

GOD CREATED FAMILY

YEAR: UNITE / FOCUS: I AM PART OF A FAMILY
SERIES: GOD IS FATHER — I AM ADOPTED

BIG TRUTH: GOD CREATED FAMILY

Genesis 2:24; 9:1; Psalm 127:3-5; 78:5; 145:4; Deuteronomy 11:18-19

BIBLE VERSE: GENESIS 1:27-28

“So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’”

BIG IDEAS

- The family reflects God’s image.
- The family exists to spread God’s fame.
- The family is good.

BIBLE PASSAGE: GENESIS 1:26-31

UNITE - I AM PART OF A FAMILY

The Unite Year is an exploration of what it means to be united in Christ as the family of God (Romans 12:5). When we are saved, we are given a spirit of adoption as sons (Romans 8:15-16), are made a child of God, and we are also saved into a family- the Church. The Unite Year explores how we are to live as a part of a family, and to live in light of our calling as servants and disciples of Christ. We use our gifts to build up the church as we pursue unity, humility, and gentleness with our brothers and sisters in Christ (Ephesians 4:1-2).

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know that...

- Family exists for God.
- Their heart was bought with a price.
- God is building His family through adoption.



Every student should feel...

- Broken over the ways that sin has fractured their family and the family of God.
- Hope that one day, their adoption as sons and daughters of God will be fully realized



Every student should strive to...

- Memorize Romans 8.
- Do one new thing each week to honor their parents or siblings.
- Find one new way to love and serve their church family.



Every student should want...

- To glorify God in their families.
- To see their family, and the church family, as gifts from God.
- To share the truth that Jesus made our adoption possible with someone

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.

GOD CREATED FAMILY

BIBLE VERSE: GENESIS 1:27-28

“So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’”

God created people in His image.

“So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

- Humans are different from the rest of creation in that they are made in God’s image. People are a reflection of His image. This means that people mirror God’s image in several ways, some of which are making decisions, loving and serving others, being creative, and the immortality of our souls.
- God formed man and woman Himself and breathed life into the first man’s lungs. God was intimately involved in the creation of mankind. God purposefully and intentionally made people different than the rest of creation.

God created the family unit in the beginning.

“...male and female He created them. God blessed them. And God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it...”

- In the beginning, when God created the world, He established the first family unit. He did this by creating two genders, male and female. When He created a man and woman, He created two humans who are equal in dignity and value who could come together as one flesh.
- By bringing the man and woman together in the first marriage, God established the first family and laid out the guidelines for the family.
- Family is from God. It is His idea and not man’s. It is from Him and given to us as a gift and a way to equip people to fulfill God’s purpose.

God made family to proclaim His glory in the earth.

“And God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth...”

- God established the first family and set up the guidelines for the family’s purpose. God created Adam, the first man, placed him in his home, the Garden of Eden, and then God created Adam’s wife, Eve. God had given them everything they would need in the Garden of Eden.
- God gave them instructions and guidelines to help them live for Him and fulfill His purpose for them.
- God told Adam and Eve to be fruitful in the earth. This means they were to fulfill God’s purpose for them and to raise their children to fulfill God’s purposes in the earth. God’s purpose for the family is that it proclaims God’s glory in the earth. As individual family members pursue God’s glory, the family unit will spread God’s glory in the earth.

BIG IDEA #1: THE FAMILY REFLECTS GOD'S IMAGE.¹**[THIS]**

The origin of the family is found in the creation of the first man and woman. God created Adam, the first man, and He did so in an intentional and purposeful way. He placed Adam in the Garden of Eden and gave him authority and purpose. Adam was alone without a companion like him. This means that while he was surrounded by the rest of creation, he did not have someone like him to live life with him. God created the first woman, Eve, from Adam's rib. God brought Eve to Adam and declared her Adam's wife and lifelong companion. When God did this, He established the first marriage and, subsequently, the first family. God had created two people in His image who reflected the way the Trinity joins together to become one. By creating male and female, God created humans who mirror His image and can fulfill His purpose by procreating and populating the earth. The family unit is created by God and for God. It exists for His glory and to fulfill His purpose. Family isn't man's idea. We didn't come up with the concept of family; therefore, we do not get to define it.

[THEREFORE]

How does God's creation of the first marriage and establishment of the first family speak to His authority over family?

Because God is the Creator of all things, He holds all authority over every created thing. God established the family; therefore, He holds authority over the family. Romans 11:36, Ephesians 2:10, and Revelation 5:13 remind us of the authority and power God has over created things. God rules over the family and defines what it is and what its purpose is.

[THIS]

Just as men and women are made in God's image to reflect Him to the world, the family is a reflection of God in the world. Family is a reflection of who God is and how the Trinity interacts for the glory of God. Family reflects God to the world by mirroring His unconditional love, service, and forgiveness. Families have a unique purpose of mirroring not only God's image, but God's redeemed family. When a person is redeemed from their sinfulness, they become part of God's family of redeemed people. Individual family units can mirror this as they pursue together the glory of God. Even families that are made up of unbelievers still reflect some aspect of God and His family. The family reflects God as the Triune God and it also is a picture of His family, the church. The family unit is made up of individuals who individually pursue God's glory and thus collectively reflect His image accurately in the world.

[THEREFORE]

How is the Godhead, or Trinity, reflected in the family?

The family has an established order to it. The husband is the head of the wife and the household. The wife submits to the husband, but the husband and wife have authority over the children. In the Trinity, the Spirit submits to the Father and Son and the Son submitted to the Father as John 6:38, Hebrews 5:8, and John 16:12-15 teach us. The family is a reflection of this aspect of God's character and image.

How have families in the world presented a false image of God to the world?

God's intent and purpose for the family was to reflect His image and glory in the world. In our world, we have marred this image because of our brokenness and sinfulness. Matthew 19:8 presents one way that families today present a false image of God. When parents divorce, families are separated and do not present an accurate image of God to the world. Instead, they represent a broken picture of God to the world.

1. Genesis 1:27: *People are made in God's image. The family is made up of people who reflect God's image.*

BIG IDEA #2: THE FAMILY EXISTS TO SPREAD GOD'S FAME.²**[THIS]**

When God created the first family, He equipped Adam and Eve with all they would need to live and to glorify Him. He placed them in the Garden and provided them with the food they would need. He gave them work to do and guidelines to help them live their lives in obedience to Him. God brought Adam and Eve together as companions because it is what is best for them. God made people to live in community and to be connected to one another. This is a reflection of God as one God in three persons. God's instructions to Adam and Eve were that they would multiply in the world and live fruitful lives. This purpose is for the family unit, as well. Families are the way in which God has determined people should live, and living in a family that seeks God's glory spreads God's name throughout the world.

[THEREFORE]**What is the purpose that God gives to the family?**

God created the family to glorify His name; it reflects His glory by showcasing His wisdom and knowledge. Romans 15:8-9 also teaches us that we all exist for God's glory and this means that the family exists for God's glory.

How do we distort this purpose?

Our brokenness has distorted the family. It has become broken and more about the satisfaction and glory of man than about the glory of God. We make the family about ourselves and seek our own glory and satisfaction in it rather than seeking God's glory.

[THIS]

Because the family is created by God, it exists for Him. It is not created for the sake of man alone. By creating the family unit, God reveals His glory because we see that He is all-knowing, wise above all, and purposeful. Family gives us a glimpse of God's omniscience because He is the Creator of mankind and He alone knows that living in family units is what is best for man. As the family lives for the glory of God, His fame is spread throughout the world. Because of sin and brokenness, family life isn't always the easiest. Relationships are strained and can lead to deep hurts, but God uses His redeemed people in their family units to carry His truth to all the world. The family's purpose is to live on mission for God as a unified group. In a family, individuals flourish by receiving care and support. In families of believers, the fame of God is on display and spread throughout the world.

[THEREFORE]**Read Genesis 1:28. Why would God choose the family as His means of spreading His fame in the world?**

God commanded the first family to be fruitful in the world. In order for them to be fruitful, they would need to pursue God's glory and make His name famous in the world. 1 Corinthians 10:31 and Deuteronomy 6:7-8 also show us that we are all to seek God's glory, and families are places where this training and teaching can take place.

How can you work with your family (believers and unbelievers) to pursue God's glory and make His name famous in the world?

As individuals, we exist for God's glory. As a family unit, we work with our family members to seek God's glory. As we seek God's glory individually, we will grow in our knowledge and understanding of God. 1 Chronicles 16:11 and Psalm 40:16 serve as reminders that those who seek God, will find Him. We can faithfully seek God individually in order to live in unity and peace with our family and to participate in making God famous throughout the world in service to Him.

2. Genesis 1:28: God gave the first family a purpose that is true for all families.

BIG IDEA #3: THE FAMILY IS GOOD.³**[THIS]**

All that God does is good. His creation of the world and all that is in it is good. God made man and woman, He brought them together in the first marriage, and He created the first family. His wisdom in ordaining people to live in family units is displayed in the purpose and intention He gives to family. In the first few chapters of Genesis, we see God declare that man's lack of a companion like him was not good. This wasn't a mistake that God had made, but instead, reveals God's provision for mankind and His establishment of His created order for the world. God was intentional in creating man first and then declaring to creation that He was ordering His creation in a specific way. God created woman and in doing so, established the first family. This was very good. The concept of family reflects God's wisdom and provision in the world. It reveals His plan and purpose for people and the relational way that He has created every person. Though family is good, because we are all broken and sinful, they aren't perfect. Even though our family isn't perfect doesn't mean it isn't a good thing from God.

[THEREFORE]**How does the family show us God's goodness?**

Everything from God is good. James 1:17 teaches us that every good gift is from God. We see God's goodness in family when we look at the benefits of family. Being in a family provides support and provision. It also offers us connection and brings joy to our lives. God ordained that we all would be born into families because He is a good God who does what is best for the world.

Describe how the lack of a family affects a person's life?

Because we are created for relationship and God ordered human life in a way that meant we all are born into families and live in family units, when we are missing this, we suffer. Not having a family makes a person an orphan and God gives commands to His people to care for orphans, emphasizing the importance and significance of having a family. James 1:27 and Galatians 6:2 remind us of the importance of having families and a community to help bear our burdens.

How can the family of God become a spiritual family to us?

We can be a part of a spiritual family when we are believers because we are all connected by the Spirit of God. Even when our parents or siblings aren't believers, we can find a spiritual family in the church. 1 Corinthians 12:26 and Ephesians 2:19 we see that every believer is part of the family of God.

[THIS]

The family is good because it is from God and He has said that it is good. God is the Creator of family which means that He alone understands family and He alone can declare it good or bad. Because He has said that it is good, we know it is indeed good. People are emotionally and physically healthier when they belong to healthy families. People's lives are more affected by family dynamics and relationships than any other thing. This good thing that God established affects us all greatly whether we realize it or not. Families are good because they impact the world for God. Parents, who first pursue Christ, teach their children to pursue Christ, and then the world is impacted for the glory of God.

[THEREFORE]**How has your family, or church family, impacted your life? How can you use that to reach others for Christ?**

Families equip one another to fulfill their created purpose. Matthew 28:19 and Ephesians 6:4 help us understand our purpose and the role that our family plays in fulfilling this purpose.

3. Genesis 1:25: God created the first marriage and family and declared it to be good.