

LIFE IS PRECIOUS AND MEANINGFUL

STORY: CREATION

BIG TRUTH: LIFE IS PRECIOUS AND MEANINGFUL

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: PSALM 139:13-14

"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it well."

BIG IDEAS

- Life is precious to God because He is the author of all life.
- Every human is intricately created by God.
- We should value life because God is life and every person is made in His image.
- We should live our lives with purpose because God created us for a purpose.

BIBLE STORY: EXODUS 1

Pharaoh grew afraid of the Israelites as they grew in number. He commanded that every male child born to a Hebrew should be killed. The Egyptian midwives were commanded to kill the male children born to Hebrew women, but they feared God and did not obey Pharaoh. Instead, they allowed the male children to live. God is the author of all life and every person is created in His image. Every life is precious and valuable to God.

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.

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BIBLE VERSE: PSALM 139:13-14

"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it well."

God plans and forms every life.

- Each of our days is known by God because He is the giver of life.
- No one is born by accident. Every life is planned and formed by God.
- God knows us and who we will be even before we are in our mother's wombs.
- He plans every life and creates every person in His image.

Every person is known by God before they are born.

- God is the beginning of all things.
- He is the beginning of life.
- He is personally involved in the creation of every person.
- He knows our names even before we are in our mother's wombs.
- He creates us and is present in our formation as we grow in our mother's wombs.
- He knows the length of our days even before we breathe our first breath on this earth.
- We are known by God who is the Author of our lives.

Life is valuable because God is the giver of life.

- All life is from God.
- He is the supreme ruler of all things because He is the one true God.
- God is life. Life comes from Him.
- He gives life as He desires and all life has value because it comes from Him.
- He creates every person in His image, making every person and every life of great value.

BIBLE STORY: EXODUS 1

The Midwives and Hebrew Children

Opening Illustration:

Gather together white paper, crayons, and markers. Give each child a piece of paper, crayons, and markers. Ask the children to create a self-portrait. Do not give them a lot of guidelines, except to create a self-portrait that shows who they are and where they live. When they are finished, show the class each self-portrait. Lead the children in a discussion about how God is the Creator of everything and He rules over Creation. He also created each of us to be unique.

- Were any of the self-portraits the same? (No, they are all different because we are all different.)
- God is the Creator of everything. He made the earth and He made us.
- Are we all the same? (No, we are different, even though we are all humans.)
- God created us all to be different, even though we are all created in His image.
- He also rules over all of creation because He is the ruler of all things.

LIFE IS PRECIOUS AND
MEANINGFUL**BIG IDEA: LIFE IS PRECIOUS TO GOD BECAUSE HE IS THE AUTHOR OF ALL LIFE.¹****Life is from God.**

- Life is a gift. It does not create itself or begin by accident or haphazardly.
- Life is given. It is created by God.
- God is life. It exists inside of Him because He is the beginning of all things.
- Life comes from God because He is the source of life for all things.
- No one lives apart from God. No thing exists apart from God's desire for it to exist.



Bring in a small clay pot, potting soil and grass seeds. Allow the children to help you plant the grass seeds in the small pot. Use a sheet or plastic tablecloth to prevent the soil from making a mess. Talk with the children about how the grass will grow from the seeds just like we are formed by God. Our lives are created by Him and known by Him even before we are born.

God gives life to all things.

- God is the author of all life.
- Everything has its beginning with Him.
- He gives life to everything.
- Even though Pharaoh wanted to stop the growth of the Israelites, God controls all life and He preserved the Israelites.
- We have life because God gives it to us. He not only gives us life, but He sustains our lives. He keeps us alive.
- He worked in the lives of the Egyptian midwives to cause them to disobey Pharaoh and to keep the Hebrew male children alive.
- He works in our lives to give life and to sustain life.

God plans and controls all life.

- God knows our days even before we breathe our first breath on this earth.
- He plans our lives. They are not created haphazardly or accidentally.
- He knows each of us and plans our days. He is intimately involved in our lives from the very beginning.
- No one is a mistake or accident. No birth or person is a mistake. We are each planned and controlled by God.

Who is the author of all life? (God is the author and creator of all life.)

1. John 1:3-4: From the very beginning God is involved in the creation of all things. All things are made through Him and for Him.

LIFE IS PRECIOUS AND
MEANINGFUL**BIG IDEA: EVERY HUMAN IS INTRICATELY CREATED BY GOD.²****We are the workmanship of God.**

- Every person is created in the image of God.
- He is actively and personally involved in their lives.
- We are all the handiwork of God.
- We all reflect God's creativity and power to create individually and uniquely because we are all different.
- Each Hebrew child who was allowed to live was formed by God.
- He had determined that they should have life.



Bring in Legos or building blocks for the children to use to build anything they want. As they are building, talk with them about how God creates us individually and uniquely. He is personally involved in our creation.

We are created individually and uniquely.

- Every person is created uniquely.
- There are no two people who are exactly alike. Even identical twins do not share the same soul or inhabit the same body.
- God creates us individually according to His plan.
- He is a big God who has power to create all life and to make each person who lives unique.
- His creativity is limitless.

We are created for God's purpose.

- Every person is created in the image of God for His purpose.
- All people are created by God and for God.
- God makes us to bring Him glory and to enjoy Him forever.
- He creates us with unique talents, gifts, and characteristics to be used for His glory and our good.
- God is the Author of all life and the center of our reason for being.

How is God involved in our creation? (He creates us individually and uniquely for His purpose.)

2. Ephesians 2:10: We are God's workmanship made for His purposes.

LIFE IS PRECIOUS AND MEANINGFUL

BIG IDEA: WE SHOULD VALUE LIFE BECAUSE GOD IS LIFE AND EVERY PERSON IS MADE IN HIS IMAGE.³

God gives life and gives life value.

- Everything God does is perfect because He is perfect.
- If everything God does is perfect and good, then every person who exists or has ever existed has value.
- God is the giver of all life. No one has life that wasn't given to them by God.
- Since God is the giver of life, He determines if life is valuable and He has determined that all life is of value.
- God gave every person's life value when He willingly sacrificed His Son for the world.
- God counted people worthy enough to Him to give up His only Son for them.



Help the children understand that God loves every person by having them look up and read the following verses: 1 Peter 4:8, Galatians 5:14, John 3:16, and John 13:34-35. Remind them that God values all life and we should too!

God values every person and we should too.

- God's love is not conditional.
- He loves all people. It is for all the world that He sent His Son to die on the cross.
- Since God loves all people, we should love all people.
- We should love even the people who hurt us or who we consider enemies.
- God loves us no matter what and He commands us to love all people.
- Because God is the beginning of life and the reason that life exists, we should follow His example and value every life.

Every person is valuable in God's eyes.

- No person is an accident or mistake. Even if they are not planned by their parents, they are planned by God.
- God gives people value and He has declared that every person has value.
- We should see people as valuable because God sees them as valuable.
- Just as the midwives feared God and considered the Hebrew children valuable, we should consider all life valuable.

Why should we value life? (God values life and we should too!)

3. John 15:12: God loves all people and He commands us to love others as He has loved us—sacrificially.

LIFE IS PRECIOUS AND
MEANINGFUL**BIG IDEA: WE SHOULD LIVE OUR LIVES WITH PURPOSE BECAUSE GOD CREATED US FOR A PURPOSE.⁴****Every person is created to glorify God.**

- All that God does, He does for His glory.
- All that God creates, He creates for His glory.
- God created every person in His image for His glory.
- Our purpose is existing to bring God glory by fulfilling His purposes for our lives.
- Our lives have value and meaning because God has created us with a great purpose.



Give each child a blank sheet of paper and colored pencils. Ask the children to create a timeline showing their lives since they were born. Help them think of a few main events in their lives to include on their timeline. Talk with them about how each of us is created with a purpose and our lives are joyful when we seek to fulfill that purpose.

God creates every person with a unique purpose.

- We all are created uniquely. We all have a main purpose, which is to glorify God.
- We also have an individual purpose that is unique to us.
- Our unique purpose is given to us by God. He creates us with specific talents and abilities that we may fulfill His individual purpose for our lives.
- God doesn't make mistakes, which means that every person who has ever lived or will ever live has a purpose given to them by God.

Seeking God's purpose for us is the way to live a fulfilled life.

- We will find greater joy in fulfilling God's purpose for our lives than in living for ourselves.
- God created us and formed us for His purposes. When we live our lives to fulfill His purpose, then we are living as we were created to live.
- We should seek to fulfill God's purpose for our lives. We should seek to live as He created us to live.

Why should we live our lives with purpose? (God has created us with purpose and we should live to fulfill that purpose.)

4. John 15:16: Jesus chose His disciples and He gave them a purpose. We are each created with a purpose given to us by God.

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HOOKS



Common Interest Survey

Have the children stand in a straight line against one wall. Next, ask the children to take a step forward if they can answer yes to a series of questions that you ask. Ask questions that relate to different talents or hobbies, such as “you like to play basketball” or “you like to draw or create art”, etc. The purpose of the exercise is to show the children what they have in common with others and how they are different. Once you’ve asked several questions, lead them in a discussion about how God creates each person with a purpose to glorify Him.



- We are all created uniquely and with a purpose.
- God has a purpose for each of our lives.
- Because God created us and gave us purpose, our lives are valuable.
- We should live our lives with purpose and seek to fulfill God’s purpose for our lives.



No Two Snowflakes

Give each child a white coffee filter and a pair of child’s scissors. Ask the children to create their own snowflakes using the scissors to cut patterns in their coffee filters. Next, show the children pictures of magnified snowflakes. Remind them that no two snowflakes have the same pattern. Lead them in a discussion about how God intricately creates each person.



- God is intricately involved in our creation.
- He creates each person individually and uniquely.
- Just like snowflakes are different, we are different because God makes us different.
- We each have a purpose that God gives us to bring Him glory.