

READ: *Genesis 1:1, John 14:6, 26, John 3:16, 1 John 3:1, Ephesians 3:14-15, James 1:16-17*

OPEN:

- 1) Share a win, something inspiring or encouraging, from your week where you encountered God.
- 2) Discuss as a group the importance of asking the three questions:
 - Who is God? (Theology)
 - Who am I to God? (Identity)
 - Who are we? (God's people / Community)
- 3) Discuss this Quote: "We will either believe that we've been created in God's image or we will create God in our own image."

BIG IDEA:

When we know God as our Father, we will see Him as:

- Provider
- Protector
- One who wants a Personal Relationship

READ: *John 3:16, John 14:6, & John 14:26*

DIG:

What or Who is the Trinity?

- Each Person of the Trinity has a distinctive function and role, but the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit are all God, three-in-one. You cannot have one without the other. Discuss their roles.
- God the Father *initiates* the plan for salvation. How does God demonstrate this in John 3:16?
- God the Son *accomplishes* salvation. How does Jesus embody the truth in John 14:6?
- God the Spirit *applies* salvation as promised by Jesus. How does the Spirit function as the advocate or the one who is sent to help us in John 14:26?

READ: *Ephesians 3:14-15, Matthew 6:8b-13, Romans 8:37-39*

DIG:

- In Ephesians 3:14-15, we read that we will bow before the Father, "for whom every family in heaven and on earth is named." God desires a relationship with each one of us. How do we, believers, carry HIS name?
- In Matthew 6:8b-13, we see God's character as One who provides for His children. How is God the Father a provider in this passage? Can you out-give God? ☺
- In Romans 8:37-39, we read about God the Father as protector. How does God protect us? How can we trust in Him more and more that we are convinced of His great love?

REFLECT: Seven Foundational Christian Beliefs

- 1) God the Father, Creator of Heaven and Earth and all that is in it
- 2) Jesus was fully God and fully man (deity of Christ)
- 3) Jesus lived a sinless life
- 4) Man was born in sin and is helpless to save himself
- 5) Jesus' Death, Burial, and Resurrection
- 6) Jesus ascended back to heaven to create a place for us
- 7) God the Holy Spirit was sent by Jesus to help us live for Him

Romans 8:15-16, The Message

This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike "What's next, Papa?" God's Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are. We know who he is, and we know who we are: Father and children. And we know we are going to get what's