

GOD IS LIFE

STORY: CREATION / YEAR: ETERNITY

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS LIFE

Genesis 2:4-7; Psalm 36:9; Jeremiah 10:10; John 1:3-4; 5:25-26; 11:25; Acts 17:24-28

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 14:6*“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”***BIG IDEAS**

- Life comes from God alone.
- God not only gives life, He is life.
- God can raise the dead to life.
- God can raise dead hearts to life through Jesus.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 7:11-17

God is the Creator and sustainer of all life. God’s power is great enough to raise the dead to life. Jesus demonstrated this power when He raised the widow’s only son to life again after he had died. Jesus has the power to raise the dead to life and to raise dead hearts to life again.

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:**

- Life comes from God

**Every child should feel:**

- Responsible to use the life that God has given them for His glory

**Every child should:**

- Find joy in the life that God has given them

**Every child should want:**

- To submit their lives to God’s plans

FAMILY DEVOTION: GOD IS LIFE

Everything comes from God. He is the beginning of all things and the giver of all good things. Life is from God because He is life. Life originates from Him and is sustained by Him.

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 14:6

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”

God is life and to know God is to have life.

- God is the beginning of all things.
- He is the ruler of all things and holds everything in His hand.
- All life exists inside of God.
- We have life because God exists and gives life.
- When we know God, we have eternal life through His Son.
- God gives life to all things because all things come from Him.

The only way to God is through His Son, Jesus.

- There is no other way to know God except through His Son, Jesus.
- God ordained Jesus to be the great High Priest and to be the only way for someone to be reconciled to God.
- Jesus’ birth, life, death, and resurrection are all part of God’s plan of salvation for anyone who believes.
- When a person repents of his sin and believes that Jesus paid the sin debt of the world, he is reconciled to God.
- Jesus removed our sin barrier when He died on the cross for the sins of man.
- Since the barrier is removed, man can know God through Jesus.

Jesus gives eternal life to those who believe.

- Jesus has the power to give eternal life to those who repent and believe in Him.
- He is fully God and fully man. He is God’s Son and God. He is one person of the three-person Godhead.
- Because Jesus is God, He is eternal and gives eternal life to those who believe.
- Anyone who recognizes that she is a sinner, that she has inherited a sin nature that causes her to rebel against God, and then turns away from it has repented.
- Repenting involves believing that salvation is possible because Jesus paid our sin debt.
- Those who repent and believe receive eternal life. Though their earthly physical bodies may die, their souls and glorified bodies live forever in heaven.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 7:11-17

Jesus Gives Life to the Widow’s Son

Opening Illustration:

Ask the children to create an illustrated map showing the way to their house. Help the children label the map and include the necessary directions to help a person find their house. Once they finish, allow them to share their maps and then remind them that God is the Creator of families. He has a purpose and plan for each of us.

BIG IDEA: LIFE COMES FROM GOD ALONE.¹**Everything that exists is from God.**

- God is the source of all things.
- He is larger than our human minds can comprehend.
- He is more powerful than our human minds can understand.
- All things exist inside of God.
- He created everything. There is nothing that is in existence that God didn't create.
- He is the beginning of all things.



Bring in several small items that require a power source, such as flashlights, a small lamp, a clock, etc. Ask the children to identify the source of power for each item. Remind them that just like the items have a power source, God is the only source of life.

Nothing exists outside of God.

- God is a spirit and He is everywhere.
- He is not like man who is confined by space and time.
- Everything in the heavens and on the earth exists inside of God.
- He holds all things in His hand and controls all things.
- He is the Creator of all things.

He is the only source of life.

- Though man can create and invent different things, man does not create life.
- It is God who allows things to live. He chooses when life begins and when it ends.
- He sustains life and keeps things alive.
- Jesus chose to bring the widow's son back to life. He alone decided when the boy's life would begin again and it did.

Who is the only source of life? (God is the only source of life. He alone gives life and sustains it.)

1. John 1:3-4: All things are made by God and for Him. There is nothing that exists that isn't from Him.

BIG IDEA: GOD NOT ONLY GIVES LIFE, HE IS LIFE.²**God is the beginning of everything.**

- God is not a created being. He has no beginning and no end.
- He is the beginning of all things because He is the Creator of all things.
- He made the heavens and the earth and all that is in them.
- He created every person and every thing that exists.
- All things are made by Him and for Him.
- He is the source of life for everything.

God holds all things in Himself.

- God is bigger than anything we can know or understand.
- He is outside of time and space. He created those things and they exist inside of Him.
- He holds everything in His hands and gives it life.
- He sustains life and allows things to continue to exist.
- He alone decides when things pass away or die.

God is life because life is from Him.

- God can give life because He is life.
- He is the source of life for all living things.
- He is the way in which everything begins to live and breathe.
- He can take life and even give it back again.
- He spoke to the widow's dead son and commanded his body to live again. The boy's body obeyed God's voice and began living again.

How is God life? (He is the beginning of everything and everything comes from Him.)



Give each child a piece of paper with the name GOD written on it. Next, ask the children to draw pictures or write the many different things that God gives life to. Allow the children to share their papers and then remind them that God is life itself. He is the beginning of all things.

2. Psalm 36:9: God is the fountain of life and life is from Him.

BIG IDEA: GOD CAN RAISE THE DEAD TO LIFE.³**God breathes life into the dead.**

- Because God is the source of all life, He controls all life.
- He determines when things begin and when they end.
- He breathes life into the dead.
- He promises that on the day of judgment, the dead will rise at His command.
- Throughout His Word, Jesus revealed God's power to breathe life into the dead by raising the dead to life.
- Jesus raised the widow's son to life easily by commanding the boy to rise up.



Give the children several verses that talk about Jesus raising people from the dead, such as the passage about Lazarus. Remind them that God can raise the dead to life and one day He will raise the dead to eternal life.

God will raise the dead on the day of judgment.

- One day when Christ returns, the dead will rise from their graves at God's command.
- Those who have repented and believed in Jesus will rise to an eternity with Him.
- Those who have rejected Him will rise to an eternity in hell away from God.
- It will be through the power of God that the dead get out of their graves.

God's power is limitless.

- There is no other being with the power to give life.
- Only God can breathe life into something and only God can cause the dead to live again.
- His power over death reveals just how limitless God's power is.
- If He can bring dead people back to life, He can do anything.
- This power proves that life really is given by Him.

What does God's power over the dead reveal about Him? (It reveals that life really does come from Him.)

3. Daniel 12:2: *There will be a day when God causes the dead to rise.*

BIG IDEA: GOD CAN RAISE DEAD HEARTS TO LIFE THROUGH JESUS.⁴**Sin makes our hearts dead.**

- Since the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, sin has corrupted our hearts.
- Our hearts are dead in our sin because sin leads to death.
- We have no hope or future while we are living in our sin.
- Sin blinds us to the truth and causes us to reject the only source of life, God.

We live dead lives when we live in sin.

- While we are sinners, everything we do has no eternal significance.
- When we are living sinful lives and investing in the things of this world, we are investing in things that are going to fall away when Jesus returns.
- Our lives are not whole or complete when we are not in Christ.
- Life is found in Jesus alone. Anything lived apart from Him is not true life.



Bring in a balloon. While the children watch, blow the balloon up. Pinch the end of the balloon with your fingers and then slowly let the air out of the balloon. Tell the children that the full balloon represents our hearts as the air is coming out of the balloon, the balloon represents how sin affects our hearts. Next, blow the balloon up and then tie it closed. Remind them that God makes our dead hearts alive again.

God gives our dead hearts life when we repent and believe.

- God sent His Son to pay our sin debt that we might have everlasting life with Him.
- He understands our dead hearts and desires to see us made new.
- Because Jesus lived a sinless life, He was the perfect sacrifice for our sin.
- He paid that sacrifice on the cross and now we can be made new when we believe in Him.
- When we repent and believe in Jesus, our hearts are no longer dead because we are reconciled to God.
- God is the only true life source, and when we are reconciled to Him we have life.

How does God make our dead hearts alive? (He offers us reconciliation through Jesus.)

4. Ephesians 2:1: As sinners we live dead lives. Our sin makes us dead and leads us to death.

HOOKS

**Source of Life Game**

Print pictures of different things that are the source for something else, such as an apple tree is the source for apples, electricity is the source for light, etc. Place the source pictures around the room. Next, write down something that the source produces on index cards. For example, the apple tree produces apples. Place the index cards in a pile. Have the children take turns drawing a card and finding its source on the wall. Once they've all had a turn, lead them in a conversation about how God is the source of all life.



- All life comes from God.
- He is the source for all life because He is the beginning of all things.
- Just like these different objects have a source, God is our source.

**Dead Man Walking**

Give each child a black piece of construction paper, Q-tips and glue. Ask the children to create a skeleton using the glue and Q-tips. Talk with them about how each of us is dead in our sin, but God gives us new life. He can make our dead hearts alive through Jesus.



- Jesus is the way we can have life again.
- Through His death, our sin debt is paid.
- Through His resurrection, we can be raised to eternal life.