

GOD GIVES THE CHURCH AS HIS FAMILY

FOUNDATION: GOD IS REDEEMER - GOD GIVES CHURCH

BIG TRUTH: GOD GIVES THE CHURCH AS HIS FAMILY

John 1:11-13; 14:6; Romans 8:14-17; Galatians 3:26-29; 4:4-7; Ephesians 1:11-12; Hebrews 2:10-11; 1 John 3:1-2

BIBLE VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:27

"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."

BIG IDEAS

- Those who repent and believe in Jesus are part of God's family.
- The church is God's family, not a building or place.
- Those in the church are brothers and sisters in God's family.
- Although those in the church are made different, they represent one leader, Jesus.

BIBLE STORY: ACTS 2:42-47; 1 PETER 2:9-10

Jesus died to pay our sin debt and those who believe in Him become part of God's family. The church is the body of Christ, or God's family. Every person who repents and believe in Jesus, becomes part of that family. The people in God's family are spiritual brothers and sisters.

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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

FAMILY DEVOTION:

THE CHURCH IS THE BODY OF CHRIST

God not only sent His Son, Jesus to pay the world's sin debt, but through Jesus, God created a family. God calls His family the church. The people who make up the church are those who have repented and believed in Jesus. These people are the body of Christ and God's sons and daughters.

GOD GIVES THE CHURCH
AS HIS FAMILY**BIBLE VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:27***"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."***The church is the body of Christ.**

- The church is made up of those who follow Christ.
- The church is made up of believers everywhere.
- Those who repent and believe in Jesus become His church.
- The church is Christ to the world.
- People see the church and see Christ and His Word being lived out.

God's people are the body of Christ.

- God's people are all in one Spirit.
- Every person who repents and believes receives God's Spirit.
- This Spirit unites believers to one another and makes them one family.
- Only those who repent and believe in Jesus are part of God's family.
- God's church serves one another and the world.
- His church does His work and lives out His commands to the world.

Every believer everywhere is part of the body of Christ.

- Everyone who repents and believes in Jesus becomes part of His body.
- Even people in other parts of the world are part of Christ's body.
- These people are part of God's family.
- Every person who follows Christ is His son or daughter.
- When a person repents and believes in Jesus, he or she becomes the brother or sister to other people who have repented and believed.

GOD GIVES THE CHURCH
AS HIS FAMILY**BIBLE STORY: ACTS 2:42-27; 1 PETER 2:9-10***The Body Of Christ*

Supporting Scripture: Ephesians 2:19; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 5:1-2.

Teacher Introduction:

When a person repents and believes in Jesus, he or she becomes part of God's family. God sent Jesus to pay our sin debt that we might be His sons and daughters. The early church began after Jesus ascended into heaven. Those who were followers of Jesus received the Holy Spirit. This Holy Spirit joins believers together and makes them one family. Even those who live far away are part of the same family of God because they have the same Spirit of God. God gives us redemption and through this redemption, we become part of His family. God calls His family the church and the church is the active and living body of Christ in the world. When people live out God's Word and His commands, the world sees the body of Christ in action. Though each member is unique and different, each is part of the same family of God. Being a part of God's family means loving and caring for one another as Christ cares for us. The early church loved and cared for one another in a sacrificial way, showing Christ to the world. The church today lives in the same way in order to show Christ to the world.

Teaching Guide:

The guide below is provided to help you teach the truth: *The Body of Christ*. The three points are the Big Ideas that should guide your lesson as you share from Acts 2:42-27; 1 Peter 2:9 and teach the truth that God redeems us to make us the body of Christ. Footnotes are provided for further study of the text and God's interaction with His people. Throughout the lesson questions are placed to help you guide the preschoolers to think about and process the truth God redeems us to make us part of the body of Christ.

Opening Illustration:

Help the children make a paper doll chain using different colored construction paper. Talk with the children about how every person, no matter their nationality, who has repented and believed in Jesus is part of the body of Christ.

GOD GIVES THE CHURCH
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BIG IDEA: THOSE WHO REPENT AND BELIEVE IN JESUS ARE PART OF GOD'S FAMILY.¹

Those who follow God are united as family.

- People who repent of their sin and believe in Jesus are known as Christians.
- Christians are people who follow Christ and seek to be like Jesus by following His Word.
- Every person who believes in Jesus becomes a part of God's family.
- People who are not humanely related to one another become spiritual brothers and sisters through their common faith in Jesus as the Savior of the world.
- This unity is given through the Holy Spirit who comes to live inside of every believer.
- God calls His family the church and the church exists to bring God glory.



Give each child a picture of a family tree. Before class, write down the child's name and some of their relatives if you know them. If you do not, write "mom", "dad", "brother", "sister", etc. Talk with the children about how God makes us part of His family when we repent and believe.

God's family is a chosen group for God's glory.

- God created man to bring glory to Himself and He redeems man to bring glory to Himself.
- When God redeems man and makes him a part of His family, this brings glory to God.
- God chose to redeem man to make man His family.
- When people live out God's commands in their lives like the early church did, the world sees how God works through people to sacrificially love and serve one another.

What unites people who repent and believe in Jesus? (They receive the Spirit of God that lives inside of every believer and unites them as brothers and sisters in Christ.)

1. Ephesians 2:19: Those who believe are part of God's family. They become part of God's household.

GOD GIVES THE CHURCH
AS HIS FAMILY**BIG IDEA: THE CHURCH IS GOD'S FAMILY, NOT A BUILDING OR PLACE.²****Believers are joined by one Spirit.**

- Just as there is one God, there is one Spirit of God.
- When a person becomes a follower of Christ, he receives the Spirit of God.
- This Spirit joins believers together everywhere.
- This supernatural joining together creates the body of Christ, or the family of God.
- God's family is not confined to a building or location.
- It consists of all the people who have received the Holy Spirit after salvation.



Sing the song "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes" with the children. Talk with them about how our bodies have different parts, but are still our bodies.

Believers are the body of Christ on earth.

- Christ ascended into heaven after His resurrection. He sent His Spirit to live inside of His followers to guide them to be like Him.
- This Spirit that joins believers everywhere together creates the body of Christ.
- Because it is the same Spirit inside of every believer, every believer can be like Christ.
- This unity allows the body to be Christ to the world.
- Though Christ is not on the earth today in bodily form, He lives inside of every believer.

The building is a place for the body to meet, not the actual body.

- The early church met in many different places.
- As the church grew, buildings began to be built and churches established.
- Though we call buildings churches, they are not the actual body of Christ.
- The body of Christ, or church is the people who meet together in the building.
- The building or location just serve a purpose to allow Christ's followers to gather together.

What joins believers together as the body of Christ? (The Spirit of God joins believers together.)

2. 1 Corinthians 12:13: The one Spirit of God joins all believers together all over the world.

GOD GIVES THE CHURCH
AS HIS FAMILY**BIG IDEA: THOSE IN THE CHURCH ARE BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN GOD'S FAMILY.³****Believers belong to God's family.**

- Everyone who follows Christ becomes part of God's family.
- Those who repent and believe in Jesus become His sons and daughters.
- All believers are part of one big family.
- It is God's grace that allows us to be part of His family.
- He becomes our heavenly Father and cares for us like a loving father.
- We are joined together with other people who follow Christ and benefit from their service to God.



Play a game of pin the tail on the donkey except pin branches to a family tree. Write the names of people the children know on the branches and then allow the children to take turns trying to place the branches on a tree taped to the wall while they are blindfolded. Remind them that believers are all part of God's family.

All believers are connected to one another through Christ.

- The Holy Spirit connects believers together.
- People can live thousands of miles apart from each other and be connected through God's Spirit.
- There are no distinctions made in God's family except that one has repented and believed in Jesus.
- All who turn away from their sin and follow Christ become God's children.
- When we follow Christ, we gain brothers and sisters who are also followers of Christ.

How does Jesus give us hope? (He paid our sin debt and made a way for us to be with God again.)

3. Galatians 3:28: There are no distinctions in the family of God. All are joined by one Spirit—the Holy Spirit.

GOD GIVES THE CHURCH
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BIG IDEA: ALTHOUGH THOSE IN THE CHURCH ARE MADE DIFFERENT, THEY REPRESENT ONE LEADER, JESUS.⁴

Believers are all the children of one God.

- There is only one God who is the only Savior of the world.
- There is no other true god to follow. Those who follow Christ follow the one true God.
- All believers are the children of the one true God.
- They do not follow multiple gods or the false god of their choosing.
- Only those who follow the true God are part of God's family and considered His church.



Sing "Jesus Loves The Little Children" with the preschoolers. Talk with them about how God's family is made up of many different people, but they all follow the one true God.

The church serves one God.

- Just as there is only one way to know God, the church serves one God.
- The church is not made up of anyone who is spiritual or religious.
- It is made up of all those who have repented and believed in Jesus Christ.
- Only those who are true followers of Christ are part of His church.
- His church serves Him and seeks to bring Him glory.
- It is only through His people that His church is made.

Believers are united by one God.

- The early church was marked by sacrificial giving and loving unconditionally.
- This type of love and sacrifice is a product of knowing the one true God.
- All believers everywhere are joined together by the one true God.
- God's church is not a group of people who believe in different gods.
- It is God's followers who have repented of their sin and followed Christ, the one true Savior of the world.

Who does the church serve? (The church serves the one true God.)

4. Ephesians 5:1-2: God's followers walk in brotherly love because they are joined together by the sacrificial love of the one true God.

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HOOKS

**A Group Relay**

Help the children understand what it means to belong to a group by playing a group relay game with them. Divide the children into teams. Place two containers with small objects, such as cotton balls or pom-poms in them. Have the children race one another to see which team can collect the most out of their container. Talk with the children about what it means to be part of a team or group. Remind them that those who repent and believe in Jesus are part of God's family.

**Family Tree Fun**

Give each child a paper plate and apple-shaped stickers or cut-outs. Help the children make their own family tree by drawing a tree on the plate and then placing the stickers or cutouts on the branches of the tree to represent their family members. Talk with the children about how the church is made up of God's family. The church is all the people who have repented and believed in Jesus. They become His sons and daughters and are His family. They are joined together by the Holy Spirit.

