

# Precious in His Sight

A family devotional

## ***A note to parents:***

Talking to your kids about racial issues doesn't have to be daunting, even if you're nervous or you're still learning yourself. Opening up the Bible and having authentic conversations with your kids can make a difference for opening their hearts to God's truth. You can start having age appropriate conversations with your kids at any age.

If your kids have questions, answer them the best way you can, but also know it's ok to say "I don't know," or "Let's figure it out," if you don't know how to answer a question.

Also remember that talking is the first step to helping your kids understand racial justice and be a part of change; encourage your kids to live it out and to fight for racial equality, to stand up against injustice, and to love others the way God loves them.

The truth is that diversity is glorious. Heaven will be filled with people worshiping together – and the people will all look different, and it will be beautiful. The world we live in is fallen and filled with sin. As much as it hurts us, it hurts God more. In this dark and hurting world, we can raise kids who are a light for Christ and an example of His love. The good news in a world full of sadness is the Gospel wins, and the Gospel transforms us.

The most important thing you can teach your kids is that God loves them and wants a relationship with them, and you can't say that too often. If your kids don't have a relationship with Jesus, that is the starting point. Loving others with the love of Jesus and seeing them through God's eyes starts with a relationship with Him.

When we know God, we will see others through His eyes. The Gospel must inform and transform our understanding of equality and race. Where there are people who are hurting, the Gospel must bring healing and hope. Where there is division, the Gospel must bring unity and peace. Where there is injustice, the Gospel must bring justice and reconciliation. Where there are people who have been oppressed and judged, the Gospel must bring hope, grace, and freedom. The Gospel is powerful, and our families and our world need the Gospel more than anything.

## **INSTRUCTIONS**

This devotional is based on six biblical truths that inform our views on race, equality and justice. These six devotions will allow you the opportunity to talk to your kids about racial issues from a biblical perspective. Each devotional includes Scripture, discussion questions, and an easy object lesson you can do from home with your kids using supplies you probably already have at home.

Asking questions and listening can be helpful ways for us all to learn, so model that for your kids during the devotional time. Object lessons promote hands-on learning, which can help the truths stick for kids. You can end each devotional time with prayer and worship if you want.

You can do one devotion a week for six weeks, or one a day for six days, or any way you want. Don't let the conversations stop after these devotions are done. Keep talking with your kids, praying with them, and fighting for them and for truth and justice. There are additional resources linked at the end of this resource.

### Supplies Needed

- **#1** - A glass of water, a compact mirror (such as a powder makeup mirror), a flashlight, a dark room.
- **#2** - None – a sunny day.
- **#3** - A brown egg and a white egg, a bowl; or a green apple and a red apple.
- **#4** - A kids' puzzle with all the pieces.
- **#5** - Pantry Ingredients: ¼ Cup + 2 Tablespoons of All Purpose Flour, 2 Tablespoons of sugar, ¼ teaspoon baking powder, ¼ teaspoon cinnamon, ¼ Cup of any kind of milk, 2 Tablespoons of butter (melted and cooled), ½ teaspoon of vanilla extract (optional). Also – 1 Tablespoon of sugar and ¼ teaspoon of cinnamon, a microwave, a large mug.
- **#6** - Different shapes of containers or cups, water, a marker or pen, a piece of paper.

## TRUTH #1: We are all made in the image of God.

### Bible Verses

- **Genesis 1:26-27 (NIV)** *“Then God said, ‘Let us make mankind in our image, in Our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.’ So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.”*
- **Psalms 139:13-14 (NIV)** *“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.”*

### DISCUSSION

- **What does it mean to be created in the image and likeness of God?**

- Being made in the image and likeness of God – also known as *Imago Dei* – means we are created to reflect God’s glory. We are made to have relationships with God, and to reflect His love, kindness, patience, goodness, and faithfulness. No other creation was made in God’s image like humans.
- **Why is it important that no other part of creation was made in the image and likeness of God?**
- **How can you reflect God’s love and goodness to others when people are being hurt and treated unfairly?**
- **Knowing that each person is created in the image of God, how should we value and treat other people?**

## **OBJECT LESSON: Mirror Reflection**

### **Supplies**

A glass of water, a compact mirror (such as a powder makeup mirror), a flashlight, a dark room.

### **Instructions**

*Set the small mirror inside the glass of water, at an angle. Go into a dark room and shine the flashlight at the mirror.*

### **Discussion**

What do you see when you shine the light at the mirror? You’ll see a beautiful rainbow of light coming from the mirror. We are made in the image of God, which means we’re made to reflect His beauty and glory. God is the true light, and we are the reflections.

Each person God made is beautiful, and each person is valuable because they are all made in God’s image.

## **TRUTH #2: God loves all people.**

### **Bible Verses**

- **John 3:16-17 (NIV)** *“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.”*
- **Romans 3:23 (NIV)** *“For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.”*
- **Romans 5:8-11 (NIV)** *“But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through Him! For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life! Not only is this so, but we*

*also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.”*

## **DISCUSSION**

- **Is there anything we can do to make God love us any more or any less?** No, we can't do anything to make God love us more or less. He loves us because we are His, and we are special to Him.
- **How do we know God loves all people and sent Jesus to die for all people?** The Bible says God sent Jesus to save all the people in the world. Whoever believes in Jesus will be saved.
- **Why do we need Jesus to die for us?** We are born with sin inside of us. Sin is anything we do that isn't God's perfect will – it's why people hurt each other, lie, steal, and disobey. We all sin, and we need Jesus, who was perfect, to forgive our sins. When we trust Jesus
- **If God created all people and loves all people, how should we treat all people? We should treat them all with respect and kindness. Have you ever treated anyone badly? If so, what can you do?**
- **Does God love people more if they have more money, more toys and clothes, get good grades, or look or act a certain way?** No – God loves people and sent Jesus to die for all of us. His grace and love don't depend on what we look like, what we do, the grades we get, the things we have.
- **Should we only love or show kindness to people who are like us? Why or why not?**
- **Is there anyone in your life who doesn't know about God's love? How can you help them know God loves them?**

## **OBJECT LESSON – The Sun**

### **Supplies**

None – a sunny day.

### **Instructions**

*Go outside on a sunny day. Tell the kids to look at everything the sun shines on.*

Does the sun only shine on some trees or areas, and not others? What about the shade or the shadows? What happens when you stand in the shade – does that mean the sun isn't there and isn't shining anymore? No – the sun is always there, even when we're blocked from seeing it.

The sun doesn't go away, even at night or when there are clouds covering it. It covers everything, like the love of God. The sun doesn't have favorites or shine in only certain areas or on certain fields or forests. The same sun that shines on the other side of the world or another country is the sun we feel shining on us today. When we trust in Jesus, we're covered in God's love. Our sins are wiped away and His love covers us. His light shines on us, no matter what we've done, where we come from, or who we are.

## TRUTH #3: We should love others the way God loves.

### Bible Verses

- **Mark 12:30-31** (NIV) *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.”*
- **Luke 6:31; 37-42** (NIV) *“Do to others as you would have them do to you; Do not judge.”*
- **John 7:24** (NIV) *“Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead, judge correctly.”*
- **1 John 3:16** (NIV) *“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.”*

### DISCUSSION

- **How does God want us to treat other people?** He wants us to love each other.
- **What do you think it means to love our neighbor as we love ourselves?**
- **Do you think this means we should love only our neighbors who live next to us? Why or why not? How can we get better at loving others the way God loves them?**
- **Do all people treat others fairly and with kindness? Have you ever been treated unfairly or unkindly? Have you ever seen or known someone who was treated unfairly? If so, how did that make you feel?**
- **How do you think it makes God feel when people aren’t kind or loving to each other?**
- **What does it mean to judge others?**
- We may be tempted to think certain things about people we don’t know based on the way they live, the way they act or talk, where they’re from, the way they look, the way they dress, the toys or material possessions they have. That’s called judging, and since we don’t know what’s inside someone’s heart, we shouldn’t try to guess what’s in their heart just from what we see on the outside. We should just love people, without caring about the other things.
- **Why should we love people?** Because God loves us, and because God loves them. We can let His love come out of us and love other people with His love.

### OBJECT LESSON: Eggs and Apples

#### Supplies

A brown egg and a white egg, a bowl; or a green apple and a red apple.

#### Instructions

*Hold up two eggs with different colored shells (or two apples with different colors of peels) and ask the kids if they are both eggs. How can you tell? What do you think they look like on the inside?*

*Crack the eggs into the bowl (or cut the apples) and show the kids that they look the same on the inside.*

**What does this teach us about people?** We learned that God created each person and they all have value. He created us to look different on the outside, but on the inside, we are all the same – we all need Jesus and we need love.

The eggs with brown shells and the eggs with white shells are different, but they are all eggs. Some people treat others differently and unfairly because they look different on the outside, but on the inside we are all people. **Is it ok to treat others unfairly because of how they look?**

God knows what inside each person. He knows our hearts. He is the only one who can judge people. We should not judge others, treat them differently, or show favoritism to people. We should love others.

## **TRUTH #4: We can celebrate our uniqueness!**

### **Bible Verses**

- **1 Corinthians 12:12-14 (NIV)** *“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.”*
- **Galatians 3:28 (NIV)** *“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”*
- **Revelation 7:9 (NIV)** *“After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands...”*
- **Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)** *“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*

### **DISCUSSION**

- **Do all people look the same? What are ways people look different? What are some ways people in our family are the same or different?**
- **What will heaven look like?** The verse Revelation 7:9 talks about a vision of heaven with a great crowd of people worshiping God together with all the people from different places of the world, all worshiping together in unity.
- **What makes you unique and special?**
- **Why do you think God made everyone look different?**

- **Have you ever seen anyone who was treated unfairly because of how they look or where they are from, or have you ever been treated unfairly because of how you look?**
- **Do you know any people who are different from you? How can we celebrate our differences? Is there anything you can learn from the people you know who are different?**

## **OBJECT LESSON: A Puzzle**

### **Supplies**

A kids' puzzle with all the pieces.

### **Instructions**

*Hold up one piece of the puzzle and ask the kids if they can see the whole picture from that one piece. No – you can't!*

*Ask them if all of the pieces are the same. No, they're all different and unique! We're all created and valued by God, but all people are not the same. He created us with unique differences, from the color of our skin and our eyes and hair, to the way we talk, to our gifts and passions. Just like all of the pieces of the puzzle are different, they all fit together in unity to create a picture. We don't have to be the same to be unified and come together to make a picture of God's beautiful love. Being different is beautiful and can be celebrated.*

*Put the puzzle together and point out how all the pieces fit together to make the picture. When we all use our gifts and the things about us that are unique, we make up the body of Christ. We all have different roles and gifts, but we are all important, just like all the pieces of the puzzle are important. We can love others and celebrate how we are different and unique, but we all have the same heart inside of us and the same need for Jesus.*

## **TRUTH #5: We are called to unity.**

### **FROM YOUR BIBLE**

- **Ephesians 2:14-16** (NIV) *“For Christ Himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility by setting aside in His flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in Himself one new humanity of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which He put to death their hostility.”*
- **Galatians 5:13-14; 22-23** (NIV) *“You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. . . But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”*

- **Ephesians 4:3** (NIV) *“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”*
- **Colossians 3:11-15** (NIV) *“Hence, there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has grievances against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.”*

## DISCUSSION

- **What is unity, and why is it important in our world?** Unity in the Bible means everyone who has a relationship with Jesus is part of God’s family. That means we’re all on God’s team, and we are all brothers and sisters in Christ. It means we don’t need to be against each other or have division or arguments.
- **What are some reasons people are divided? How can we seek unity and peace with other people in God’s family?**
- **What is diversity and why is it important in our world?** Diversity means knowing people are different and unique. Unity and diversity are both important and valuable.
- **Unity is important because we are all important part of God’s family, and diversity is also important because God made each person unique on purpose.**
- **What are some ways our family is unified?** Think of some friends or extended family members: **what makes us unified with them? What makes us different?**

## OBJECT LESSON: Mug Cake

### Supplies

Pantry Ingredients: ¼ Cup + 2 Tablespoons of All Purpose Flour, 2 Tablespoons of sugar, ¼ teaspoon baking powder, ¼ teaspoon cinnamon, ¼ Cup of any kind of milk, 2 Tablespoons of butter (melted and cooled), ½ teaspoon of vanilla extract (optional). Also – 1 Tablespoon of sugar and ¼ teaspoon of cinnamon, a microwave, a large mug.

### Instructions:

*Hold up the individual ingredients. Ask the kids if they would want to eat flour or baking soda on their own.*

Probably not – those things wouldn’t taste good at all on their own! But what happens when we combine the ingredients in a specific way . . .

*Let the kids help you stir the flour, sugar, baking powder and cinnamon in the mug. Then mix in the melted (and cooled) butter, milk, and vanilla.*



*Show the kids the white sugar (1 Tablespoon) and ¼ teaspoon of cinnamon and let the kids help you mix them, then swirl the cinnamon sugar mixture into the batter.*

*Place the mug into the microwave and heat it for one minute (if it's not fully cooked after one minute, cook in 10 second intervals, up to 30 more seconds total). Let the mug cake cool, then let the kids taste it.*

The ingredients weren't delicious on their own, but when we combined them and put them all together, we made something amazing. The recipe needed all of the ingredients in order to work out the right way; they each had a part.

We are all part of God's family and His plan. We are all different, and that's ok, because when we come together in unity, we are an amazing picture of God's Kingdom, and we all need each other.

## **TRUTH #6 We are called to stand up for what is right.**

### **Bible Verses**

- **Psalm 89:14 (NIV)** *"Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you."*
- **Psalm 103:6 (NIV)** *"The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed."*
- **Isaiah 1:17 (NIV)** *"Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow."*
- **Romans 12:2 (NIV)** *"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will."*

### **DISCUSSION**

- **What is justice?** Justice is what's right. God wants things in our world to be right and fair. He doesn't want people to treat each other unfairly. When something isn't right, we can stand up against it.
- **What does it mean to be oppressed?** People who are treated in a cruel or unfair way, or who have had freedoms taken from them. **How can we stand up for people who have been oppressed?**
- **Have you ever been treated unfairly because of something you couldn't control, such as the way you look or where you live or where you came from? Is that right? Have you ever seen someone be treated unfairly?**

- **What can you do when you see someone being treated unjustly and unfairly? How can you learn to do what is right, seek justice, and defend people who are oppressed?**
- **What does it mean to conform to the world?** It means you act or think like people who don't follow God. Is it easy to conform to the world sometimes? How can you let God's word transform you instead of conforming to the world?

## **OBJECT LESSON: Conforming Water**

### **Supplies**

Different shapes of containers or cups, water, a marker or pen, a piece of paper.

### **Instructions**

*Pour the water into the different containers and ask your kids what's happening to the water in each container. It's conforming to the container it's in. Conforming means taking the shape of something else.*

**What does it mean to conform to the world?** It means we let the world shape us: our views, our attitudes and actions, our feelings about others. Should we let ourselves conform to the world, or to God's word? The Bible says in Romans 12:2 that we should not let ourselves be conformed to the world, but we should be transformed by God. Let's see if we can make something be transformed by this water . . .

*Use a marker to draw an arrow on a piece of paper. Hold it up behind a tall, clear glass full of water, and look at the arrow from the other side of the glass. It will look as if it has changed directions behind the glass.*

The water transformed that arrow. Instead of letting ourselves be conformed to the world and the sinfulness of the world, we can let God's word transform us our transform our minds, like the water transformed this arrow. We can stand up for what's right, even if it means we're going the opposite direction of others sometimes. We take our direction from God, and stand for Him and for justice.

## **MORE RESOURCES FOR PARENTS**

[This YouTube video](#) by Phil Vischer, the creator of Veggie Tales, talks about race issues in America, and gives a great overview and history.

[This book, God's Very Good Idea](#), teaches kids how to enjoy being delightfully different, as we are all a part of God's family.

[ColorFull: Celebrating the Colors God Gave Us](#), by Dorena Williamson, teaches kids to celebrate their differences.

[Beyond the Golden Rule](#) by Dana Williams, is a parent's guide to preventing and responding to prejudice.