected to Him through knowledge of and obedience to His Word bears much spiritual fruit for Him. Jesus is the way we fulfill the mission that God has given each of His followers.

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

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CONNECTED FOR LIFE

Spend time creating a family tree of your family. Help your child draw the outline of a large tree with branches. Help your child write the names of family members on the branches of the tree. Talk with your child about how your family is connected always. Remind your child that when we know Jesus, we abide in Him and are connected to Him forever.

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

John 15:1-15.

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

As Jesus taught His disciples, He taught them how to bear good fruit for Him. When we know Jesus, we abide in Him. Jesus is our vine, or the rock on which we stand. He is the source of all life and what enables us to live for God. Jesus taught His disciples that in order for them to please God, they had to abide in Him. When a person abides in Jesus, they have had saving faith in Him. Having saving faith in Jesus means that a person receives the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit works inside of a person to enable that person to bear good fruit for God. The fruit of the Spirit is evident in a person's life when they abide in Jesus. Jesus taught His disciples that anyone who doesn't abide in Jesus cannot bear good fruit. Instead that person bears bad fruit and is still separated from God.

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

- How can we bear good fruit that glorifies God? (When we know Jesus and abide in Him, we bear good fruit.)
- Who bears bad fruit? (Those who do not know Jesus bear bad fruit.)



As a family, memorize John 15:5 by playing a game of Hangman using the verse as the puzzle. Talk about how we can only fulfill God's mission by God's power, and we have access to His power when we abide in Him.



Take your child to the produce section of the grocery store and ask your child to help you identify good fruit and bad fruit. Talk with your child about how those who know Christ and abide in Him bear good fruit and those who do not bear bad fruit.



Take your child on a walk through your local park. Ask your child to find the root of different trees and plants. Talk with your child about how the branches and leaves cannot live unless they are connected to the vine or root. Remind him that we cannot bear good fruit unless we abide in Christ, our vine.



As a family, come up with a plan to help your family abide in Jesus. Talk through practical things that your family can do, such as praying together every day, having a family devotion, memorizing verses, etc. Talk through the fruit of the Spirit and how it is the Holy Spirit that helps a person bear this fruit for God.

Spend some time this week praying, thanking God for sending Jesus to help us bear fruit for Him.