

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:**

- By grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, we can be reconciled to God.

**Every child should feel:**

- Thankful that God would send His Son so that we could be reconciled to Him

**Every child should:**

- Pursue reconciliation in their relationships with friends and family because God has made a way for them to be reconciled back to Him

**Every child should want:**

- To honor God and live in restored relationship with Him

IN THE FOLD

Take your child on a scavenger hunt through your neighborhood or a local park looking for things that belong outside and things that belong inside. Talk with your child about how our sin separates us from the family of God. It places us outside of His family, but Jesus adopts us into it forever.

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. 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 writing the words of the verse on small plastic cups and rearranging the order of them. Take turns putting the words in order and saying the verse out loud.

**DO**

Set a timer and give your child a bag of marbles or a box of crayons. Give yourself a bag of marbles and crayons too. Race your child to see who can separate the different colors in the bag or box before the timer goes off. Remind your child that we are separated from God's family because of our sin.

**FEEL**

Help your child create a comic strip telling how our sin separates us from God and how He adopts us into His family. Remind your child that our adoption into God's family is forever.

**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.