

GOD RULES LIFE
STORY: CREATION**BIG TRUTH: GOD RULES LIFE**

Job 33:4; Genesis 2:7; Acts 17:25-28; John 10:28-29; John 11:17-44; Ephesians 2:1-7

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 11:25

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live."

BIG IDEAS

- God is the author of life.
- God is more powerful than death.
- God can raise the dead to life.

BIBLE STORY: EZEKIEL 37:1-14

God is the most powerful and mightiest of all beings. He rules over everything. He rules over life and is more powerful than death. Ezekiel receives a vision of the new life that God promised to His children. Ezekiel sees dry bones receive flesh and tendons and life again because God is more powerful than death. He rules over life and is the author of all life.

STORY: CREATION

God created everything. Everything we see, hear, feel, taste, and that exists was created by Him. Not only did He create everything, but He created everything perfectly, including humanity. He created mankind in His very image and likeness to reflect His worth. All of creation was made just like He wanted and designed it to be. To His delight, God looked at everything He made and declared that it was good. All creation exists for God, is good, and was created to bring Him glory.

BIG AIMS**Every child should know that:**

- God is actively involved in creation

**Every child should feel:**

- Safe and secure in God's rule over creation

**Every child should:**

- Remember the ways that God is faithful

**Every child should want:**

- To trust God's control over creation

**FAMILY DEVOTION:
GOD CAN RAISE THE DEAD TO LIFE**

God gives life and He gives new life to those who believe in Him. He is more powerful than death and He can raise the dead to life.

STORY: CREATION
GOD RULES LIFE**BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 11:25**

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live."

Jesus is the giver of life.

- All life begins with God because He is the Creator of all things.
- Jesus is God and the Creator of all things.
- God determines the span of a person's life.
- He is the author of all life and knows the number of days that a person will live.
- Jesus knows when a person will be born and when they will die. He is also in control of who is raised to life again, like Lazarus.

Jesus is the giver of eternal life.

- When Jesus raised His friend Lazarus to life again, He told Lazarus' sister, Martha, that He was the resurrection.
- Jesus has power over death and life. He is the giver of eternal life.
- Jesus gives new life to those who believe in Him.
- Those who believe will receive eternal life with Him; they will be resurrected to new life.
- He rules over all of nature, even life and death.

BIBLE STORY: EZEKIEL 37:1-14

The Valley Of Dry Bones

Opening Illustration:

Gather together white paper, crayons, and markers. Give each child a piece of paper, crayons, and markers. Ask the children to create a self-portrait. Do not give them a lot of guidelines, except to create a self-portrait that shows who they are and where they live. When they are finished, show the class each self-portrait. Lead the children in a discussion about how God is the Creator of everything and He rules over Creation. He also created each of us to be unique.

- Were any of the self-portraits the same? (No, they are all different because we are all different.)
- God is the Creator of everything. He made the earth and He made us.
- Are we all the same? (No, we are different, even though we are all humans.)
- God created us all to be different, even though we are all created in His image.
- He also rules over all of creation because He is the ruler of all things.

STORY: CREATION

GOD RULES LIFE

BIG IDEA: GOD IS THE AUTHOR OF LIFE.

Opening Question:

What does it mean to be the author of something? (It means that you are the person who determines what happens and when it happens.)

God determines the beginning and end of all life.¹

- God gave His prophet Ezekiel a vision, or picture of what was to come.
- Ezekiel saw a valley filled with bones, dry and old.
- The bones had been there a long time; there was no life in them at all.
- God determines how long people live and the day they die.
- He is the Creator of all life and He rules over it.



Ask the children to create their own stories involving their friends. Allow them to share their own stories. Ask the children who is the author of their stories. Remind them that God is the author of our story.

God determined the days of the people who belonged to the dry bones.

- He knew Ezekiel would be His prophet and would see a vision of dry bones.
- God writes every life story of every person.
- The God who created all things is personally involved in the lives of each person.

God knows everything that will happen in our lives because He is the author of our lives.

- God knew Ezekiel would prophesy, or tell about, the valley of dry bones.
- God is the powerful Creator.
- He plans the days of our lives and interacts with us daily.

Who is the author of our lives? (God is the author of every person's life. He is the Creator of all things.)

1. Job 33:4: God is the author of all life. He created all things.

STORY: CREATION
GOD RULES LIFE**BIG IDEA: GOD IS MORE POWERFUL THAN DEATH.**

Do you know anyone who is more powerful than death? (No person is more powerful than death. There is no one who can overpower death.)

God rules over all things.

- He is the beginning of everything.
- He is not stopped by the things that stop people because He is all-powerful.
- The bones were very dry and very dead, but God had power over them.
- God has power over everything and every person.



Read John 11:25 to the children. Help them define the word “resurrection”. Remind the children that Jesus rose to life again after He died on the cross. God has power over death.

God controls life and death.

- No one is born accidentally and no one dies accidentally.
- God is ruler of all and life and death happen under His authority.
- He is involved and aware when every person is born and when they die.
- He even knows when the animals die. He is actively involved in creation.
- God has all the control and power over life and death.

God is not overpowered by death.

- Death does not stop God or prevent Him from doing what He wants.
- God is more powerful than death.
- He made the dry bones into people again because He is more powerful than death.
- He controlled death.
- Death did not control Him!

Who is more powerful than death? (God is more powerful than death.)
Who controls life and death? (God controls all life and everyone’s death.)

STORY: CREATION

GOD RULES LIFE

BIG IDEA: GOD CAN RAISE THE DEAD TO LIFE.

Jesus is the resurrection.²

- Because Jesus rose to life again, all who believe in Him will rise to life again.
- Jesus' life and death give new life to those who believe.
- Jesus' own resurrection shows that He can raise the dead to life.
- God showed Ezekiel a valley of dry bones that God caused to come alive again.
- God has power to raise dead people to life again.



Bring in several large sticks. Have the children pretend to gather the “bones” together and turn them into people again. Remind the children that God has power over death and can raise the dead to life again.

God raises the dead to life again through Jesus.

- Everyone is spiritually dead because of sin.
- Everyone will die a physical death unless Jesus returns.
- Jesus' life, death, and resurrection give us new life when we believe.
- Just like God gave the dry bones new life, He gives those who believe in Jesus new life.

Those who believe can be raised to new life in Jesus.

- God rules life. He controls all things.
- He gives new life to those who believe in what Jesus did for every person.
- God is the only being who has the power to raise people to life again.
- Only God can make dead bones live again.
- Only God can make dead, sinful hearts live again.
- He is the resurrection and the life. He makes the spiritually dead live again.

What power does God have over the dead? (God can raise the dead to life again.)

2. Acts 3:15: God is the author of life and the resurrection. Through Jesus we receive a new life.

HOOKS



God Has Power Over Death

Bring in pictures of x-rays or skeletons. Ask the children to look at the pictures and see how many bones they can identify. Remind them that God brought to life the dry bones in the valley that Ezekiel saw in his vision. God had power over death, even when the bones had been dead for a long time.



God Is The Author Of Our Life

Bring in a small mirror. Have the children take turns looking in the mirror and writing down a description of a few of their features, such as that their eyes are blue. Lead the children in a discussion about how each person in the class is different and how God writes each of our stories. He is the author of our lives.



- Are we all the same in this class? (No, we are different.)
- Do we all enjoy the same things? (No, everyone does not like the same things.)
- God is the author of our lives. He writes our stories and determines what we will look like and how long we will live. He even puts desires in our hearts that are sometimes unique to us.



God Raises The Dead To Life

Give each child a black heart-shaped piece of paper. Tell the children the black heart represents our hearts before we have saving faith in Christ. Next give the children a white heart-shaped piece of paper. Tell the children the white piece of paper represents our hearts after we have been raised to new life in Christ. God raises the dead to life again through Christ.