

**GOD SHOWS HIS LOVE FOR US
THROUGH GIVING US HIS SON****BIG TRUTH: GOD SHOWS HIS LOVE FOR US THROUGH GIVING US HIS SON**

John 3:16; Romans 5:8; Ephesians 2:4-5; 1 John 4:9-10

BIBLE VERSE: 1 JOHN 4:10

"In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

BIG IDEAS

- God loved us even when we were His enemies.
- Jesus, who is God, became a servant out of love for the Father and for us.
- God's love is put on display through Jesus' sacrificial death in our place.

BIBLE STORY: MARK 10:32-34; ROMANS 5:8

As Jesus and His disciples were making their way to Jerusalem, Jesus reminded His followers that He was going to Jerusalem to die. His death was the way in which God shows the world His love. He sent His Son to pay our sin debt. Jesus was willing to go to Jerusalem even though He knew He was going to die. Jesus is God and He willingly humbled Himself to serve us by dying on the cross for us. His death is a great display of God's love for the world.

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.

**GOD SHOWS HIS LOVE FOR US
THROUGH GIVING US HIS SON****GOD LOVES HIS ENEMIES**

With your child, dress up like superheroes. Using towels or sheets for capes, pretend that you are superheroes. Help your child decide who their superhero's enemy is. Think of the powers their enemy will have. Then lead your child in a discussion about what it would be like if they didn't fight their enemy, but loved them instead. We are all God's enemies because of our sin, yet God doesn't fight us, He loves us.

DISCOVER IT:

Read Romans 5:8.

THINK ABOUT IT:

God's love is a special thing. It is unlike man's love. God's love is not dependent upon the actions of any person. Often, we only love the people who are easiest to love. God showed us a different way when He loved us first. We are all enemies of God. We have all sinned and continue to sin. We even reject God and His ways, yet God still loves us. This great love is shown best by God sending His Son to pay our sin debt. We didn't deserve to have God provide a substitute for us, but His love overcame our sin. We can love our own enemies because God loved us. We can love the unlovable people because God loved us when we were unlovable.

TALK ABOUT IT:

- Who does God love? (God loves everyone.)
- How does God show His love? (He sent His Son to pay our sin debt.)
- Does God only love people who are lovable? (No, He loves everyone, even His enemies.)
- How should we love people? (We should love everyone like God loves everyone.)

**KNOW**

Help your child memorize 1 John 4:10 saying the verse in a quiet voice and then a loud voice.

**DO**

Help your child make a list of the many ways that you love them. Also, help them make a list of how they love people. Lead them in a discussion about how we don't always love our enemies, but God does. God loves us even when we are against Him.

**FEEL**

As a family spend the week trying to serve one another. As you serve your child in some way, point out what service looks like. Encourage your child to serve his or her sibling or you. When you see them serving someone, praise them for being like Jesus.

**WANT**

Spend some time as a family making a care package to take to a nursing home or to send to a family member. Help your child put the care package together. If you take it to the nursing home, allow your child to go with you. If you mail it to someone, allow your child to go with you to the post office. Lead them in a discussion about how Jesus came to serve us. He loves us and sacrificed for us. Making the care package requires the sacrifice of our time and money, but we're like Jesus when we serve others.