

BIG TRUTH: GOD ALWAYS DOES WHAT IS RIGHT

Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 18:30; Jeremiah 9:24; Daniel 4:37; Matthew 5:48; Revelation 15:3

BIBLE VERSE: DEUTERONOMY 32:4B

"His work is perfect, for all His ways are justice."

BIG IDEAS

- God is unchanging and always good.
- God never sins or commits any wrong.
- God's ways are always right and best for us.

BIBLE STORY: MATTHEW 4:1-11

The temptation of Jesus came at a time after He had been in the wilderness and had fasted for forty days. He was alone, tired and hungry when Satan tempted Him. Jesus resisted Satan's temptations. He chose not to believe Satan's lies and instead, He obeyed His Father. Jesus' temptation shows that God always does what is right and good. Jesus never sinned while He lived on the earth, even when faced with great temptation. God never sins. He always does what is right and all that He does is good.

FOUNDATION: GOD IS JUST - GOD GIVES MERCY

Every decision that God makes is perfect and completely just. He is a good judge who cannot and does not allow evil to go unpunished. This means that God must punish injustice. The problem that we all face is that we are unjust sinners. We deserve justice. God's justice is why we need a substitute, and He sent Jesus to become that substitute. Instead of justice, those who place their faith in Jesus receive mercy.

BIG AIMS**Every child should know:**

- God's justice means He always does what is right
- God's mercy means that he does not give us what we deserve

**Every child should feel:**

- Thankful because God shows us mercy when we do not do what is right

**Every child should be able to:**

- Think about the decisions they have to make in light of what God says is right and wrong
- Obey God because He always does what is right

**Every child should want to:**

- To trust God and to obey Him because He is just

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 DOES WHAT IS RIGHT

Using sidewalk chalk, create two paths on your driveway or sidewalk. One path should say “The Right Way” and the other should say “The Wrong Way”. At the end of “The Right Way” path place some special toy or surprise hidden in a bag. At the end of “The Wrong Way” path place something that your child would not like, such as a bag of rocks or sticks. Have your child ride his or her tricycle or bike through each path and when he or she reaches the end of each path, they get to open the bag. The Right Path is God’s path because God always does what is right. He does not sin and He commits no wrong. We can trust Him with our life and choose to obey Him.

DISCOVER IT:

Read Matthew 4:1-11.

THINK ABOUT IT:

When Jesus was taken into the wilderness by the Spirit, He fasted for forty days. Because Jesus was fully man and fully God, we know that He would have been tired and weak physically from going without food for so long. It seems odd that Satan would come at this time to tempt Jesus because Jesus was not at His strongest physically. God revealed many things about Himself when Jesus was tempted. Jesus was weak physically, but He still resisted the temptations of Satan. Jesus was made strong by using God’s Word. God always does what is right, even in the worst circumstances. Jesus showed that God does not sin or commit any wrong because He did not give in to the temptation of Satan. We, too, can be strong when we use God’s Word to resist temptation. We can follow the example of Jesus and rely on God’s strength and not our own strength.

TALK ABOUT IT:

- Why was Jesus weak physically when He was tempted by Satan? (He had fasted for forty days.)
- What helped Jesus resist Satan’s temptations? (God’s Word helped Jesus resist Satan’s temptations.)



Help your child memorize Deuteronomy 32:4b by alternating repeating the verse in a loud voice and then a soft voice.



Write the words “God’s Word” on a poster board. As a family spend time coloring the poster board. Next, gather several soft balls or soft objects that can be thrown. Hold the poster board in front of you and have your children throw the soft balls at you. Take turns holding the poster board in front of you. The soft balls represent temptations. The poster board represents God’s Word that helps us resist temptation as it helped Jesus resist temptation.



Give your child an empty paper towel roll and several pieces of paper that have been balled up. The paper balls represent temptation. Using the empty paper towel roll, take turns hitting the “temptations” into an empty container or trashcan. The empty paper towel roll represents God’s Word which helped Jesus resist the temptations of Satan. Discuss with your child how God always does what is right and never sins.



Sing the hymn “Trust and Obey” with your child. Talk about how we can and should want to trust God and to obey Him because He always does what is right.