

BIG TRUTH: JESUS IS OUR ONLY HOPE

Isaiah 8:17; Jeremiah 17:13; Matthew 12:21; Acts 4:12; 2 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 1:12; 4:4; Colossians 1:27; 1 Timothy 4:10, Hebrews 6:19

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 1:12

“But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God...”

BIG IDEAS

- There is one true Savior and many false saviors.
- Everyone will either reject Jesus or believe in Him.
- Salvation through Jesus requires new birth.

BIBLE STORY: JOHN 1:9-18

Jesus is called “the true light, which gives light to everyone.” He was God, and through Him the whole world was created; yet He took on flesh and came to dwell among His people and to reveal God’s glory to us. He brings grace and truth, and it is through Him that we receive grace upon grace. He is our only hope.

ADVENT

Advent is a special celebration and contemplation of the coming of Jesus Christ that Christians participate in during the Christmas season. Advent literally means “arrival” or “coming”. During Advent season God’s people remember and rejoice in Jesus’ first coming to save his people from their sins, while at the same time long with anticipation and expectation for His return. Advent centers on Jesus, the saving Son. He alone is the Word, fully God, fully man, and our only hope.

BIG AIMS**Every child should know that:**

- Jesus is the living fulfillment of God’s Word.
- Jesus is fully God and fully man.
- Jesus is our only hope.

**Every child should feel:**

- Thankful that Jesus came to save us from our sins.
- Wonder and awe at the reality of the incarnation.
- Burdened for those who do not know the good news

**Every child should be able to:**

- Memorize John 1:1-4, 9-14 (pick verses based on stage of development that they are in)
- Give to or serve someone sacrificially who doesn’t know Jesus as a means to share the good news about Jesus with them.

**Every child should want:**

- Know more about Jesus.
- To give to others because God gave his Son for us.

A NEW BIRTH

Help your child create a chart that shows the ways he or she has changed over the past year. Talk through the reasons that your child has changed his or her likes and dislikes, such as they no longer like a particular TV show. Discuss with them that when we have saving faith in Jesus, we become new people. We are born again spiritually and we change on the inside which then changes us on the outside.

DISCOVER IT: *(Use the passage to illustrate the Big Truth.)*

John 1:9-18

THINK ABOUT IT: *(Use the commentary to reinforce the Big Truth.)*

Jesus is called “the true light, which gives light to everyone.” He was in the beginning and it was through Him that the world and all that is in it was created. Yet, when He came to earth, even His own people didn’t recognize or receive Him. He left the perfection of heaven to become a man, live on earth, and walk among us, and we rejected Him. Yet, to those who did receive Him, who are born of God and who believe in His name, Jesus gives the right to become children of God. Apart from Him, we will always reject Him. Apart from Him, we are lost and without hope. In Him, we have seen the glory of God. We can know grace and truth and have received grace upon grace. In Jesus, God has made Himself known to us. He gives hope because He gives light. He is our hope because He makes us to be children of God. He gives hope because He makes God known to us. He is the only one who offers true and lasting hope.

TALK ABOUT IT: *(Use the questions to discuss the Big Truth)*

- What was the people’s response when Jesus came to earth? (They did not receive Him or believe in His name.)
- What does Jesus do for those who believe in Him? (He gives them the right to become children of God.)
- How is Jesus our only hope? (He is the only way we can know God and have our sins forgiven.)



As a family, memorize John 1:12 by setting a timer and seeing who can write the verse from memory the fastest.



As a family choose a day to have a “Do Over”. On this day, when someone makes a mistake, has a bad attitude, or gets in trouble for something, that person gets an automatic “Do Over”. Talk through how our lives change from enslaved to sin and disobedience to God to set free from sin and obeying God when we have saving faith in Jesus.



Share with your child your personal salvation experience. Talk with your child about the hope you now have in Jesus and how you know you can walk in obedience to God because of Jesus.



As a family spend some as a family praying and thanking Jesus for being the true Savior and that He makes us new creations.