

# WE BELONG TO GOD'S FAMILY

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

## BIG TRUTH: WE BELONG TO GOD'S FAMILY

John 10:28-29; Ephesians 2:4-5; 3:14-15; 1 Peter 2:10; Ephesians 3:6

## BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 8:37-39

*"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am sure neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

## BIG IDEAS

- More than conquerors, we are family.
- Nothing can separate us from the Father's love.
- God's children can walk in confident dependence.

## BIBLE PASSAGE: ROMANS 8:37-39

### 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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**BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 8:37-39**

*“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am sure neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

**God's family is more than conquerors.**

*“No, in all of these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”*

- Being a part of God's family means being redeemed and no longer under the condemnation of sin. It also means having the Holy Spirit who enables God's children to overcome the sin of the world in their daily lives.
- God's children are conquerors, but they are more than that. They are a part of His family and they enjoy the benefits of being God's children. This means that they are held fast by His Spirit and nothing can overcome them.

**God's children are always His children.**

*“For I am sure neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor power, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in creation, will be able to separate us...”*

- Because becoming a part of God's family isn't something we can do ourselves, it's also not something we can lose. God redeems His children and He holds them fast.
- God chooses us and keeps us as a part of His family always. He doesn't cast us away or aside. Once we are forgiven, we are always forgiven. It is God's love that holds us as a part of His family. His love will never change because it is steadfast and everlasting.

**Believers cannot be separated from God's love.**

*“...will be able to separate us from the love of Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

- God's love is part of who He is. It is part of His very character to love. His character does not change. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. This means His love for His people will never change.
- God's love does not end, and it bears all things. This means there is nothing God's children can do to cause God to stop loving them. Nothing we do can separate us from God's love. This also means that no one can take us away from God. There is no way God's people can be separated from Him.

**BIG IDEA #1: MORE THAN CONQUERORS, WE ARE FAMILY.<sup>1</sup>****[ THIS ]**

Being in God's family is an eternal thing that comes with many benefits. Being a child of God means having fellow believers to walk with through life. Every believer faces many struggles because we live in a broken and sinful world. The sin in the world makes life difficult, but God's children are not without hope. In Romans 8:37, Paul writes that God's people are more than conquerors. This doesn't imply that being a conqueror isn't an important part of a believer's life. It means that God's people do overcome the darkness of this world through Christ, but that's not the end of the blessing of knowing Christ. God's people are a family. They are God's family and they enjoy walking through this life with other people who also know Christ. This brings hope and encouragement to believers.

**[ THEREFORE ]****What are the benefits of being in God's family that you have experienced?**

Being a part of God's family means we walk through this life with people who have a shared faith in Jesus. God's family is one family made up of many members from all over the world. Ephesians 4:4-7 shows us that all of God's people are part of His one body. Colossians 3:14-16 shows us that the family of God enjoys the fellowship, and encouragement of fellow believers. These benefits make us more than just conquerors of sin in the power of Christ. We are brothers and sisters.

**[ THIS ]**

Being a conqueror means we have victory over sin and the darkness of this world. Being more than that means we are the sons and daughters of the one true God. We walk in victory with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. This also means that we collectively seek God's glory and encourage one another to obey God's commands. God has designed that our spiritual journey involves fellow believers so that we can spur one another on to live for God. We are joined to people in other parts of the world who are also followers of Christ. The Spirit joins believers together everywhere. We can meet someone we do not know personally and have a connection with them if they are believers. This produces hope and helps us remain steadfast in this life as we pursue the glory of God and His coming kingdom.

**[ THEREFORE ]****What are some of the ways you've taken for granted your place in God's family?**

Hebrews 10:25 tells us to not neglect gathering or meeting together as believers. It's important for believers to gather and meet with one another because we receive encouragement from one another. We all share the same Holy Spirit and this Spirit joins us together and from Him, we experience joy and encouragement by gathering together.

**What are the benefits of the global family of God?**

God's purpose for His church is that they make Him known in all of the world. The benefits of the global family of God is that all over the world, there are fellow believers who are all working to fulfill this one purpose. Matthew 24:14, Mark 16:15, and 1 Peter 3:15 teach us that all believers are part of making God known in the world. We can cooperate with believers all over the world in sharing the gospel with others.

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1. Romans 8:37: Through God, His people are made a part of His family forever.

**BIG IDEA #2: NOTHING CAN SEPARATE US FROM THE FATHER'S LOVE.<sup>2</sup>****[ THIS ]**

Separation is part of life on earth. Some separation we control when we choose to separate ourselves from people or things. Other separation we don't choose and have no control over it, like when a loved one dies or moves away. When we are first born, we experience our first separation as the reality of our sinful natures reveals that we are separated from God. This separation means we aren't a part of His family. We do not experience the joy of knowing God and we do not benefit from God's family. This separation isn't something we can fix ourselves. Instead, we are condemned to an eternal separation, but God made a way for us to be reconciled to Him. God chose to send Jesus to pay our sin debt. It is solely the work of God that makes us right in His eyes and it is His adoption of us into His family that secures our place in the family of God.

**[ THEREFORE ]****How have you experienced separation in the world?**

Separation is a part of life on earth and we often experience it when our relationships change or someone moves away. We understand that being separated from someone is part of knowing that person and loving them. 1 Thessalonians 2:17-18 shows us that even Paul experienced the longing that separation brings about.

**[ THIS ]**

In Romans 8:37-39 Paul writes that nothing can separate us from God's love. This is because we do nothing to earn God's love. We do nothing that leads God to love us. Unlike our earthly relationships that hinge on our behavior and actions, our relationship with God does not. God loves us because He chooses to love us. Love is part of who He is, and He does not change. He chooses to make us a part of His family and we are always a part of His family. Because we do nothing to earn this position and place, we can do nothing to lose it. In addition to that, no other person, establishment, power, or force can remove us from God's family or cause Him to stop loving us. We can always trust that God's love will never change. We can sin against God and He will not stop loving us.

**[ THEREFORE ]****How have you previously believed that you could change God's love for you?**

Often we can believe that something we do or don't do will affect the way God feels about us. Lamentations 3:22-23 and Psalm 117:1-2 teach us that God's love is forever. His love is steadfast and unchanging. Nothing we do or don't do could ever remove God's love from us.

**How does the truth that nothing separates us from God's love increase your love for Him?**

1 John 4:19 teaches us that we love because God first loved us. We know what love is because God loves us from the beginning. Not only this, but when we grow in our understanding of the depth of His love, it increases our love and affection for Him. 1 Thessalonians 3:12 shows us that it is Christ who makes our love overflow for others and this means that it will first overflow for Him. Our love for one another is an overflow of our growing love for Him.

2. Romans 8:38-39: There is nothing that can separate a believer from the love of God.

**BIG IDEA #3: GOD'S CHILDREN CAN WALK IN CONFIDENT DEPENDENCE.<sup>3</sup>****[ THIS ]**

Being a child of God produces confidence in a believer. Our position and place in God's family isn't because of anything we do. Salvation is the work of God in our lives. It is by the power of God that we are saved. God sent Jesus to take our place on the cross. Jesus lived the perfect life that we could not and He died the death that satisfied God's requirement for our sin. Those who have saving faith in Jesus are seen as righteous, not because we do anything to gain righteousness, but because God chooses to apply the righteousness of Jesus to us. When Jesus was on the cross, God looked at Him and saw the sin of mankind. When God looks at believers, He sees the righteousness of Jesus. This is the grace of God and has nothing to do with anything we do. It is a gift from God that we didn't earn and we can't lose it. This produces confidence in our hearts because we know that we are always God's son or daughter.

**[ THEREFORE ]****What does it look like to be confident in your identity in Christ?**

Jeremiah 17:7, Psalm 27:3, and Proverbs 3:25-26 helps us understand that we can and should have confidence in God. He is our Father and will always take care of us. We can always trust in His love and provision for us because He is God and He is unchanging.

**[ THIS ]**

Though we can walk in confidence because of our place in God's family, we do so depending upon Him. In our culture, dependence is seen as weakness and independence is seen as power. God shows us a better way. Dependence requires a humility that comes about when we understand that we can do nothing of eternal value without God. When we understand that we are held fast by God, we can depend upon Him and live confidently in His power. This is a confidence that can't be shaken because of who God is. We can depend upon God to overcome temptation and we can depend upon Him for our daily needs. We can always trust in Him because we belong to Him. He has purchased each one of us with the blood of His Son and we are forever His.

**[ THEREFORE ]****Do you struggle to acknowledge your dependence upon God? Why or why not?**

James 4:10 and John 15:1-2 teach us that we need God. It is God who provides for us and gives us all we need. It is our pride that keeps us from acknowledging that we need God and depend upon Him. We often try to do things our way and rely upon our own wisdom. Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us to not rely upon ourselves, but to trust in God in every way.

**How does humility help you actually live more confidently?**

When we humble ourselves before the Lord, we place ourselves in a position to grow in our knowledge of Him. This knowledge allows us to grow more confident in God because we learn who He is and how He works. Colossians 1:9-10 helps us see that growing in a knowledge of God increases our faith and confidence in Him. We can walk more confidently when we understand who God is and who we are.

3. Romans 8:37: *Because we are more than conquerors in Christ, we can walk confidently in Him as we depend upon Him for the power to journey through this life.*