

GOD GIVES THE CHURCH
AS HIS MESSENGERS**BIG TRUTH: GOD GIVES THE CHURCH AS HIS MESSENGERS**

Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:45-49; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

BIBLE VERSE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20A

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.

BIG IDEAS

- God makes a new creation of people who put saving faith in Jesus.
- God's people, His church, are His messengers.
- God sends His messengers to the whole world.
- God spreads the gospel through His messengers.

BIBLE STORY: MATTHEW 28:16-20; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-21

Jesus died so that those who believe in Him might be His family and go out sharing His message with the world. Believers are given the job of carrying the gospel to the whole world beginning with their own neighborhoods.

FOUNDATION: GOD IS REDEEMER—GOD GIVES CHURCH

God does not just save us from eternal punishment, but also redeems us. The word redemption means to buy back. This means that God sets us free from the slavery of sin through the death of His Son. God is not just redeeming us as individuals though, but He instead is redeeming a people, His church. The church is the collection of believers both universal (Christians everywhere) and local (Christians who meet together locally). God has set apart His people to declare His praises.

BIG AIMS**Every child should know:**

- God is our Redeemer when we have no hope
- Redemption is when we are set free from our sin and brought into right relationship with God

**Every child should feel:**

- Hope that comes through Jesus our Redeemer

**Every child should be able to:**

- Describe the gospel message

**Every child should want to:**

- Live in hope, not separation

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 THE CHURCH
AS HIS MESSENGERS**GOD'S PEOPLE ARE HIS MESSENGERS**

Help your child write a letter to a grandparent or someone else. Help them place it in an envelope and mail it. Talk with your child about how God's people are His messengers. They carry His message of the gospel to the world, just like their letter is carrying their message to their grandparent or friend.

DISCOVER IT:

Read Matthew 28:16-20.

THINK ABOUT IT:

Before Jesus ascends into heaven, He leaves His disciples with their assignment. They are to carry the gospel into all of the world so that others may know Christ as their Savior. This same assignment is for every person who believes in Jesus. God's people are His messengers. They are the way in which the gospel is taken to the entire world.

TALK ABOUT IT:

- What did Jesus tell the disciples to do? (They were to carry the gospel to all of the world.)
- Who are God's messengers? (God's people are His messengers.)

**KNOW**

Help your child memorize 2 Corinthians 5:20. Talk with them about how repentance and belief in Jesus Christ makes people new.

**DO**

Spend some time sharing with your child what the gospel message is. Share the story of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection. Share with your child what it means to repent and believe in Jesus. Remind your child that God's people are His messengers sent to carry the gospel to the world.

**FEEL**

Help your child think of people who are messengers or who bring news. Perhaps it's the people on the evening news or the people who write articles in the newspaper. Talk about how God's people are His messengers and they carry His good news to the world.

**WANT**

Help your child create a collage that describes the gospel message. Help them think through someone they'd like to give their collage to and then help them do that. Talk with them about the importance of God's people being His messengers.