

# GOD IS ALIVE

STORY: NEW CREATION / YEAR: PURPOSE

## 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:

- God has given us a holy mission to make Him known to others



### Every child should feel:

- Burdened for those in their lives who do not know Jesus



### Every child should:

- Share the gospel with someone who does not know Jesus



### Every child should want:

- To live faithfully on mission for God and be aligned with His purposes instead of our own

## FAMILY DEVOTION: GOD IS THE SOURCE OF ALL LIFE

Before Saul knew Jesus, he was spiritually dead. He was lost in his sin and was not really living. After he encountered Jesus, he began to really live and became alive in Christ.

## STORY: NEW CREATION

# GOD IS ALIVE

### **BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 1:3-4**

*“All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.”*

#### **God is a living God.**

- God has always existed.
- God is one God in three persons.
- The three persons of God: the Father, Son, and Spirit, have always existed.
- God is alive and living.
- God is not an inanimate God. He is not made of stone or human materials.
- He exists and lives among us.

#### **God is the giver of life.**

- All life is from God because God is life.
- Nothing existed before God created it.
- Everything exists because God gives life.
- All things have life because God is a living God who creates life and sustains it.
- We live and breathe because God breathed life into us.

#### **God gives new life.**

- In the beginning, God, in His three persons, created life.
- God sustains life and He continues to allow life on earth.
- God brought light to the darkness of the earth when He sent Jesus.
- Jesus came to the world to bring new life to those who believe.
- All who believe in the work of Jesus receive new life.
- Jesus is the light sent to drive the darkness out.

### **BIBLE STORY: ACTS 9:1-31**

*Saul's Conversion*

#### **Opening Illustration:**

Gather together a flowerpot, potting soil, and grass seeds. Ask the children to help you put the potting soil into the flowerpot. Next, give each child a few grass seeds and ask them to push the seeds into the soil. Next, use a water bottle to help the children water the seeds. Set the pot somewhere safe so they can watch the grass grow. Talk with the children about how our world now is broken and dying, like the flowerpot was empty, but Jesus is making a New Creation. The flowerpot will have new life in it when the grass grows.

# STORY: NEW CREATION

## GOD IS ALIVE

### BIG IDEA: GOD IS LIFE.<sup>1</sup>

#### God is the Creator of all things.

- Nothing creates itself, or begins existing on its own.
- We are not able to create life.
- God is the source of all life.
- Not only is He the source of all life, He sustains all life.
- He creates all things and gives life because He is life.



Have the children create a list of things that God created. Help them think through the ways in which God is our source of life. Remind them that God is life and all life comes from Him.

#### Everything has life because of God.

- We would have no life if it were not given to us by God.
- God gives us our life.
- He breathes breath into our lungs and He holds our life in His hands.
- He is the beginning of everything.
- He has always existed and it is through His power that everything else exists.

#### God is our life.

- Even those who do not follow Christ still receive life from God.
- Everyone receives physical life from God because only God gives life.
- God is our source of living and breathing.
- He is the reason we even exist on the earth.
- He continues to keep the earth functioning and people living.
- He controls life and death and because of Him, we have life.

*Who is our source of life? (God is the source of all life.)*

1. 1 Timothy 6:13: All life is given by God. He is the source of all life.

# STORY: NEW CREATION

## GOD IS ALIVE

### BIG IDEA: GOD GIVES NEW LIFE.<sup>2</sup>

#### We are dead in our sin.

- Every person is born with a sin nature that causes them to rebel against God.
- Every person owes a sin debt.
- The wages of sin is death.
- Our hearts are wicked and sinful because of our sin nature.
- We are all dead in our trespasses.
- We cannot make ourselves new or create a new life for ourselves.
- Saul was dead in his sin.
- He did not follow God or see the truth.



Lead the children in a discussion about how our sin makes us dead. Help the children think of certain sins that lead to physical death and certain sins that take away from our quality of life. Remind them that we are all dead in our sin and are given new life through Christ.

#### God gives physical life and spiritual life.

- God breathes breath into our lungs and He gives us new life in our hearts.
- Saul had physical life, but He was spiritually dead.
- He lived in rebellion to God.
- He sought out Christ's followers to kill or imprison them.
- God gave Saul new life.
- He gave him life spiritually.
- God gives us new life spiritually when we have saving faith in Jesus.
- He makes our hearts new and makes us new creations.
- We have new life because of God.

*From whom do we receive new life? (We receive new life from God.)*

*How do we receive new life? (When we have saving faith in Jesus, we receive new life.)*

2. 2 Corinthians 5:17: Anyone who has repented of his sin and placed his faith in Christ becomes a new creation.

## STORY: NEW CREATION

# GOD IS ALIVE

### BIG IDEA: GOD IS MAKING US ALIVE.<sup>3</sup>

#### Our old hearts make us dead, but our new hearts give us life.

- We are dead in our sin, but we do not have to remain that way.
- God made a way for us to be alive.
- He sent His Son to pay our sin debt and now we have freedom in Him when we believe.
- Our faith in Jesus gives us new hearts.
- God continues to make us new through His Spirit.



Share with the children what it means to you to have new life in Christ. Talk with the children about what life was like before Christ and how it is now that you have new life in Christ. Remind them that we are given new life or made alive in Christ when we repent and believe.

#### We are always becoming new as we become more like Christ.

- God's Spirit works inside of us to make us like Christ.
- God continues to work in us, making us new creations.
- His Spirit works to take away the old sinful behaviors and gives us new righteous behaviors.
- God gave Saul new life on the road to Damascus and He continued making him new through His Spirit.
- We are all like Saul. We receive new life when we believe and then the Spirit continues to make us new.

#### We are made alive through Christ.

- We are dead in our trespasses, but when we believe in Jesus, we are made alive.
- Just like Jesus died on the cross, was buried, and then raised again to life, we are dead and then raised to a new life in Christ.
- We have new desires and new behaviors when we are in Christ.
- His Spirit works inside of us to make us more like Him every day.

*How are we made alive? (Through Christ we are made alive.)*

*Whom do we become more like when we have saving faith? (We become more like Christ when we have saving faith.)*

3. Ephesians 2:5: Through Christ we are able to receive new life. Through the Spirit we are made more alive in Christ daily.

## HOOKS



### Dead In Sin

Have the children make a list of ways that our sin kills us. Lead them to discuss how our sin destroys our relationship with God and with others. Remind them that in Christ, we are given new life.



- We are all born spiritually dead.
- We have no real life before we know Christ.
- When we repent and believe in Jesus, we are made into new creations.
- Our old sinful hearts are turned into righteous hearts.
- Our relationships are made right and we have a new life.



### A New Creation

Bring in a large piece of paper and several old newspapers and magazines. Ask the children to create a collage that shows what new life in Christ is like. Help the children find pictures that show what it means to be a new creation, such as finding pictures that show people smiling, having joy, looking peaceful, getting along with one another. Talk with the children about what it means to be a new creation in Christ.



- When we meet Jesus, we are made into a new creation.
- Our old sinful nature is no longer enslaving us and we are free to obey and worship God.
- Because Jesus makes us new, we are like new creations in God's eyes.
- We are no longer seen as sinful and hopeless.
- Instead, we are seen as righteous and holy before God.