

# GOD'S FAMILY ARE CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT

YEAR: KNEEL / FOCUS: I AM AN AMBASSADOR  
SERIES: GOD IS THE SOURCE — I AM A LIGHT

## BIG TRUTH: GOD'S FAMILY ARE CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT

Ephesians 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:5; 2 Corinthians 4:6; 1 John 1:5

## BIBLE VERSE: PHILIPPIANS 2:14-15

*"Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world."*

## BIG IDEAS

- In Christ, our lives belong to God.
- As children of God, our lives should stand out.
- As children of God, our lives should reflect our Father.

## BIBLE PASSAGE: PHILIPPIANS 2:14-18

### KNEEL - I AM AN AMBASSADOR

The Kneel Year is an exploration of what it means to worship God with our all (Luke 10:26-28). Worship is not something that is limited to a service once a week, but instead occurs every day, in all of life. We are unceasing worshipers. Worship never stops, it only changes directions. In order to worship God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind, we must embrace our identity as image bearers. It is out of that identity that we can begin to live for God's glory in all of life (Colossians 3:17).

## SERIES AIMS



### Every student should know that...

- Our sin leads to darkness, but Jesus is light.
- Christians are set apart to shine the light of the gospel in the world.



### Every student should feel...

- Humbled that they exist to point to Jesus alone.
- An urgency to make God known to the dying world around them.



### Every student should strive to...

- Spend time each day learning more about who God is through His Word.
- Live a life that reflects God to the world.
- Share the gospel with at least one person who does not know Jesus.



### Every student should want...

- To pursue holiness that points people away from themselves and towards Jesus.
- To reflect the Father by living sacrificially.
- To make known the love of God.

## GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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# GOD'S FAMILY ARE CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT

## BIBLE VERSE: PHILIPPIANS 2:14-15

*"Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world."*

### Believers should live holy lives.

*"Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent..."*

- As Paul writes to the Philippian believers, he teaches them the way they should live their lives. God's people should live holy lives because they are His lights in the world. The way God's people live in the world with unbelievers matters. God's people should not be known for grumbling and complaining. They should not be known for being argumentative or angry.
- Paul writes that God's people should live lives that are holy and pleasing to God. They should be found blameless and spotless before God. Because His people are a reflection of Him in the world, they should strive to be obedient to Him.

### Believers should seek to share Christ.

*"...that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation..."*

- Being a light in the world means sharing the truth about God's plan of salvation with others. We do this daily by living obedient lives and by verbally telling others about Jesus and the way that they can know God.
- Paul teaches the Philippians to be blameless and innocent in the midst of this broken and sinful world. It's not just that our lives should be holy, but that our lives are lived in a way that when we do share the gospel, our behaviors and actions don't discredit what we're saying.

### Believers are lights in this dark world.

*"...among whom you shine as lights in the world."*

- God's plan is for His people to reflect His image and truth in the world. Though He does not need people to accomplish His purposes, He chooses to use His children to spread the gospel in the world.
- As God's family, we are to shine brightly as lights in this dark world. This means that our lives should reflect the work of Christ in us and the ways that God has and is transforming us to be like Him. Our thoughts, words, and actions will be different from unbelievers in the world as they reflect the truth of God's Word in this dark world.

# GOD'S FAMILY ARE CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT

## BIG IDEA #1: IN CHRIST, OUR LIVES BELONG TO GOD.<sup>1</sup>

### [ THIS ]

When we are brought from the darkness of our sinful hearts to the light of God's salvation, we become part of His family. As part of God's family, our lives are not our own. They belong to God and He commands us to live for Him. Because we belong to God, we should pursue God's plan and purposes for our lives. We should live in pursuit of God's purpose for our lives. We do this by seeking to obey His Word in our daily lives. This means we obey in private and in public. Our desire to obey should be for His glory and not so that we look or are perceived a certain way. As we seek to glorify God, we will pursue His plan for us. We will set aside our own desires and ideas about what our lives should be and we will submit to His will for us. We will seek His will above all else and daily die to our earthly desires.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**What daily behaviors or attitudes are hindering you from truly pursuing God's plan for your life?**

In 1 John 1:9, we see the idea that we should confess our sin to the Lord. We know He is faithful to forgive us and unconfessed sin can hinder our pursuit of His plan for us. Hebrews 11:6 teaches us that if we do not believe, we cannot please God and James 4:3 says that if we are asking with the wrong motive, we will not receive. Our flesh natures will hinder us from truly pursuing God's plan for our lives.

### [ THIS ]

Philippians 2:13 teaches us that God's plan is best for our lives. Because God is perfect and He is the Creator of all things, His plans and purposes are the best. No one else knows better than the Creator of life and the world how it should work than the Creator Himself. We can know and trust God's plan for our lives by knowing Him. As we grow in our knowledge of His Word, we will grow in our knowledge of Him. This growing knowledge will enable us to trust that His plan for us is the very best. God guides our lives and leads us down the very best paths for His glory and our good. He can be trusted to do what is most glorifying and good.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**How have you doubted God's plan for your life?**

Proverbs 3:5-7 teaches us to not trust in our own understanding of life, but to trust God. As we trust God, we acknowledge His power and control of all situations and are obedient as He leads us down the best path. When we don't do this, we are doubting God's plan for our lives. Psalm 91:1-2 reminds us that God's plan is the best and He can be trusted always.

**In what areas of your life do you need to obey God's plan for you instead of trying to follow your own plan and path?**

In Psalm 37:34 we see the call to wait on the Lord and His timing. Often in our lives, we do not want to wait on God. We choose to act in our own power and wisdom, and we walk away from God's plan for our lives. In Isaiah 55:8-9, we see that those who think they know better than God or fully understand Him are foolish. God's thoughts are not our thoughts. His are greater and higher than anything we could ever imagine.

1. Philippians 2:12-13: Believers are God's children and part of His family as He works in us to make us like Him.

# GOD'S FAMILY ARE CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT

## BIG IDEA #2: AS CHILDREN OF GOD, OUR LIVES SHOULD STAND OUT.<sup>2</sup>

### [ THIS ]

Philippians 2:14 teaches us that the way we live our lives matters to God. As God's people, we are His ambassadors, or representatives and we are called to live a life that points people to Him. Because we are His ambassadors and His people, how we behave on a daily basis matters. Our reactions to situations, people, and even life in general speak volumes about what is in our hearts. This means our attitudes should reveal a heart transformed by the power of Jesus Christ. We should not be known as grumblers or divisive people. Instead, we should be known as loving and peaceful people. As we seek to live for God, we will control our attitudes and responses so that we might stand out for Jesus.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**What attitudes do you need to change so that you better reflect God to the world?**

In Ephesians 4:1, 32, we see Paul teach the way we should live as believers. We should abstain from living according to our flesh and we should seek to live lives that are characterized by love, kindness, and peace. Galatians 5:16 teaches us to walk by the Spirit so that we do not give into our fleshly desires. As we seek to follow God and reflect Him to the world, our attitudes will reflect the fruit of the Spirit.

### [ THIS ]

As we pursue God, we will pursue holiness because God is holy. Our lives will stand out because we will look, act, think, and behave differently than the world does. Those who do not know Christ follow the things of this world and the ruler of this world. We, as followers of God, should not follow the things of this world. Our daily lives, private and public, should look like Christ. We will seek to live blameless lives just as God commands in Ephesians 2:15. We can live blameless lives because we have the Holy Spirit guiding us and transforming us daily. The Holy Spirit will work in us to make us more like Christ and we will be lights in a dark world.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**Why should believers pursue holiness?**

Isaiah 6:3 tells us that God is holy and the whole earth is fully of His glory. 1 Peter 1:16 reminds us that God commands us to be holy because He is holy and as we seek to be like Him, we will pursue holiness. Hebrews 12:14 teaches us that we should strive for holiness because this is what God desires of us.

**How can you pursue holiness this week?**

1 Corinthians 9:27 teaches us the idea of disciplining our bodies so that we might not satisfy our fleshly desires. Romans 13:14 shows us that we can put on the holiness of God and not satisfy our flesh when we have the Holy Spirit. As we seek to be like Christ, we will discipline ourselves to submit our hearts to the Holy Spirit. This will result in our growing in the fruit of the Spirit and becoming more like Christ.

2. Philippians 2:14-15: As God's people we should stand out in this dark world.

3. 2 Corinthians 5:20: God's people are His chosen ambassadors to share the gospel with the world.

# GOD'S FAMILY ARE CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT

## BIG IDEA #3: AS CHILDREN OF GOD, OUR LIVES SHOULD REFLECT OUR FATHER.<sup>4</sup>

### [ THIS ]

In Philippians 2:17, Paul compares himself to a drink offering being poured out as a sacrifice. He is referencing a process of pouring out wine on the ground or on an altar as a grain sacrifice. Paul is teaching that he is willing to sacrifice his life for the sake of God's purposes and plans. Paul lived his life giving all that he had in order to spread the gospel in the world. He modeled a willingness to sacrifice so that others might hear the gospel and enter the family of God. As God's people, we should be willing to sacrifice for Him. This means we sacrifice our time, money, abilities and talents, and our resources that His purpose might be fulfilled on the earth. When we do this, we reflect God the Father's willingness to give up His only Son for the world.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### **What obstacles keep you from sacrificing your time and resources for the cause of Christ?**

Philippians 2:4 and 1 Corinthians 10:24 teach us that God's people should consider the interests of others above themselves. This means, we should be willing to focus, not on ourselves, but on others. We are distracted from doing this when we focus entirely on ourselves. 1 John 3:17 shows us that we should share the resources we have with those in need. When we are distracted by a self-focus, we will not do this and thus fail to reflect the Father.

### [ THIS ]

In Philippians 2:17b-18, Paul teaches a truth about sacrificing for the Lord. As Paul lives his life as a living sacrifice, he gives up his time, resources, and uses his abilities for Christ. Though he is living a life of sacrifice, he experiences great joy because he is fulfilling his created purpose. Just as Paul found joy in reflecting the Father to the world, we can, too. As we leverage our lives for the gospel, we will experience joy in sacrificing. We find joy because we will make it our daily goal of seeking God and His kingdom above all else. True joy is found in knowing Jesus and we will know Him as we pursue His kingdom and will in our lives. Jesus modeled what being poured out as a drink offering looks like and as we follow His example, we will find our hearts filled with joy in knowing we are pleasing the Father.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### **How have you rejoiced at the opportunity to sacrifice for God?**

In Acts 5:40-42, we see the disciples of Christ beaten for sharing the gospel. Though they were beaten, the disciples rejoiced that they had suffered and sacrificed for Christ. Hebrews 13:15-16 helps us see the connection between sacrifice and praise. We praise when we feel joy towards the Lord. As we live lives of sacrifice, we will experience joy that comes only from the Lord.

#### **What do you have that you can sacrifice this week?**

In 1 Peter 2:5, God's people are called a holy priesthood. In the times long ago, priests were the ones who offered sacrifices to God. Being called a holy priesthood today means that God's people offer sacrifices to Him, and today we sacrifice by giving of our time and resources. Romans 12:1 also teaches us that our lives are to be lived as living sacrifices for God. When we live sacrificially and joyfully, we are reflecting the image of God that is being redeemed in us as His people.

4. Ephesians 2:17-18: Just as Christ willingly gave of Himself, we should be willing to sacrifice ourselves for God's glory.

5. Numbers 28:7: God's people used to offer drink offerings to God as part of the sacrificial system that pointed toward the coming Messiah.