

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:**

- Through Jesus, we can have new, true, eternal, abundant life in God

**Every child should feel:**

- Excitement for the opportunity to live eternally with God

**Every child should:**

- Talk about how this life will pass away, but eternal life in God is forever

**Every child should want:**

- To live for eternity rather than what feels right in the moment

NEW LIFE IN JESUS

Gather together craft supplies, such as yarn, glue, craft eyes, markers, stickers, etc. Help your child create a self-portrait using the craft supplies. Talk with your child about how we receive new life in Jesus when we repent and believe 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 John 1:3-4 by using sidewalk chalk or regular chalk to write the verses in chalk on your driveway or on black construction paper. Say the verses out loud several times.

**DO**

Help your child think of things that she used to do when she was younger. Talk with your child about why she no longer does those things and remind her that when we become new creations in Christ, we no longer do certain things that are associated with our old selves.

**FEEL**

Share with your child how God has given you new life through Christ and how your relationship with Christ makes you new and more like Him everyday.

**WANT**

As a family, spend some time praying this week, thanking God for sending Jesus to make us new.