

GOD MAKES HIMSELF KNOWN THROUGH FAMILY

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

BIG TRUTH: GOD MAKES HIMSELF KNOWN THROUGH FAMILY

Psalm 76:1; John 1:18; Romans 1:19; 1 Corinthians 8:3

BIBLE VERSE: GENESIS 17:7

“And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.”

BIG IDEAS

- God is creating a new family with a new identity.
- God makes and keeps His covenant.
- God’s family exists to display His glory to the world.

BIBLE PASSAGE: GENESIS 17:1-8, EPHESIANS 2:17-20, 1 JOHN 3:1-3

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.



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GOD MAKES HIMSELF KNOWN THROUGH FAMILY

BIBLE VERSE: GENESIS 17:7

“And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.”

God established His covenant with His people.

“And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant...”

- God chose Abraham to be the early father of His special people. God called Abraham from his home and chose him as the beginning of His family of chosen people, the Israelites. God made a promise to Abraham that He would indeed give Abraham and his wife, Sarah a son and from that son a great nation would come.
- God’s promise to Abraham did not depend upon Abraham. It was not because of Abraham. Abraham had not achieved some special status or righteousness. God chose Abraham because He wanted to do so and He alone covenanted with Abraham. God is the one who establishes His covenants. His promises depend upon His faithfulness, not man’s.

God is faithful to His people.

“...throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant...”

- When God makes a covenant, He keeps His covenant. Because His promises do not depend upon man, He always keeps them. God is faithful and trustworthy. He always does what He says He’s going to do. There’s never a time when He doesn’t keep His Word.
- He always shows up and whatever He says is going to happen, always happens. God promised to make a great nation from Abraham and God did just that. He takes care of His people and is always faithful to them.

God builds His family.

“...to be God to you and to your offspring after you.”

- Abraham was not responsible for the building of God’s family. Abraham was the servant that God used for His purpose of building a family. God is the Creator and Author of every story. Because He chose to create a family through Abraham, a family was created.
- God continues to build His family through those He calls to Himself by His Spirit and redeems them. Those who repent and believe in Jesus become members of God’s family forever. This is God’s work in a persons’ heart, not anything that that person does.

GOD MAKES HIMSELF KNOWN THROUGH FAMILY

BIG IDEA #1: GOD IS CREATING A NEW FAMILY WITH A NEW IDENTITY.¹

[THIS]

In Genesis 17:1-8, we see God make a covenant, or promise with Abraham that He would make a great family through Abraham. God first revealed Himself to Abraham when Abraham was in his homeland. God spoke to him and called him out of his land to follow Him. God chose Abraham first and made him His chosen servant, revealing to the world that God is the one who calls people to Himself. Abraham lived in a pagan land full of idol worship. He was not seeking God himself. God sought him and drew him to Himself. God reveals Himself to the world as the Father of mankind. He is the Creator and Author of every story. We see God as the Author of Abraham's story in the covenant that God made with him. He is the maker of the covenant and the covenant does not depend upon Abraham. God is the beginning of His special family because He is the one who chooses His family, beginning with Abraham and Sarah.

[THEREFORE]

How does God's choice of Abraham and Sarah reveal He is the Author of every story?

Abraham and Sarah came from a pagan land full of idol worship. They did not seek God. He sought them. John 6:37 and Romans 8:29-30 teach us that God chooses all of His people. His family is made up of those He has called to Himself through His Spirit and redeemed as His sons and daughters. God writes our stories and He reveals Himself through family as our heavenly Father.

[THIS]

When God first called Abraham and Sarah to follow Him, their names were Abram and Sarai. These were their names until God made His covenant with them in Genesis 17:1-8. This covenant was His promise to give them a son and to create His family through them. God changed their names to Abraham and Sarah. When we become part of God's family, our identity changes. We see God reveal the way He changes identities by placing people in His family in the story of Abraham and Sarah. When we repent and believe in Jesus, we are no longer separated from God, but we are His sons and daughters. We are no longer God's enemies, instead we are His friends and part of His forever family. This is how God shows us Himself and who He is. We related to God as our Father and to other believers as our brothers and sisters in Christ.

[THEREFORE]

God is our heavenly Father. How does understanding that God is our Father help you understand the importance of the family of God?

Because God has chosen to reveal Himself to us as our heavenly Father, His family is important and significant. Being a part of this family is the most significant group we can belong to. 1 John 3:1-2 and John 1:12 teach us that all those who believe are part of this body and this family is large and includes people from all over the world. God's family is important because it is how He reveals Himself to the world.

How has your identity changed since you became a follower of Christ?

When we repent of our sin and follow Christ, we become new creations. We are no longer orphans. We become part of God's family and are set free to obey Him. 2 Corinthians 5:16 and Galatians 2:20 remind us that those who are part of God's family no longer live according to the flesh, but they live by the Spirit. They are changed and become new people.

1. John 1:12: Everyone who believes in Jesus becomes a part of His family. They are new creations and no longer separated from God.

GOD MAKES HIMSELF KNOWN THROUGH FAMILY

BIG IDEA #2: GOD MAKES AND KEEPS HIS COVENANT.²

[THIS]

A basic definition of a covenant is that it is an agreement between people. It holds a greater degree of responsibility and weight than just a promise. Covenants were used by God's people prior to the coming of Jesus. God made a covenant with Abraham when He chose him as His servant. God's covenant with Abraham did not depend upon Abraham and was not because of Abraham. God promised to create a nation through Abraham. This was God's choice and His plan. He revealed His sovereignty over all things by choosing Abraham to be the patriarch of the Jewish people. God controls all things and rules over all things. God reveals aspects of who He is and how He interacts with the world through the covenants He makes. God revealed that He interacts with His people as a family when He promised to create a people through Abraham. When He promised that these people would be His people and He would be their God forever, He revealed that He is a Father to His people.

[THEREFORE]

What is a covenant? Why is it significant that God enters into a covenant with His people?

A covenant is a promise or agreement between two parties. It's significant that God enters into a covenant with His people because He is a holy God and we are not. He makes a covenant with Abraham even though Abraham is imperfect. God's covenants are a picture of the Gospel. The Gospel does not rely upon us to be effective or true. It depends upon God and His steadfastness and holiness.

Read Genesis 17:1-8. What are the details of the covenant God made with Abraham? What do you learn about God from His covenant with Abraham?

God's covenant with Abraham included Sarah and outlined the way that God would give Abraham and Sarah a son even though they were well past child-bearing age. This covenant reveals God's sovereignty over life and His plan and purpose. Psalm 115:3, Job 42:2, and Proverbs 19:21 all teach us this truth. Whatever God chooses to do, He does. His plans are never thwarted or stopped.

[THIS]

Not only did God make a covenant with Abraham, but He kept His covenant. He caused Sarah's previously barren womb to become pregnant with a child. God gave a child to Abraham and Sarah though in the world's eyes it would be impossible for them to conceive a child. We see God's faithfulness and His power revealed to us through the promise He made and kept. He alone is able to keep all of His promises perfectly because He alone is perfect. God did the work of keeping His covenant with Abraham and Sarah and He did this to show them truth about Himself. God also revealed that He was creating the family He had said He was going to create. Abraham and Sarah had a son and then more sons were born to their son and God's special family increased year by year. We can trust God to keep His promises and we can know that He will do whatever He says He's going to do because of the covenant He made with Abraham.

[THEREFORE]

The truth that God keeps His covenant shows His trustworthiness. How do you struggle to trust God in your life?

God is a faithful God. We learn this and understand this about Him when we learn how He made covenants and kept covenants. 1 Chronicles 16:34, Nahum 1:7, and Isaiah 40:39 show us that God is a promise keeper.

2. Nehemiah 9:32: God is a covenant keeping God. He always keeps His promises.

GOD MAKES HIMSELF KNOWN THROUGH FAMILY

BIG IDEA #3: GOD'S FAMILY EXISTS TO DISPLAY HIS GLORY TO THE WORLD.³

[THIS]

Everything that God does is intentional and purposeful. He works and acts in ways that bring Him glory and result in good for His people. God works and acts in ways that bring Him glory and result in good for His people. God's choice of Abraham proves He acts to show the world He is the one true God. God created a family through Abraham though Abraham was old. God used Abraham for His own glory and Abraham's good. God called Abraham out of a pagan land and made him part of His family. God used him and blessed him. The family God created through Abraham existed for God and for His glory. God's choice of Abraham reveals His glory to the world because He took a man from a pagan land who often made poor decisions and created God's special family. This shows us God's glory and power over all things.

[THEREFORE]

Why is it important to understand that all God does is for His glory?

In order for us to understand ourselves, we must understand God and know Him. Isaiah 49:3 tells us that God chose Israel to glorify Himself. When we read the whole of Scripture, we understand that all people exist for God's glory. It's important to know this so that we can fulfill His purpose and plan for us.

[THIS]

Because all that God creates, the world, man, and everything in the world, is for His glory, the family He created through Abraham existed for His glory. The idea of family is part of God's plan to bring glory to Himself. Once Jesus came, and the gospel went to the Gentiles, God's family grew from just Jewish people to all people who have believed in Christ. This family exists to display God's glory in the world and our individual family units exist for the same reason. God revealed Himself to us as our heavenly Father and placed us in families. He created a special family for Himself, revealing the importance and significance of family. God's family of redeemed people should make His name famous in all the world. It is their purpose.

[THEREFORE]

How can your personal pursuit of God help God's family display His glory?

Because we, as individuals, make up God's family, our personal pursuit of Him helps His family as a whole display His glory. 1 Corinthians 10:31 and Deuteronomy 4:29 both show us that we should seek God and we should seek His glory. As we do this personally, we will be a part of God's family showing the world His glory.

What barriers are there to displaying God's glory through His family?

Often family dynamics can lead to fights and struggles. Our sin natures prevent us from truly seeking after God. Romans 8:5 reminds us that our flesh works against the things of God. If we are living according to our flesh, we will not glorify God personally or through His family.

3. Isaiah 48:11: All that God does, He does for His glory. The family exists for God's glory.