

# LIFE IS A GIFT FROM GOD

## STORY: CREATION

### BIG TRUTH: LIFE IS A GIFT FROM GOD

Isaiah 46:8-13, 14:24-27; Psalm 33:10-11; Proverbs 16:9, 19:21, 21:1, 21:30; Daniel 4:34-37; Ephesians 1:11-14

### BIBLE VERSE: NEHEMIAH 9:6

*"You are the Lord, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them, and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you."*

### BIG IDEAS

- God is the author of all life.
- Life is not something we deserve; it is a good gift from God to us.
- We are completely dependent upon God for our next breath.
- Understanding that life is a gift produces a heart of worship

### BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 18:1-15

God made a covenant, or promise, to Abraham to give him a son. God promised this to Abraham, but many years passed and Abraham and Sarah still had no son. They had begun to think that they wouldn't have a son, so God reminded them of His promise that He would give them a child. God is the author of all life and He fulfilled His promise to Abraham and Sarah.

### 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: EVERYTHING FROM NOTHING

When the world began, God needed nothing to create it. His Word is powerful. All things obey His Word. When He spoke, things began to exist; life began to form and has continued forming under His command. Man must use materials to create. God needs nothing.

**BIBLE VERSE: NEHEMIAH 9:6**

*"You are the Lord, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them, and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you."*

**God alone is Lord.**

- God is the only true god.
- There is no other god like God.
- He alone has all the power.
- There is no one who can create like God creates.
- There is no one who is wise like God or can understand like God does.
- God is not like the false gods.
- He is living and real. He controls all life and keeps the world He created in existence.

**God's uniqueness as the one true God is seen through Creation.**

- Creation is a great example of how unique and individual God is.
- Creation reflects God's glory and shows us how unique and powerful God is.
- The vastness of creation and its uniqueness shows us how big God is.
- No other god creates like God does. There is no false god who can create and sustain life like God does.
- Only He is the giver of life and only He is the Creator of all of creation.

**God is Creator and Sustainer of all life.**

- Life is from God. God is the beginning of all things and the beginning of life.
- Even though man is involved in the creation of new life, life does not come from man.
- God determines when life begins and when it ends because He controls all things.
- He keeps life in existence. He alone determines the length of a person's life.
- Life is from God. He gives life and continues to keep things alive according to His will and purpose.

**BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 18:1-15**

*God's Promises Isaac's Birth*

**Opening Illustration:**

Before class, write the words "marriage", "life", "people", "glory", and "God" on index cards. Place the cards inside of small boxes and wrap the boxes with gift wrap. (You can use gift bags as well.) Show the gifts to the class. Ask them to take turns trying to guess what it is inside of each box. Next, open each box or bag and ask a child to read what is written on the card. Once all the gifts are open, talk with the children about how every good gift is from God. He gives us life, marriage, families, and everything else for His glory.

**BIG IDEA: GOD IS THE AUTHOR OF ALL LIFE.<sup>1</sup>****God is the beginning of all things.**

- Before God spoke life into existence, there was only God.
- Nothing exists apart from God. No life began or has begun outside of God's plan or control.
- He created the heavens and the earth and everything that is in them.
- He allows life to continue on the earth and in the heavens.
- God is life. He breathes life into everything. Because He exists, life exists.

**God is the Father of all people.**

- God is the Creator of all people.
- No person is created or born apart from God because He is the beginning of all things.
- Every person who has ever lived or will ever live is created by God.
- God is the heavenly Father of all things because He is the beginning of all things.

**Life is given by God as He determines.**

- Man does not determine when life begins.
- Even when we seemingly plan that we will create life, we are not in control.
- Abraham and Sarah thought they were too old to have a child, but God is not limited in power like man is.
- Any person who is born is born because God determines he or she should be.



Give each child a blank sheet of paper and some markers. Ask the children to write the word "God" on their paper. Next, tell the children that before God created life, there was only God. Next, ask the children to draw the other children in the classroom. They can draw stick people if needed. Tell the children to draw a line from each person they draw connecting them to God. Remind them that all life comes from God.

*Who is the author of all life? (God is the beginning and end of all things. He is the author of life.)*

1. John 1:3-4: All things come from God. He is the beginning of all things and the Creator of all things. Nothing exists apart from Him.

## BIG IDEA: LIFE IS NOT SOMETHING WE DESERVE; IT IS A GOOD GIFT FROM GOD TO US.<sup>2</sup>

### No one is entitled to life.

- God is a good God and a faithful Father to us.
- His love is everlasting and He is longsuffering.
- We are sinful and reject God and His love for us.
- Our hearts are sinful and cause us to rebel against God.
- None of us deserve to have life. We do not deserve to have God create us or sustain our life.



Help the children make a list of the good things about life, such as having friends, being able to play, enjoying the outdoors, etc. Remind them that life is a good gift from God.

### God grants us life out of His love for us.

- God is a gracious and loving God.
- He chose to create the world and all that is in it because He wanted to.
- He didn't need the world or mankind.
- God created mankind because He wanted to create a people for Himself.
- God created mankind because He loved man.
- God's love for us is not something we deserve. We do nothing to earn it or deserve it.
- It is His good will and faithfulness that causes God to give us life.

### Our lives are a gift from God because of His grace towards us.

- God is a gracious God. It is His grace that allows us to continue living and existing.
- He gives us life as a good gift.
- Life is a special thing that is to be treasured because we are created by God for Him.
- It is God's longsuffering and graciousness that causes Him to give us life.

*How is life a gift from God? (We do not deserve life, but God's grace causes Him to give us the gift of life.)*

2. Job 10:12: God's love is steadfast and He alone grants life.

## BIG IDEA: WE ARE COMPLETELY DEPENDENT UPON GOD FOR OUR NEXT BREATH.<sup>3</sup>

### God controls all life.

- God is mighty and powerful.
- He is the sovereign ruler over all things, especially life.
- God gives us all that we need to live.
- He breathes life into our bodies and continues to keep us alive.
- He is the ruler of all things on the earth and in the heaven.

### God chooses to continue our lives.

- We do nothing to deserve or earn the right to live.
- God chooses to continue our lives.
- He decides that we will be born and He chooses to keep us alive.
- He continues to provide the things we need in life.
- He continues to sustain life on the earth.
- He alone decides when life ends and when it begins.

### God is our source of life.

- We do not hold the power of our lives in our hands.
- God is the giver of life and He is our source of life.
- Everything we have, we receive from Him.
- He provides all we need to live and bring Him glory.
- He gives us all good things and sustains our lives.



Bring in enough balloons for each child to have one. Give each child a balloon and ask him or her to blow the balloon up. Next, ask the children to let the air out of the balloon. Do this several times and then talk with the children about how God controls our lives and gives us life just like they were controlling the air in the balloons.

Who controls our lives? (God controls our lives. He sustains our lives and gives us everything we need.)

3. 1 Samuel 2:6: God determines who lives and who dies. He raises people up in position and lowers them in position. He controls all things.

**BIG IDEA: UNDERSTANDING THAT LIFE IS A GIFT PRODUCES A HEART OF WORSHIP.<sup>4</sup>****God's faithfulness produces worship in our hearts.**

- God is faithful and longsuffering.
- When we understand our own sinfulness and recognize the faithfulness of God, our hearts worship God for His love and mercy.
- God is always faithful no matter our actions.
- God loves us unconditionally and keeps us alive according to His purposes.
- God's faithfulness creates a heart of worship inside of us because we realize we do not deserve life and we understand how much God has blessed us.



Lead the children in praise songs, such as "He's Got The Whole World In His Hands". Talk with the children about how God keeps us alive and this causes us to worship Him.

**God's preservation of our lives brings us joy.**

- When we understand that God holds our lives in His hands and it is His good pleasure that keeps us alive, our hearts are joyful.
- We understand that God loves us and no matter our actions, His love is steadfast.
- Our hearts are joyful when we understand how God preserves our lives and keeps us from our enemies and from danger.
- When we understand the work of God in our lives, we are filled with joy at His love and mercy.

**God's love for us produces a heart of thanksgiving.**

- Those who understand that God loves us and keeps our lives will have a heart of thanksgiving towards Him.
- When we understand that it is God alone who keeps us alive and that He loves us so unconditionally, we will rejoice with thankfulness.
- Our hearts will worship God for His steadfast love and His faithful preservation of our lives.

*What causes our hearts to worship God? (When we understand that God faithfully preserves our lives and keeps us alive, we will worship Him.)*

4. Psalm 36:5-9: God's faithfulness to us causes us to rejoice in Him.

## HOOKS

**Puzzling Life**

Find a puzzle with enough puzzle pieces for each child to have his own. Give each child a piece of the puzzle and then ask him or her to look at the puzzle piece. Next, help the children put the puzzle together. As you put the puzzle together, talk with the children about how God holds all of life in His hands. He controls all things and it all works together according to His plan like putting the puzzle together.



- God is the giver of all life.
- Not only does He create life, but He sustains life.
- He gives us all that we need and He keeps us alive.
- He orders the world and allows it to continue to exist.
- He controls all things.

**Popcorn Life**

Gather the children in a circle and begin tossing a beanbag or soft ball around the circle. Tell the children that they have to name something that is necessary for humans to live when they catch the ball, but they cannot hold onto the ball. Keep the ball bouncing around the circle like popcorn. After the children name several things, talk with them about how all the things we need are from God.



- God sustains our lives.
- He created all life and He continues to keep us alive.
- He gives us all that we need and He allows us to continue existing.
- He is the great Author of all things.