

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 PASSAGE: LUKE 11:9-13; 12:22-31**BIBLE PASSAGE: EXODUS 32-33****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.

SERIES AIMS**Every student 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 student 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 student 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 student should ask God to...**

- 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.

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.

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.

BIG IDEA #1: GOD IS FATHER AND THE FATHER IS GOOD.¹**[THIS]**

God is one god in three persons. He is God the Father, which means He sees His people as His children. In Luke 11:9-13, Jesus teaches His disciples to pray to God the Father. God is first Father in the way He interacts within the Godhead to Jesus the Son. The familial language is first found in the Trinity because this is how the Trinity exists regardless of the existence of man. God extends this idea to man as He adopts believers into His family. God is a Father because He is the origin of all life and He is the provider, protector, and caretaker of all creation. He loves His people as His children and adopts them into His family as His sons and daughter forever. He gives them His Word as a source of wisdom and knowledge and to equip them to live in this world in a righteous way. God provides eternal life to them by sending His Son to pay their sin debt. He meets their every need and is involved in their daily lives.

[THEREFORE]**Have you thought of God as a Father before? Why or why not?**

In Ephesians 4:6, Paul writes of God as Father. He cares for His children and interacts with them as a parent. Isaiah 64:8 also shows us that God is the Heavenly Father. He alone cares for His children as a father. We sometimes think of God as just a deity or higher power, but He is our Father.

How does the Father relate to and interact with us like a perfect version of an earthly father?

Hebrews 12:5-11 teaches us that God does interact with us as a Father. We first learn what a father is like from our earthly fathers. God is a perfect version of an earthly father. He is perfect in all ways. He loves us perfectly and disciplines us appropriately and correctly. He isn't sinful and selfish, so He never interacts with us in that way.

[THIS]

Not only is God our Father, He is a good Father. He is perfect, which means all that He does is perfect. His every interaction with His children is perfect and right. He loves and cares for His children righteously and just as each child needs to be loved. He gives good gifts and makes sure His children have all that they need. God can do no wrong and He is never evil or sinful. He knows His children perfectly and parents them just as they need to be parented. When Jesus taught His disciples how to pray in Luke 11, He taught them about God the Father and how to interact with the God of the universe as their heavenly Father.

[THEREFORE]**How have you experienced God as a good Father?**

Psalms 34:8 and 31:19 show us that God is good and all that He does causes His children to praise His name. Romans 8:28 reminds us of the Father's goodness towards His children. He works on their behalf and causes things to work out favorably for them according to His plan and purposes.

What are some ways you struggle with God as a good Father?

Often, when we rely upon our own knowledge and understanding of a situation or circumstance, we may doubt God's goodness as our heavenly Father. Proverbs 3:5-8 teaches us the folly of relying upon our perspective to show us God's goodness. When we trust Him and His ways, we will trust His goodness as our Father. We will know that no matter our circumstance, His love is eternal and His provision for us is sure.

1. Psalm 145:8: God is good to His creation and He pours His mercy upon it.

BIG IDEA #2: THE FATHER LOVES HIS CHILDREN PERFECTLY.²**[THIS]**

God is a good Father because His love for His children is perfect. When we think of a father, we have our earthly father as a comparison. Because we live and think in the tangible, things that we can see and touch, our view of a good father is influenced by our own earthly fathers. If our earthly father is good and loving, then we are prone to think of God as good and loving. If our earthly father isn't a good parent, then we can tend to view God through the same lens. Because we are all sinful and have broken views of the world, we can even have wrong thoughts about God and His love for us without any outside influence. Our view is skewed by our brokenness. No matter our experience, what is true is that God loves His children perfectly. He is always good and does no wrong, so He always loves exactly as His children need Him to love them.

[THEREFORE]

What are some skewed, or distorted views of the Father's love that you've had before or have seen others have?

When our circumstances seem unfair or we think that God is making bad things happen to us, we can doubt His love for us. Proverbs 3:11-12 reminds us that God does indeed love us as children and just as our earthly parents correct us and discipline us, God does, too. Psalm 103:13 reminds us that God does love us as a Father and shows compassion to us, even when we don't think that He is.

[THIS]

In Luke 12:22-31, Jesus taught His disciples about God's love. The Father loves His children and desires to give them the very best. God the Father knows His children and He knows exactly what they need and when they need it. The Father loves perfectly because He is perfect. He loves them by correcting them, guiding them, and protecting them. The Father gives good gifts to His children because of His love for them. His gifts are perfect and exactly what they need. He is the perfect Father and He never changes. Unlike our earthly parents who can change and often let us down, our heavenly Father is always on time, never makes mistakes, and always cares for us as we need to be cared for.

[THEREFORE]

What does perfect love look like?

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 shows us what Godly love looks like. Perfect love is love that puts others before ourselves. It is sacrificial and it lasts forever. Perfect love never ends. It seeks the good of another first. He forgives always and doesn't keep a record of any wrong.

One way God perfectly loves His children is discipline. Another is trial and hardship. How can discipline, trial, and hardship be a means of perfect love?

Often, what we consider good and bad is not the same as what God considers good and bad. Acts 14:22 teaches us that in this life we will face struggles and suffering. Often, God uses our struggles and suffering to increase our faith and to grow us to be more like Him. This is an example of His perfect love for us. He uses these things to help our faith grow and to show us His steadfastness. That God takes the time to even notice us and work in our hearts is proof of His perfect love for us.

2. 1 John 3:1: *The Father loves His children perfectly and forever. His love is sacrificial and steadfast.*

BIG IDEA #3: WE CAN TRUST THE FATHER BECAUSE HE CARES FOR US.³**[THIS]**

The Father is trustworthy. He is faithful and never forsakes His children. He is always present and active in the lives of His people. Even when we think He isn't present, or it feels as if He has left us, He has not. He is always near His children and they can always count on Him. He always shows up and always helps His people in their time of need. He does these things according to His will, for His glory, and their good. In Luke 12:22-31, Jesus taught about the trustworthiness of the Father. When we look at the natural world around us, we can see the Father's hand in it and His care for it. We can see the attention He has paid to even the flowers that bloom and then die. He has made them beautiful in their time and they are not even eternal. When we see His care for even the grass and the birds, we can trust that He loves us even more and will care for us always.

[THEREFORE]**How easy or hard do you find it to trust the Father for your provision?**

Luke 12:22 and Matthew 6:25-34 teach us that God cares for His children. These verses show us that when we begin to doubt His provision, we only have to look at the world around us and we will see that God will care for us. It can be easy to believe this when we have all we need, but when we feel like we lack something, we can begin to doubt this. Scripture teaches us that no matter our situation, we can trust God to provide for us.

[THIS]

Jesus taught that the Father can be trusted because He cares for us. We can know God will care for us because of His great love for us. Just as our earthly parents care for us, the Father cares for us, too. When we reflect upon the Father's love and care for us, our trust of Him grows. As we remember His provision for us, we can trust for the future. When we remember that God the Father loves us so much, He willingly sacrificed His only Son for us, we can trust that He will provide our daily bread. God the Father has proven His love and care for us because He does give us all that we need. He provides for our physical needs and He provided a way for our sins to be forgiven. He is a good Father whom we can trust always no matter our circumstances.

[THEREFORE]**How have you seen the provision of the Father in your own life?**

James 1:17 tells us that every good gift is from God. This means that every good thing we have in our life is from the Father. We can look at all the necessary things for life and know that God has provided them. Ultimately, God has given us everything we need by giving us access to Himself through His Spirit and His Word. 2 Corinthians 9:8 tells us that God works in us by giving us of Himself to help us achieve His purpose for our life.

What disciplines or habits can you do this week to help you better trust in the Father's care?

In Colossians 3:2, we learn that being in Christ means setting our minds on eternal, or heavenly things. As we seek to trust the Father, we must turn our thoughts to our heavenly home and not this earthly home. Psalm 46:10 also reminds us to rest in God and to remember that He is in complete control and He cares for us.

3. Luke 12:27: God cares for all of creation and we can trust that He cares for His children.