

GOD GIVES ADOPTION TO
THOSE OUTSIDE OF HIS FAMILY**BIG TRUTH: GOD GIVES ADOPTION TO THOSE OUTSIDE OF HIS FAMILY**

John 1:11-13; 3:3-8; Romans 8:12-17; Galatians 3:26-29; 4:2-7; Ephesians 1:11-12; Hebrews 2:10-12

BIBLE VERSE: EPHESIANS 1:5

"He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will..."

BIG IDEAS

- We are born into a cursed family.
- Through Jesus, God adopts the Christian into His family.
- Through Jesus, we are sons and daughters of God.

BIBLE STORY: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-23, 45; ROMANS 5:12-19; ROMANS 8:14-17

Sin entered the world and the heart of man through Adam's sin in the Garden of Eden. God made a way to atone, or pay for, this sin through His Son, Jesus. We become part of God's family through Jesus' atonement for our sin.

FOUNDATION: GOD IS SAVIOR - GOD GIVES ADOPTION

Separated from God because of sin, humanity has no hope apart from God Himself. God in the midst of our sin declares that He is Savior. Jesus, fully God and fully man, came to earth to willingly die to take our place. After three days He rose from the grave and He defeated sin and death itself. God being a Savior is the same as the hero of the story sacrificing himself to save the villain. God is Savior and He not only saves us from judgment, but also adopts us into His family as sons and daughters of God. Through Jesus we become a part of a new family and have a new Father.

BIG AIMS**Every child should know:**

- We need a Savior because of our sin
- God is the Savior of His people

**Every child should feel:**

- Loved because God sent His Son to be our Savior

**Every child should be able to:**

- Acknowledge sins that they commit
- Talk about how God saves His people and adopts them into His family

**Every child should want to:**

- Experience spiritual adoption

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 GIVES ADOPTION TO
THOSE OUTSIDE OF HIS FAMILY**ADOPTED INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD**

Print out or draw the outline of a tree on a blank piece of paper. Help your child create a family tree by writing the names of your family members on the branches of the tree. Next, draw the outline of a tree and create God's family tree. It should list God at the top and then name some of the patriarchs, such as Adam, Eve, Abraham, Moses, etc. Place your name on one of the branches. God adopts those who've repented and believed in Jesus Christ as His sons and daughters.

DISCOVER IT:

Read Ephesians 1:5.

THINK ABOUT IT:

In Paul's letter to the Ephesian church, he reminds them of their status as sons and daughters of God. Before repentance and belief in God's Son, Jesus Christ, people are not part of God's family. Paul encourages the Ephesian believers by reminding them that those who are chosen by God, who have repented and believed in Jesus, are now part of God's family. Just as Jesus is God's Son, everyone who has repented and believed in Jesus is now a son or daughter of God. This adoption of believers is God's grace and mercy to those who believe.

TALK ABOUT IT:

- Who has God adopted into His family? (Those who repent and believe in Jesus Christ.)
- Through whom has God adopted people outside of His family? (Through Jesus Christ, who died for the sins of the world.)

**KNOW**

Help your child memorize Ephesians 1:5 by singing the verse to the tune of "Frère Jacques." Talk with them about how God adopts those who repent and believe into His family.

**DO**

Spend some time looking through family albums. Talk about your own family lineage and why people are a part of your family. Some are born into your family, some marry into your family, etc. Talk about how we become a part of God's family forever when we repent and believe in Jesus Christ. We become God's children.

**FEEL**

Gather a container of water, a bottle of iodine, and bleach. Tell your child that the water represents how Adam and Eve were before they sinned. Their hearts were clean. Drop a few drops of iodine into the water. The iodine represents the sin that entered Adam and Eve's hearts when they sinned. It also represents every person's heart born after Adam and Eve. Lastly, pour bleach into the iodine water. Pour enough to make the water clear again. This is what Christ did for us. He died for our sins and made it possible for us to be a part of God's family again.

**WANT**

Take a trip to the park or the mall. Talk with your child about the families that you see. Talk with them about how those people who are at the park or the mall who are followers of Christ are part of your family, too. Talk with them about how all people who have repented and believed in Jesus Christ are part of God's family, even the people that you haven't met yet.