

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS LOVE

Deuteronomy 7:9; Psalm 36:7; 1 John 4:10; Romans 5:8; Ephesians 2:4-5

BIBLE VERSE: 1 JOHN 4:16B

"God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God and God abides in Him."

BIG IDEAS

- God's love is not dependent upon our obedience.
- God's love is put on display through Jesus' sacrificial death in our place.
- God's love changes our hearts.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 15:11-32

In the story of the prodigal son, the father loves his son unconditionally and sacrificially. God loves the world and shows His love for His people in a sacrificial and lavish way.

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.

GOD LOVES

Use sidewalk chalk to create a large heart. With your preschooler, draw pictures of the ways that God shows love to all of the world, such as giving us beautiful things to see, air to breathe, etc. Remind your preschooler that God is love and He loves perfectly.

DISCOVER IT:

Read Luke 15:11-32.

THINK ABOUT IT:

Stories are a way to help us learn and grow. Jesus told stories during His earthly ministry. One story He told His followers was about a father and his two sons. Jesus told the story to show His followers how God the Father loves the world. The youngest son in the story was unhappy in his father's house. He wanted to live his own life and do what he wanted to do all of the time. He asked his father to give him his inheritance early so he could go and live his life like he wanted to do. The father was sad that his son wanted to leave, but he gave him the money and the son left. The youngest son lived his own life. He did what he wanted when he wanted. He spent his time doing a lot of foolish things until one day, he didn't have any money left. He had spent it all doing all the fun things he had always thought he wanted to do. Since he didn't have any money, he had to get a job, but the only job he could find was a job feeding someone's pigs. The youngest son was so desperate for food, he ate the same food he fed the pigs. One day, he realized that his father's servants lived a better life than he was living right then, so he decided to go home and ask his father if he could be one of his servants. He made the long journey home and when he was almost home, but still a ways out, his father saw him and came running to him. His father wasn't angry or upset. He was overjoyed and so happy that his son had come home. His father welcomed his son home and threw a great party for him to celebrate his homecoming. God loves even more perfectly than the father. He loves unconditionally, which means He loves no matter what. God shows His love for the world by sacrificing Jesus for us. He loves us so much that it changes us when we place our faith in Jesus. God loves us always.

Talk About It:

- How does God love His people? (He loves His people sacrificially.)
- How does God's love change us? (His love makes us new people when we believe in Jesus.)

**KNOW**

As a family, memorize 1 John 4:16b by spending time in the morning or the evening going over the verse together. Say it out loud together several times each day.

**DO**

Write each family member's name on a piece of paper and place the names in bag. Instruct each family member to draw a name from the bag. Each family member should find ways to show love to the family member they chose this week. At the end of the week, gather as a family to discuss the different ways each person showed love. Discuss how God shows love and loves us unconditionally.

**FEEL**

Choose a time to gather as a family to read Luke 15:11-32. After you read it, talk about the ways that you love your child. Share some of your favorite things about your child and then ask each family member to share one thing they love about another family member. Remind your child that we know how to love because God loves us first and He loves us perfectly.

**WANT**

As a family spend time praying together. Model thanking God for loving us and asking the Holy Spirit to help you love others the way God loves us.