

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 PASSAGE: LUKE 15:11-32**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.

STUDENT WORKOUT:

This week we will consider God's love and its power to change us. We will pray for hearts that love like God loves and we will practice sharing His love with others.



Read and meditate on Luke 15:11-31. As you meditate on these verses, consider how the father's love is like God's love for the world.

- How does God's unconditional love transform you? How can you grow in your understanding of God's love? How can you love others like God loves you?
- Ponder the truth that God's love isn't dependent upon anything we do. How can you live in this truth every day? Are there ways that you have wrongly thought God's love depended upon your actions? How have you tried to earn God's love?

Ponder how God's love was on display when Jesus died on the cross. How does Jesus' death reveal the depth of God's love? How have you overlooked Jesus' death as an outpouring of God's love? How can you tell others about God's love by sharing about Jesus' death on the cross?



Set aside time to spend in prayer this week.

As you pray, thank God for His unconditional love.

Pray with your small group leader this week. As you pray together, ask God to grow your understanding of His love for you.



Use a dictionary app on your phone to define the word love.

Jot down some of the ideas the world has about love, such as you love those who love you, you do what makes you happy, etc. Next to each idea you write down, write down how God's love is different than the world's view of love. Circle the worldly ideas about love that you've had and commit to replace those ideas with a right view.

Choose a person in your life who does not know God and commit to share about God's love with them. Make plans to tell them how God love unconditionally and sent His Son to die for us.