

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**KNOW****Every child should know that:**

- God is actively involved in creation

**FEEL****Every child should feel:**

- Safe and secure in God's rule over creation

**DO****Every child should:**

- Remember the ways that God is faithful

**WANT****Every child should want:**

- To trust God's control over creation

GOD CAN RAISE THE DEAD TO LIFE

Show your child a live plant and a dead plant. Ask your child to describe the differences between the plant that is alive and the plant that is dead. Ask them if we can make the dead plant live again. Remind them that we can't make dead things live again, but God can. He can raise the dead to life.

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

Ezekiel 37:1-14

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

The valley in Ezekiel's vision was filled with dry, brittle bones. These bones were not the bones of people who had just died. They were the bones of people who had been dead for many, many years. The bones were not joined together to form skeletons. They were separated and lying apart. Even though there was absolutely no sign of life in these bones, God gathered them together to form the people they once were and He breathed life into them. This vision showed God's power to raise the dead to life. God is the only being who has this power. He rules over life and is able to raise the dead to life. He raises our dead hearts to life when we place saving faith in His Son, Jesus.

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

- What did God do to the bones in the valley that Ezekiel saw in his vision? (God gathered the bones into people and breathed life into them.)
- Who has the power to raise the dead to life? (God has the power to raise the dead to life.)

**KNOW**

As a family memorize John 11:25 by saying the verse in a loud voice and then a quiet voice multiple times.

**DO**

Using Q-Tips, help your child create his or her own skeleton. Glue the "bones" in the shape of a skeleton onto a piece of paper. Talk with your child about how God brought the dry bones together again and breathed life into them. God is more powerful than death.

**FEEL**

Read a story to your child or have your child read a story. Ask him or her to identify who the author of the story is and then lead your child in a discussion about how God is the author of our lives. He is the Creator of all life and He determines our days.

**WANT**

Spend a few moments each night before bedtime talking with your child about the ways God rules over our lives. Help your child see how God works in our lives and how He is more powerful than anything else. Pray with your child thanking God for ruling our lives and caring for us.