

GOD'S CHURCH EXISTS TO MAKE HIM KNOWN

BIG TRUTH: GOD'S CHURCH EXISTS TO MAKE HIM KNOWN

Mark 16:15-16; Matthew 28:18-20; Ephesians 4:11-13; Colossians 1:28; Matthew 5:16; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:11-15

BIBLE VERSE: 1 PETER 2:9-10

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."

BIG IDEAS

- The church is a royal priesthood.
- The church is a holy people.
- The church exists to proclaim God's glory.

BIBLE STORY: ACTS 4

In the early days of the church, Peter, John, and the other disciples preached the truth of the gospel boldly, even when it meant they endangered their lives. The early church served one another and ministered to each other and others. God's church is set apart for His glory. It exists for His purposes and is made holy by Him for Him.

THE STORY

The Story is the good news of the gospel. All of Scripture tells the Story of God the Father's work to redeem a people from the power of sin through God the Son so that they might live for His glory through the power of the Holy Spirit. During this series we will explore the four main movements of the Story of God, and our response to the life-altering Gospel Story!

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- God is the author, subject, and hero of the gospel story
- Salvation comes by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone



Every child should feel:

- Brokenness over the depth of our sin against God
- Joy in Jesus, our Savior and King



Every child should strive to:

- Describe the gospel message through Creation, Fall, Redemption, and New Creation
- Memorize the Bible verse each week



Every child should want:

- To study the Bible so that they can better understand God's story of redemption
- To share the gospel story with those who are separated from God in their sin

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PROCLAIMING HIS GLORY

As a family, create a list of ways your local church declares God's glory in the world. Some things might include, sending mission teams to serve missionaries in different places in the world, offering summer outreach opportunities for your community, etc. Talk through these and how your family can be involved.

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

Acts 4.

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

After Jesus' resurrection and ascension, or return to Heaven, the early church began. Jesus' disciples and followers began fulfilling His command to take the gospel into the world. Early believers gathered together to encourage one another and to share the gospel with others. Peter and John, two of Jesus' disciples, were on their way into the temple one day when they encountered a man who had been lame for a long time. They healed the lame man and shared the gospel of Jesus to those around him. This angered the Sadducees and ultimately resulted in Peter and John being arrested. Though Peter and John were imprisoned, many people who had heard the truth about Jesus after they healed the lame beggar believed the gospel and were saved. Peter and John were released from prison and the early church gathered to care for them and one another. The early church loved one another sacrificially and boldly proclaimed the gospel to those who had not yet believed. The early church continued to grow and grows even today. God's church exists for His purposes. He has set apart His church as His holy people, making them righteous through the blood of Jesus. The church exists to make God known to the world. It is a holy people and a royal priesthood, meaning that members of the body of Christ are called to love one another with a Godly love and to go into the world telling others what Jesus has done for the world.

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

- What is the purpose of God's church? (The church's purpose is to make God known in the world by sharing the gospel and caring for one another.)
- How did the early church fulfill its purpose? (They shared the gospel boldly and cared for one another faithfully.)



KNOW

As a family, memorize 1 Peter 2:9-10 by playing a game of Hangman with the verses. Once the puzzles are complete, say the verses out loud together



DO

Create a scavenger hunt for your child. Include items that are rare or one of a kind in your house. Once your child completes the scavenger hunt, talk with them about what it means to be set apart for God. Remind them that God's people are set apart and made holy for His purposes.



FEEL

Help your child create a comic strip showing the ways that the church is a holy people. Use different verses discussing the church's purpose to help your child create the comic strip. Remind them that the church exists to make God known and we can feel joyful in Jesus who redeemed His church and gave it this purpose.



WANT

Lead your child in a time of prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to help your child understand that the purpose of the church is to bring God glory in all the world.