

GOD LOVES US EVEN WHEN
WE ARE UNLOVABLE**BIG TRUTH: GOD LOVES US EVEN WHEN WE ARE UNLOVABLE**

Deuteronomy 9:6-7; Psalm 36:7-9; Romans 5:6-8; Ephesians 2:1-6; Colossians 2:9-15; 1 John 3:8-10; 4:10

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 5:8

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

BIG IDEAS

- God not only shows love, He is love.
- God's love is not dependent upon our obedience.
- God's love is greater than our sin.
- God's love changes our hearts.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 15:11-32

God's love is unconditional. It is never dependent upon our obedience. Jesus shared a parable of a father whose love for his son was unconditional. The father of the prodigal son didn't stop loving his son when he left with his inheritance. When his son made poor choices and ended up with no money, the father didn't stop loving him. The father loved his son regardless of what his son did. When the son returned, he was met with open arms and a celebration. This is a picture of God's love for His children.

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:**

- Choose to love others because God first loved them

**Every child should feel awe:**

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

**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.

FOUNDATION: GOD IS LOVE - GOD GIVES HIMSELF
GOD LOVES US EVEN WHEN
WE ARE UNLOVABLE**GOD'S LOVE CHANGES OUR HEARTS**

Show your children pictures of you when you were younger. Next, look at your reflection in a mirror. Talk about the ways that you are different. God's love changes our hearts just like we all change when we grow older.

DISCOVER IT:

Read Luke 15:11-32.

THINK ABOUT IT:

When the prodigal son returned from wasting his inheritance, he returned a changed person. His father had not stopped loving him and this love had changed him. God does not stop loving His children. His love changes our hearts. It makes us new people just like the prodigal son was made into a new person. God's love overcomes our sins and makes us a new creation in Him. We are no longer held captive by our sins. Our hearts are different and new because of God's love. God's love is unconditional and teaches us how to love. It makes us new in every way.

TALK ABOUT IT:

- How did the prodigal son change? (He no longer wanted to do his own thing. He wanted to be with his father.)
- How does God's love change our hearts? (It makes us new. We are no longer held captive by our sin.)

**KNOW**

Help your child memorize 1 John 4:16 by playing "Hot Potato". The person who gets the "potato" gets to say the verse out loud.

**DO**

Help your child make cookies or a special treat to give to a sibling or friend. Tell your child that you are baking the treat to give away. You aren't going to eat of the treat because it is for a sibling or friend. Help your child deliver the treat to the person. Remind them that God loves us even when we are unlovable. He shows us love even when we don't show Him love.

**FEEL**

Play a game of hide and seek with your child. Every time the person hiding is found, the seekers should yell, "You were lost, but now you're found." Remind them that God shows us love and makes us new by changing our hearts.

**WANT**

As a family spend some time talking about how God's love overcomes our sin. Help your child see that God's love helps us not sin even when we want to sin. Share with your child a time when God's love helped you overcome sin.