DEVOTION 1

STORY: NEW CREATION

GOD IS ALIVE

2/3

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS ALIVE

Job 12:10; 33:4; Isaiah 42:5; Jeremiah 10:10; Matthew 16:16; Acts 17:24-28; 1 Timothy 6:13

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 1:3-4

"All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men."

BIG IDEAS

- God is life.
- God gives new life.
- God is making us alive.

BIBLE STORY: ACTS 9:1-31

God is the God of all life, physical and spiritual. Saul received physical life from God at his conception, but he lived his life persecuting Christ's followers until God changed Saul's life. On the road to Damascus, Saul saw the light of Christ and believed. Saul received spiritual life, or new life from Christ when he believed and his life was never the same.

STORY: NEW CREATION

Part of the beauty of the gospel is that God does not just rescue us from the power of sin, but He is also making everything new. God offers new creation to those who place their faith in Jesus. This newness comes in two ways. The first is that by breaking the power of sin, Jesus is making men and women into brand new people with new identities. Second, God is not only making people new, but He is also going to make a new heaven and a new earth for us to live on and worship Him in.

BIG AIMS

KNOW

Every child should know that:

- God offers us new life (new desires, purpose) through Jesus

FEEL

Every child should feel:

- The need to live differently because of Jesus

DO

Every child should:

- See life in light of God's promises to those who are in Jesus

WANT

Every child should want:

- To be freed and rescued from their sin and given new life in Jesus

STORY: NEW CREATION

GOD IS ALIVE

GROWING LIKE JESUS

As a family create a terrarium. Talk with your child about how all life is from God and as we have saving faith in Jesus, we grow to be more like Him. God give us life and He gives us new life in Jesus. As we learn about Jesus, we grow more like Him.

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

Acts 9:1-31.

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

Saul knew a lot of religious things. He knew the rules and the laws that God's special people had followed for many years, but he did not know Jesus. He thought that people who followed Jesus were wrong and he hated them so much he spent all of his time persecuting them by having them arrested or even killed. Saul was a smart man, but he was blind to the truth. He was living a life separated from God because of his sinful heart. Saul asked the High Priest for permission to hunt down Christians and have them thrown in prison. The High Priest gave Saul permission and sent him on his way. Saul began traveling to the town of Damascus searching for any followers of Jesus. As he was traveling, he was blinded by a bright light and heard a voice speaking to him. He was confused and shocked, but then Jesus spoke to Saul. Jesus asked Saul why he was persecuting Him. Saul was even more confused because he had never even seen Jesus. Jesus explained to Saul that when Saul hurt Christians, he was hurting Jesus. Saul understood for the first time that Jesus was the one true Savior. He knew that he had been wrong about everything. He finished his journey to Damascus being led by the men who were with him because his eyes were still blinded. When he got to Damascus, he rested for three days and then something like scales fell off of his eyes and he could see again. He was immediately baptized and began following Jesus. He was dead in his sin, but Jesus made him alive again. Jesus gave him new life. Saul stopped persecuting Christians and began telling other people about Jesus. His life was completely different. It was transformed. We are like Saul when we are in our sin. We are dead and without Jesus, we cannot be made alive again. Jesus makes us alive again when we have saving faith in Him.

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

- How did Saul feel about Christians before meeting Jesus? (He hated them and thought they were wrong.)
- What would Saul do to Christians before he met Jesus? (He would put them in prison or have them killed.)
- How did Saul's life change after he met Jesus? (He began following Jesus and telling others about Him.)

As a family, memorize John 1:3-4 by breaking the verses into smaller sections and then hiding the sections around your house. Say the verses together several times. Play this several times to help your child learn the verses.

As a family, make a batch of pancakes or some type of food that rises when it cooks. As you make the dough for the food, talk with your child about how God gives us life and He gives us new life. When we don't know Jesus, we are like the flat dough---dead in our sin. Next, place the dough in the oven to bake or cook the pancakes on the stove. When the food begins to rise, tell your child that we change and become more like Christ when we have saving faith in Him.

As a family, create a mosaic of Saul's life after Christ using magazine pictures or pictures drawn on paper. Talk with your child about how Saul's life changed after he met Jesus. He had new life in Jesus.

Spend some time this week praying, thanking God for giving us new life.

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