

**PRESCHOOL  
GUIDE**  
**8**

# **GOD CREATED FAMILY**

**FOUNDATION: GOD IS FATHER - GOD GIVES A FAMILY**

## **BIG TRUTH: GOD CREATED FAMILY**

Genesis 1:27-28; Matthew 19:6; Romans 8:12-17; Galatians 4:4-7; Ephesians 5:31-32

## **BIBLE VERSE: 1 JOHN 3:1**

*“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God, and so we are.”*

## **BIG IDEAS**

- Family is God’s idea and design.
- The Father has created a special family.
- The Father loves His children when they did not deserve it.
- The Father invites us to be a part of His special family.

## **BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 15:1-6**

God chose Abram to be the patriarch, or head of the special family He was going to create. In this narrative God’s covenant or special promise to Abram is that Abram’s descendants will be more numerous than even the stars in the sky. These people would be God’s children, His family.

## **FOUNDATION: GOD IS FATHER - GOD GIVES A FAMILY**

God is our heavenly Father. The Bible teaches that God is three in one. He is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As Father, God rules over all things, is greater than all things, and loves sinful people by sending His one and only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross in our place. God becomes the Father of those who place their faith in Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us that God is the perfect Father who lovingly adopts us into His family through faith in His Son. Because God is Father we can become a part of a new family that will last forever.

## **BIG AIMS**



### **Every child should know that:**

- God is three in one
- God is the perfect Father



### **Every child should feel:**

- Loved by the family at home and church



### **Every child should be able to:**

- Pray to the Father in the name of Jesus



### **Every child should want:**

- To trust the perfect Father who loves His children

## **FAMILY DEVOTION: THE FATHER INVITES US TO BE A PART OF HIS SPECIAL FAMILY**

The Father chose Abram to create His special family. Through Abram’s line the Messiah would come. The Father’s great love is seen in that while we didn’t deserve it, He still invites us to be a part of His special family. He loves us so much He wants us to be a part of His special family.



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**BIBLE VERSE: 1 JOHN 3:1**

*“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God, and so we are.”*

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**The Father Invites Us To Be A Part of His Special Family.****Family is God’s idea and design.**

- John uses the idea of children as part of God’s family because it is God’s design.
- Family is the way in which God has chosen to interact with His people.
- We live in families, have fathers and mothers, and siblings because God designed us to do so.

**God is Father who is just and righteous.**

- From the fall of man in the garden, there has been a great divide between God and man.
- Yet, God, who is our Father, in His great love made a way for man to get back to Him.
- Through the atoning work of Jesus Christ, man can be a part of the Father’s family.

**The Father calls those who have believed in Christ His children.**

- Those who believe in Christ are no longer separated from the Father, but are now part of His family.
- The Father displays His great love for us by inviting us to be a part of His family.
- We are no longer outcasts or estranged from the Father when we repent and believe in Jesus Christ.

**John emphasizes that it is God’s love that accomplishes this great work.**

- It is not any work of man that draws him to the Father or makes him a part of the Father’s family.
- It is the love of our Father who opens His arms to welcome His children into His special family.

**BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 15:1-6***God's Special Family*

Supporting Scripture: Genesis 1:26-28, Daniel 3:24-25, Ephesians 1:3-6, Romans 9:3-4, II Corinthians 5:21

**Teacher Introduction:**

In God's great design for mankind, He made a way for the sin of man to be atoned and for man to have a way back to Him. God's great plan involved a man named Abram. Abram is the chosen person used by God to create a very special family known as the Israelites. It is through the line of Abram that the Messiah would come to save the world from its sin. Family is God's idea and design and through it He accomplishes His plan to bring man back to Him. In this passage God makes a very special promise to Abram, a covenant that Abram's descendants will be more numerous than the stars in the sky. These descendants would be God's special family and one day, hundreds of years later, two of them would go to the town of Bethlehem where the Messiah would enter the world.

**Teaching Guide:**

The guide below is provided to help you teach the foundational truth "God Created Family." The four points are the Big Ideas that should guide your lesson as you share the narrative *God's Special Family*. 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's Special Family*.

**Opening Illustration:**

Bring in a spongy, medium-sized ball that is soft and not hard. Gather the preschoolers together and have them sit in a circle. Tell them that you are going to talk about our families. Tell them that they can only speak when they are holding the ball. Toss the ball to someone and ask them the following questions:

- What is your family name? (You are looking for their last name.)
- How many people are in your family? (Answers will vary.)
- What is something fun your family does together? (Answers will vary.)

Once the preschooler finishes, allow him or her to gently toss the ball to a classmate of their choosing. Then that classmate will answer the three questions.

- Today we're going to talk about families and God's special family.
- God created families and He invites us to be a part of His family.

**BIG IDEA: FAMILY IS GOD'S IDEA AND DESIGN.****The idea of family originates with God.**

- God, the Father has always existed.
- We know this because God has no beginning or end and God has always existed as a Triune being.<sup>1</sup>
- The existence of God, the Father implies the existence of a family relationship.
- As scripture states and God's redemption story unfolds, we see the appearance of God, the Son.<sup>2</sup>
- Part of God's being is a family relationship. He is Father to the Son and He is Father to those who believe in the work of His Son.

**God created the first family when He created Adam and Eve.**

- When God created Adam, He chose to create a wife for him.
- God created Eve to be Adam's helper and together they became the first family.<sup>3</sup>
- Adam and Eve were instructed to be fruitful and to multiply the earth with people by having children.

**Family is part of God's design.**

- The idea of family is not man's; it has always been part of God's design for man.
- God exists and acts as Father and He created man to live as a family.
- The idea of family was present even before the creation of the world.<sup>4</sup>
- Our own families are part of God's design for us.
- God created families for His glory and our good.

*How do we know that family was God's idea and design? (He exists as Father and chooses to interact with believers as a Father.)*

*Who were the first family? (Adam and Eve were the first family.)*



Help the preschoolers understand that their own families are part of God's design for them and are a gift by helping them draw pictures of their families. They can include their immediate family members and extended family members. In their pictures they can draw some of the favorite activities their families like to do together. Discuss with them that God gave us families for His glory and our good.

1. Genesis 1:26: In the creation account of man, scholars believe the first mention of the Trinity is made when God says, "Let us..." referencing the three members of the Trinity.

2. Daniel 3:24-25: When Daniel's three friends are thrown in the fiery-furnace, a fourth person is seen and described as having the figure of the Son of God.

3. Genesis 2:20-24: God's design for man was to create a family. Adam was without a helper, so God created a wife for Adam and together they were a family.

4. Ephesians 1:3-6: The idea of family existed before even the world existed or the first man was created. God's design was always a family because God exists as Father.

**BIG IDEA: THE FATHER HAS CREATED A SPECIAL FAMILY.****Abram was chosen by God to be the leader of His family.**

- God chose Abram as the patriarch, or male head of His special family.
- He called Abram out of his hometown of Ur and led him through the desert to the land of Canaan.<sup>5</sup>
- God's intention was to make a great family through Abram---the special family that would be God's people.<sup>6</sup>
- God's desire was to create a family of people who would be His children and through whom the Messiah would come.
- He promised to care for Abram and all of his descendants.

**God made a covenant or promise with Abram to give him descendants so numerous that they couldn't be counted.**

- The covenant was more than a mere agreement. It was a promise and a commitment by God to do what He said He was going to do .
- God's covenant did not depend upon Abram, but upon God and God's promises are always true.
- Even though Abram believed that God would bless him and care for him, he and his wife, Sarai did not have any children of their own.<sup>7</sup>
- Abram knew that God would make a great family out of him, but he wasn't sure it was going to be through Abram's own biological children.
- But God reminded Abram of His promise to him and covenanted with him that the heir would be Abram's very own son.
- The descendants would be more numerous than the stars in the sky.
- They would be God's special family and all the people of the earth would be blessed by this family because through them, the Messiah would come.

**Abram believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness.**

- Abram's belief in God was so deep and true, that he is seen as one of the great fathers of faith in the Bible.<sup>8</sup>
- Abram believed that God was going to give him a son and through his son the Messiah would come and save the world.<sup>9</sup>
- Through whom did God choose to create His special family? (He chose to use Abram.)

*What was Abram's response when God promised to give him numerous descendants? (Abram believed God was going to do what He said. He trusted God.)*

5. Genesis 12:1-3: God called Abram out of his pagan homeland to become a follower of Him. God promised to bless Abram and to make a great nation out of him. The people would be God's people—His family.

6. Romans 9:3-4: God chose the Israelites to be His children. They are not born of Him, but adopted into His family.

7. Genesis 12:4-7: When God called Abram to follow Him, Abram obeyed. God led him to the land of Canaan and promised to give it to Abram's offspring. Abram believed God and built an altar to the Lord. Abram was seventy years old when he left Ur and it was many years later that God gave him his son, Isaac.

8. Hebrews 11:8-12: Abram [Abraham] is listed in what is commonly referred to as "The Hall of Faith" in these verses. His belief in God's promise to him is seen as one of the greatest acts of faith in God.

9. 2 Corinthians 5:21: It is not the works of Abram or other believers that credits righteousness to them, but the work of Jesus Christ. When Abram believed God, he believed in all of the Trinity; therefore, he believed in all the promises of God and this belief in the coming work of Christ was credited as righteousness to him.

**BIG IDEA: THE FATHER LOVES HIS CHILDREN WHEN THEY DID NOT DESERVE IT.****God showed His love to His children when He loved them despite their sin.**

- Adam and Eve chose to rebel against God and sin was introduced into mankind.
- God did not leave them in their sin.
- Instead, He chose to show grace and mercy to them by casting them out of the Garden of Eden.<sup>10</sup>

**God showed His love to Abram and the special family He created.**

- When God promised to make Abram's descendants more numerous than the stars, His promise was to love them always.
- God's special family, known as the Israelites, did not always follow God.<sup>11</sup>
- Many times they would turn away from God and His Word.
- God would forgive them and love them regardless of their sinfulness.

**God's love for Abram remained steadfast.**

- Though Abram was chosen by God to be the forefather of His special family, Abram was not always obedient.
- Abram sometimes tried to do things his way rather than God's way, but God's love never wavered.
- God chose to make a family through Abram even though He knew Abram was going to disobey at times.
- God's love is everlasting!
- God showed His love to His family by sending His Son for them.
- God's greatest act of love for His special family was the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ.
- God was willing to send His Son to pay for the sins of all the world.
- God's willingness to do this was born out of His great love for His children.
- His children were undeserving and sinful, yet God showed them grace and mercy.<sup>12</sup>

Do God's children deserve His love? (No, but He loves them no matter what.)



Practice memorizing I John 3:1 by playing beanbag toss. Mark a spot on the floor large enough for everyone to see. Divide the preschoolers into two teams and give them each a beanbag. The person who tosses the beanbag the closest to or on the spot gets to say the verse aloud.

10. Genesis 3:14-19: When God curses the serpent, He reveals His plan to rescue His children. The serpent would cause harm for a short while, but in the end, God's Son would win and there would be a way for God's children to return to Him.

11. Hosea 14:1-9: God's people were habitually rebellious and God was continuously forgiving. His love is everlasting and He is faithful to forgive those who repent and turn away from their sin.

12. John 3:16: God sent His Son to die for the sins of the world. This was an act of grace, a gift given when the people of the world did not deserve it.

# FOUNDATION: GOD IS FATHER - GOD GIVES A FAMILY

## GOD CREATED FAMILY

### BIG IDEA: THE FATHER INVITES US TO BE A PART OF HIS SPECIAL FAMILY.

#### It is through Abram that we are part of God's special family.

- When God promised Abram a son, He promised to make Abram's descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky.
- These numerous descendants are the people of God.
- Every person who believes in the work of Christ is a part of God's family and Abram is his or her forefather.<sup>13</sup>

#### Being a part of the Father's special family means our sins are forgiven.

- Just as Abram's belief in God's promise was credited as righteousness to him, our belief in the saving work of Christ is counted as righteousness for us.<sup>14</sup>
- The Father adopts us into His family and we receive the blessings promised to Abram.
- The Father sent His Son to pay the price for our sin that we might be a part of the Father's family.<sup>15</sup>

#### The Father adopts us into His special family and calls us His children.

- We are adopted into the Father's family through Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- This adoption is not based on who we are or anything we do.
- It is the work of the Father through the saving sacrifice of His Son that we are considered part of the Father's family.<sup>16</sup>

*How are we a part of the Father's special family? (We are descendants of Abram and when we believe in Jesus Christ, we are considered children of God.)*



Help the preschoolers think about how great it is that God invites us to be a part of His family even though we sin and disobey. Play a game of "Have You Ever..." with them. To play "Have You Ever..." ask the preschoolers to stand next to each other on one side of a line. You will stand on the other side. Ask the preschoolers questions about their obedience. Your questions should begin with "Have you ever..." For example, "Have you ever been unkind to your friends?" If they answer yes, they step over the line to your side. Ask several questions like this until they've all stepped over the line. Then remind them that even though we disobey and sin, God still invites us to be a part of His special family.

13 Galatians 3:29: Those who have believed in the saving work of Christ are Abraham's offspring. They are included in the family of Abraham, which is God's special family.

14. 2 Corinthians 5:21: The righteousness that our faith brings is through the work of Christ. Our faith in Christ unites us with Christ; therefore, because God sees Christ as righteous and we are united with Christ, He sees us as righteous.

15. Romans 4:16-17: We are sons of Abraham if we share in Abraham's faith. Our faith is not what saves us, but the work of Christ. Our faith unites us with Christ and makes us a part of Abram's family.

16. Ephesians 1:5: Those who have confessed, repented and believed in the work of Jesus Christ are sons and daughters of God. It is God's great gift to us that we are called His children.



## HOOKS

**Family is God's Idea and Design**

(Bring in pictures of your family. Choose a variety of pictures to show the different people in your family—extended and immediate.)



- Who are the people in these pictures? (They are my family. Identify the relationship of the people to you---grandfather, son, daughter, cousin, aunt, etc.)
- How do you know these people are my family? (We share a grandparent or the same last name or come from the same family line.)
- What is special about families? (They love each other and support each other. They do fun things together.)
- The Father made our families. He decided who was going to be our mom and dad. He knew all about us and our families before we were even born.
- Families are God's idea and design. He wanted us to live together as a family, so he created the very first family.

**The Father Loves His Children When They Did Not Deserve It**

(On the board or a large piece of paper make a list of ways the preschoolers have disobeyed their parents or teachers.)

- Have you disobeyed your mom or dad when they asked you to do something? (Help them think through their answers, guiding them to understand how they disobeyed.)
- What did your mom or dad do when you disobeyed them? Was there a consequence? (A time-out or loss of privilege or loss of toy, etc.)
- Did your mom or dad stop loving you when you disobeyed them? (No, they always love them no matter what.)
- The Father is the same way with His children. He loves us no matter what, even when we didn't deserve His love.
- He loved us so much that He even sent His Son, Jesus Christ to die for our sins.

**The Father Has Created a Special Family**

(Bring in a container of sand. It can be kinetic sand or regular sand. Allow the preschoolers to touch the sand and hold it in their hands over the container.)

- Who can count each grain of sand in this container? (No one can. There's too much.)
- How much sand do you think is in the container? (They may have different guesses, but tell them there's too much to count.)
- The Father created a special family through Abram and He told Abram that Abram's descendants would be too numerous to count, like this sand.
- We are a part of that special family if we've believed in Jesus Christ.