

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**Every child should know that:**

- The church is God’s family
- The Christian life cannot be faithfully lived apart from the local church

**Every child should feel:**

- Loved by the church family that God has placed them into
- Love for their church family

**Every child should:**

- Participate in their local church
- Serve someone within their local church

**Every child should want:**

- To grow together in Christ with other members of God’s family

ALIVE IN CHRIST

As a family, gather the supplies to plant herbs. Use small pots, potting soil, and herb seeds to help your child plant an herb garden. Talk with your child about how God makes us alive in Christ when we repent and believe in Him. He gives us a new heart and continues to make us new in Him.

DISCOVER IT: (Use the passage to illustrate the Big Truth.)
John 3:1-15.

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 his days 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 immediately was baptized and began following Jesus. He had been 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.)

**KNOW**

As a family, memorize 1 Corinthians 15:55-57 by dividing the verses into sections and writing them on strips of paper. Place the strips of paper in a bowl or basket. Set a timer and take turns putting the strips in order the fastest. Say the verses out loud several times.

**DO**

Take a walk as a family. As you walk, pick up different stones or rocks that you find. Talk with your child about how David defeated Goliath using stones because God was fighting for David. We can have victory too through God's victory.

**FEEL**

Lead your child in a discussion about what it means to have victory over sin and death. Share with your child that only when we repent and believe in Jesus do we truly have victory over our sin and death. Jesus' death sets us free from our sin.

**WANT**

As a family, create a David and Goliath board game. Help your child create a game board similar to Candy Land using different important aspects of David's story as the stops along the way. Use small index cards to create the movement cards. Remind your child that David had victory through God's victory and so can we.

Spend some time this week praying, thanking God for defeating our sin and death.