

OVERVIEW

FOUNDATION: GOD IS - GOD GIVES

“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.

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS THE GIFT GIVER

BIBLE VERSE: JAMES 1:17

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father.”

BIG IDEAS

- God is good; it is who He is. Everything that is good comes from Him.
- God is not only good, but He also loves giving good things to His children.
- Even things that may not seem like good gifts God uses for good in our lives.
- God is so good that He gave His very best gift, Jesus, to the world when we did not deserve it.

BIG AIMS



KNOW

Every child should know that:

- There is only one true God.
- God is good and gives good gifts to His people.



FEEL

Every child should feel:

- A great sense of awe for the one true God. Thankful for God who gives every good gift.



DO

Every child should be able to:

- Talk about God when they wake up, go to bed, and throughout their day.
- Have reminders that point to God strategically placed throughout their daily line of sight.



WANT

Every child should want:

- To know more about the one true God.

BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 22

After a longtime of waiting God gave Abraham and Sarah a good gift that He had promised them long before, a son! Now God asked Abraham to do the unthinkable, give his son back to God! Thankfully God had a plan to give Abraham another gift that would point to the best gift of all that God gives to the world.

The Family Devotion on the next page is a weekly tool for the home. It is designed for you as family to gather for a few minutes on a set night of the week to unpack the Big Truth together. Use the model below and customize it to fit your family. As you continue to learn, love, and live out the Big Truth, some additional Hooks (next page) are provided that correspond to the Big Aims (see above). Use them to keep the conversation going throughout the week with your family.

GOD IS GOOD AND EVERYTHING THAT COMES FROM HIM IS GOOD.

Make or buy some type of cookie: chocolate chip or sugar. Set them on the table and then put some of the ingredients that are used to make the cookies in a bowl. For example, put some flour, sugar, baking soda, salt in individual bowls. Show your child the finished cookies. Then show them the individual ingredients. Let your child taste a little of the individual ingredients, commenting on how some of them don't taste good by themselves, but together they make the finished cookie which does taste very good. You may let your child eat a finished cookie. Some of the gifts and things God gives us don't always seem good or are something we like, but they are good when they are combined with His will and purposes.

DISCOVER IT: *(Use the passage to illustrate the Big Truth.)*

Read James 1:17

THINK ABOUT IT: *(Use the commentary to reinforce the Big Truth.)*

The author of the book of James was Jesus' half-brother and one of His disciples. His book is a letter to some of Jesus' followers, the Israelites. They had experienced really hard times and were now scattered away from each other and away from their homes. James is writing to them about God the Father who is the gift giver. God is good and gives good things to His children. James was pointing the Israelites to God even as they were suffering and being persecuted. He was reminding them that every good thing they had was from God who is the gift giver. Even things like being scattered away from their homes was a good thing. Because the Israelites were scattered, the church grew and more people heard about Jesus. We can know that God will give us the good things we need because He is good and the gift giver.

TALK ABOUT IT: *(Use the questions to discuss the Big Truth)*

- From whom did James say every good gift comes? (Every good gift and every perfect gift is from God.)
- What kind of gifts does God give to His children? (He gives good gifts and perfect gifts.)
- God is the gift giver. What are some things that God has given us?

**KNOW**

Take your child to get a special unplanned treat: take them out for ice cream or to a store to buy a small toy or to the park to play when they aren't expecting it. Talk with them about how you delight in giving them special treats and good things. You delight in doing that because they are your son or daughter and you love them. God also delights in giving good gifts to His children. Every good thing we have is from God. Help your child name some of the good things in his or her life and tell them they are from God.

**DO**

Help your child memorize James 1:17 by singing it to the tune of "Mary Had A Little Lamb". Use the following as a guide to help you.

“Ev-ve-ry goo-oo-d gift, goo-oo-d gift, goo-ood-gift
And ev-ve-ry per-fect gift, i-is from above
C-oming down from the Fa-ather, Fa-ather, Fa-ather
C-oming down from the Fa-ather, James one seventeen.

**FEEL**

Use the tune to "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" to sing the following song with your child, helping him or her understand that God's greatest gift to us was His son Jesus Christ.

Jesus died for you and me	God has promised this to you
Jesus died for sinful men	Jesus died for you and me
I believe God's word is true	Jesus died for sinful men

**WANT**

Gather some crayons and paper, watercolors, and stickers. Help your child draw a picture or paint a picture of their favorite toy or stuffed animal or a favorite trip they've taken. Talk with them about how they got the toy or animal or how they got to go on the trip and then remind them that God loves to give good gifts to His children.