



BIG IDEA

God loves us so much he wants us to be his children.

EPHESIANS | FAMILY | WEEK 1 OF 4

His Kids

GOD STORY

Adoption

Ephesians 1:3–6

KEY VERSE

We have been set free because of what Christ has done. Because he bled and died our sins have been forgiven.

Ephesians 1:7a (NIRV)

LEADER TIP

The Family series focuses on Ephesians 1. To be well prepared, please read and familiarize yourself with this chapter.

My Story

1 | CONVERSATION STARTER (7 minutes)

To lead into the lesson, chat about who the students would like to join their families and why. Introduce today's Big Idea.

2 | INTRO ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Brainstorm descriptions of ideal families, then discuss these characteristics and whether they'd be present in God's family.

God Story | Life Story

3 | WEEKLY VIDEO (12 minutes)

Watch the video, which includes host, God Story, and Life Story segments. Recap and discuss the teaching.

My Story

4 | APPLICATION ACTIVITY (12 minutes*)

Read Romans 8:14–17 and discuss it together. Highlight that it's our choice to join God's family.

5 | WRAP-UP ACTIVITY (10 minutes)

Use rainbow-coloured pom-poms as prompts to answer review questions.

Our Story

6 | DISMISSAL (2 minutes)

*Extend as needed and adjust timing for other activities.



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My Story

1 | Conversation Starter

SUPPLIES

- None

LEADER TIP

- For some students, talking about their relationship with their parents could be a sensitive topic. Be conscious of this and emphasize that God the Father is an incredibly good dad!

INSTRUCTIONS

- Welcome the students and gather them together.
- Check in quickly to see how their week is going.
- Ask:
 - If you could have anyone join your family, who would it be? Why?
 - What benefits could they bring to your family?
- Depending on the size of your group, have the students share their stories with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.
- Introduce today's Big Idea: **God loves us so much he wants us to be his children.**
- Emphasize that God wants each of the students in his forever family!

2 | Intro Activity

SUPPLIES

- Brainstorm activity pages
- Pens

INSTRUCTIONS

- Divide the students into groups of about four people.
- Give each group an activity page and some pens.
- Direct them to brainstorm descriptions of their ideal family (e.g., funny, inclusive, loving, etc.).
- After a couple of minutes, invite someone from each group to share their ideas.
- Discuss:
 - What do you think it would feel like to be in a family like that?
 - Why did you choose these characteristics over others?
 - Do you think these traits are present in members of God's family?



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God Story | Life Story

3 | Weekly Video

SUPPLIES

- Video file

INSTRUCTIONS

- Play the video. It includes:
 - Host segment
 - God Story (Adoption, Ephesians 1:3–6)
 - Life Story (Tyler shares about God sending us to make disciples and describes how he loves others and tells them about Jesus.)
- Recap the video teaching. Discuss:
 - What's the Key Verse for the Family series? (Ephesians 1:7a)
 - What stood out to you in today's Life Story? How about the God Story?
 - What's this week's Big Idea? (**God loves us so much he wants us to be his children.**) How does it connect with today's stories?

My Story

4 | Application Activity

SUPPLIES

- Bibles

INSTRUCTIONS

- Make sure everyone has access to a Bible.
- Guide the students to look up Romans 8:14–17. Provide prompts as needed; for example, ask if Romans is in the Old Testament (before Jesus) or the New Testament (Jesus and onward). Hint that Paul wrote Romans and he lived after Jesus.
- Read aloud verses 14–15.
- Discuss:
 - What do you think about calling God—the Creator of all things—"Father" or "Dad"?
 - What does this mean in our everyday lives?
- Read aloud verses 16–17.
- Discuss: What do you think these verses mean?
- Explain that when you're in a family you share in the good parts and the bad parts.
- Discuss:
 - What's one good thing about being part of your family?
 - What's one good thing about being part of God's family?
 - What are some not-so-good parts of families?
- Remind everyone that **God loves us so much he wants us to be his children.** However, it's our choice if we want God as our Father. When we say, "Yes!" to being God's child, we agree to be part of his family—with all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of being a family member.
- Encourage anyone who hasn't yet said, "Yes!" to think about it. Invite them to chat with a leader to find out more.



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My Story

5 | Wrap-Up Activity

SUPPLIES

- Rainbow-coloured pom-poms

INSTRUCTIONS

- Give each student a few pom-poms to start.
- Call out one of the pom-pom colours and invite everyone with that colour to respond to the corresponding question:
 - Red: What's one thing you know about the character of God?
 - Orange: What's something that God loves about you?
 - Yellow: God wants us to be part of his family. What's an example of how we should treat family members?
 - Green: God chose to adopt us. He said, "I want YOU in my family!" How does that make you feel, or what thoughts or questions do you have about it?
 - Purple: We often look or act like our parents. When do we look or act like God, our Father in Heaven?
- Continue until you've covered all the questions.
- Pray together about everything the group discussed and shared.

Our Story

6 | Dismissal

SUPPLIES

- Take-home cards
- Key Verse cards

INSTRUCTIONS

- Take a few moments to pray for the students if you have not already done so.
- Remind everyone about any upcoming events or relevant announcements.
- Make sure the students have all their take-home materials.
- Ensure the adult teaching is over before dismissing the students.