

BIG TRUTH: GOD SENDS HIS BELOVED PEOPLE TO SHOW HIS LOVE TO OTHERS

John 13:34-35; John 15:12-16; 2 Corinthians 5:18; Ephesians 5:1-2; Colossians 3:12-14; 1 John 3:16-18; 4:7-11

BIBLE VERSE: 1 JOHN 4:16b

“God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.”

BIG IDEAS

- God loves others when they are unlovable.
- God’s love for us produces a love within us.
- We love others sacrificially because God first loved us.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 10:25-37

We know what love is because God first loves us. We know how to love sacrificially because God loves us sacrificially. It is because of Jesus’ willingness to pay our sin debt by dying on the cross that we know how to love others. Jesus shares a story of a Samaritan who loved like God. The Samaritan did not consider the cost of helping the man who was robbed and beaten. The Samaritan didn’t think he was too busy to help. He showed love to the man in the same way that God shows us love---sacrificially and unconditionally.

FOUNDATION: GOD IS LOVE - GOD GIVES HIMSELF

God is love. Love is not just something that God does, it is who He is. God’s love is perfect and unchanging. It is not simply an emotion or feeling, but it is an unbreakable commitment. His love is displayed to humanity and all of creation by giving us the greatest gift in all the universe....Himself! Even when humanity rebelled against God, He still displayed his love and commitment to us by sending Jesus to redeem us. God’s character of love is displayed throughout human history in that He loves us even when we do not love Him back. The way that God demonstrates His love for us is by sending Jesus to die in our place.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know:

- God is love
- Love is not just something God does, it is who God is
- Love is not just an emotion or a feeling



Every child should feel awe:

- Thankful for the love of God
- Love for God who loves us even in our sin



Every child should:

- Choose to love others because God first loved them



Every child should want to:

- Grow in love for God

The Family Devotion on the next page is a weekly tool for the home. It is designed for you as family to gather for a few minutes on a set night of the week to unpack the Big Truth together. Use the model below and customize it to fit your family. As you continue to learn, love, and live out the Big Truth, some additional Hooks (next page) are provided that correspond to the Big Aims (see above). Use them to keep the conversation going throughout the week with your family.

GOD SENDS HIS BELOVED PEOPLE
TO SHOW HIS LOVE TO OTHERS**TO KNOW GOD IS TO SHOW LOVE**

Spend some time baking cookies to take to your local nursing home or shut-ins from your church. Go as a family to the nursing home or the homes of the shut-ins. God loves us and His love causes us to love others. We can show God's love to others even when it's hard or costs us time and money.

DISCOVER IT:

Read 1 John 4:16.

THINK ABOUT IT:

When we encounter God, we will encounter His love. His love is so great it's nearly impossible to comprehend. We do not naturally love the way that God does. When we understand how God loves us, we can't help but show that love to other people. That's what John tells us in his first letter. We can't know God and not love people. The two things go together because God is love. When we know God and we seek to follow Him, we will love others. Not only will we love others, but we will love those we find difficult to love. That's how God's love changes us. It makes us more like Him. He loves the unlovable and we can, too, when we know God.

TALK ABOUT IT:

- How do we know God's love? (When we encounter God, we encounter His love.)
- How does God's love change us? (It enables us to love the unlovable because that's what God does.)



Help your child memorize 1 John 4:16b saying the verse in a quiet voice and then a loud voice.



As a family spend some time making cards to send to people. Let your child choose some people to send cards to and then go together to the post office to mail them. Talk with your child about how you're showing love to others by encouraging them with a card.



As a family make a list of ways you can share God's love with each other over a week. Place the list somewhere that is easy to see. Each day, check off when someone has shown love to someone else. At the end of the week, spend time praying as a family thanking God for His love which helps you show love to others.



As a family make gift bags for your mail carrier and/or garbage person. You can give out a Hershey kiss or heart-shaped candy. Leave a note telling your mail carrier or garbage person that you appreciate what they do. Tell your child that caring for others and showing kindness is a small way to show God's love to the world.