

GOD IS FATHER

SUMMER: FOUNDATIONS

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS FATHER

Matthew 7:7-11; John 1:14; Hebrews 12:7; Romans 8:14-15; Ephesians 1:3, 4:6; Galatians 4:6; Philippians 2:11; 1 John 3:1

BIBLE VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 8:6

"Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist."

BIG IDEAS

- God is Father and the Father is good.
- The Father loves His children perfectly.
- We can trust the Father because He cares for us.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 11:9-13; 12:22-31

During His earthly ministry, Jesus taught His followers about God the Father. He taught them that God is the Father and the Father loves perfectly. The Father always cares for His children because He loves them and watches over them.

FOUNDATION: GOD IS

"God is" means that there is only one god in the universe. He alone is Lord over everything that exists, and He alone is worthy of our worship. This also means that every good thing that exists comes from God. All good things come from Him because goodness is a part of who He is as the one true God. It is a part of His nature and character to be good, and everything that comes from God is good. Thankfully God has not chosen to withhold His goodness from His creation, but instead gives it freely to us.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- There is only one true God, and He is good.
- We can know God because He has made Himself known through creation and Word.
- God alone is our source of life and joy.



Every child should feel:

- Loved by God, and thankful for His love for us.
- Broken over the depth of our sin against God.
- Joy in Jesus, the only Son of God who came to save us.



Every child should strive to:

- Memorize the Bible verse each week about who God is.
- Pray that God would open their hearts and minds to know Him more.
- Tell someone else about the God who is.



Every child should want:

- Learn more about the God who has made Himself known.
- Repent of their sin and of the lies they believe about God.
- Cling to God as the source of truth.

FAMILY DEVOTION: THE GOOD FATHER

The Father is perfect and never does any wrong. Everything He does is good and all He does for His children is good. He is a good Father.

BIBLE VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 8:6

"Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist."

God is Father of His people.

"Yet for us there is one God, the Father..."

- In Paul's letter to the Corinthian believers, he teaches them that God is one God in three persons. In this letter, Paul teaches the truth that God is the Father of His people. He is not just an absent, uninvolved deity who does not interact in the lives of His people.
- God is the Heavenly Father. He is the first Father and the perfect Father. He is the Father of all people and He interacts with His people as their Father. He loves them and cares for them as His children.

All things are from Him.

"...from whom are all things...and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things..."

- God is the beginning of all things because He is the Alpha. He is first among all things because He has no beginning and no end. God is not a created being, yet He is the Creator. All things come from Him because He is the Author of everything.
- God is the first Father among many earthly fathers. He is the true Father of all life because He spoke life into being. He breathed life into man's body and every person born after is born because God ordains it, allows it, and sustains it.

All things exist for Him.

"...and for whom we exist...and through whom we exist."

- Not only does all life come from God, it exists for Him. He is the supreme being and everything is made for Him. He created mankind to be in a relationship with Him, to be His sons and daughters.
- God reigns over all things because He is the reason they exist and He cares for them. He loves His creation and is actively involved in it for His glory and its good.

BIBLE STORY: Luke 11:9-13; 12:22-31

God Our Heavenly Father

Opening Illustration:

Show the children pictures of good things and bad things, such as a pretty sunset for a good thing and a hurricane or fire for a bad thing. Ask the children to identify the good things and the bad things. Talk with them about how God is our heavenly Father and He is always good.

BIG IDEA: GOD IS FATHER AND THE FATHER IS GOOD.¹**God is our heavenly Father.**

- God is one God in three persons. One of His persons is Father.
- God is the heavenly Father. Just like we each have an earthly father, God's children have Him as their heavenly Father.
- God cares for us as our Father. He loves us unconditionally.
- He looks after us and thinks of us as His children.
- Those who follow Christ are His sons and daughters.



Have the children divide into small groups. Give each group a blank piece of a paper and crayons. Ask the groups to draw pictures or write down ways that God is a good Father. Help them think of some examples, such as He always provides for His people. Remind them that God is always a good Father.

The Father welcomes us into His family as His children forever.

- When we turn from our sin and follow Jesus, we become God's sons and daughters.
- We are His children and He is our Father.
- He welcomes us into His family and we become His children for our life on earth and in our eternity.
- He never leaves us or forgets about us.
- We are His forever.

God is a good Father.

- Often we think about God like we think about our earthly father.
- We may think God is like our earthly father, but God is better than any earthly father we could ever have.
- God is a good Father. All that He does is good.
- He only wants to do the very best for us and He always does what is right and in our best interest.

How do we know God is a good Father? (He is perfect and always does everything good.)

1. Psalm 145:8: God is a good Father and He loves His children.

BIG IDEA: THE FATHER LOVES HIS CHILDREN PERFECTLY.²**God is perfect and everything He does is perfect.**

- God is the only perfect being ever.
- No one else is perfect like God. No one else does everything right and good always.
- God is the only perfect being and He alone does all good things.
- Everything He does is perfect and good.
- He doesn't make any mistakes and He has no sin.



Play a game of musical beanbag. Have the children sit in a circle and pass a beanbag while music is playing. When the music stops the child holding the beanbag gets to shout out one good thing about God's love. Help them think of examples and then remind them that God loves perfectly.

The Father loves His children perfectly.

- Not only does God do all things perfectly because He doesn't have any sin, but He loves perfectly.
- We have the ability to love others and we can even try to love them to the very best of our ability, but no one can love perfectly like God does.
- Our earthly parents will and can love us unconditionally, but they will not love us perfectly like God does.
- His love for His children is always right and good. It is always the very best they need.

The Father's love is always good.

- God loves His children so much and so perfectly, He sacrificed His only Son for the world.
- God's love is always good, though sometimes, we may think He is trying to hurt us.
- God parents us like His children. He always guides us and corrects us in the right way.
- When we trust Him and obey Him, all things will work out for our good and His glory.

Can we trust the Father to loves us perfectly? (Yes, God is perfect which means His love for us is perfect.)

2. 1 John 3:1: *God loves us so much that He calls us His children.*

BIG IDEA: WE CAN TRUST THE FATHER BECAUSE HE CARES FOR US.³**The Father is trustworthy.**

- Many things in this life are not trustworthy. This means that we cannot count on, or depend on them to remain the same or continue being in our lives.
- Because God is eternal and has no beginning or end, we can always count on Him.
- He does not change because He remains the same always.
- We can trust God's love because of His eternal nature.



Bring in a bandana as a blindfold. Have the children take turns wearing the blindfold and leading one another around the room. When every child has a chance to wear the blindfold, talk with them about how we can always trust God the Father.

The Father cares for His children.

- The Bible teaches us that God cares for His people.
- Not only the Bible, but when we look at the natural world, we can know that God loves us.
- He takes care of the flowers, birds, and even the grasses in the field. If He cares for even these creatures, we can trust that He cares for us.
- He provides for us and makes sure we have all that we need.

God's children should always trust His provision.

- Because we can know that God cares for us, we should always trust Him.
- Even when it seems that bad things are happening, we should always trust that God is caring for us.
- Even when it seems like things aren't going well or we feel like we aren't getting what we think we need, we should choose to trust God our Father.
- He will provide for His children because He loves them and He has promised to always provide for them.

Why should we trust God's provision? (He is good and trustworthy and He has promised to always provide for us.)

3. Luke 12:27-28: We can look at the flowers and birds and know we can trust God to care for us.

HOOKS

**Our Father**

Read the Lord's Prayer to the children. Then instruct them to draw pictures of some of the things they would talk to the Father about, such as their friends, their family, any fears or worries they may have. Help them understand that God is a good Father and we can talk to Him like we talk to our earthly parents.

**Who's A Good Father?**

Write down words that are true of God as Father, such as faithful, kind, perfect, etc. on index cards. Hide them around the room and have the children take turns hunting for them. When they find one, read the word and ask them to identify if this is true of God as Father or not. Include some words that aren't true of God as Father, too. Remind them that God is a good Father and He is always trustworthy.

**A Faithful Father**

Lead the children in a time of prayer in which you thank God for being a faithful Father. Help the children think of things to thank God for that show His faithfulness.

