

**BIG TRUTH: GOD HAS A PLAN FOR US**

*Psalm 139:13-16; Proverbs 16:9; Romans 8:28-30; Philippians 1:6*

**BIBLE VERSE: PSALM 138:8**

*"The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands."*

**BIG IDEAS**

- You are not an accident.
- God created you in His image.
- God's love for you proves His commitment to your good for His glory.
- God will fulfill His purposes for your life.
- You need God today.

**BIBLE STORY: LUKE 1:5-17; MATTHEW 3:1-12**

God has a plan and a purpose for each person. He had a plan and purpose for John the Baptist. He revealed His plan to John's father, Zechariah. God's plan for John was fulfilled as John the Baptist prepared the way for God's own Son, Jesus.

**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****KNOW****Every child should know that:**

- God created them with purpose for a purpose

**DO****Every child should:**

- Live in a way that is honoring to the Lord

**FEEL****Every child should feel:**

- Awe at the intentionality of God in giving purpose to our lives

**WANT****Every child should want:**

- To learn more about God's purposes for their lives

**IMAGE BEARERS**

Help your child write out the following verses: Genesis 1:26-27, James 3:9, and Psalm 8:3-8. Give your child markers to decorate the verses that she has written. Talk with her about how everyone is created in God's image. We are all made in His likeness and bear His image.

**DISCOVER IT:** *(Use the passage to illustrate the Big Truth.)*

Luke 1:5-17; Matthew 3:1-12.

**THINK ABOUT IT:** *(Use the commentary to reinforce the Big Truth.)*

God had a plan for John the Baptist long before he was born. John's dad, Zechariah, received a visit from an angel of the Lord. The angel had great news for Zechariah. Zechariah would have a son and that son would live a different kind of life. Zechariah's son would be used by God to prepare the way for God's own son. The angel gave Zechariah specific instructions about how John should be raised. Zechariah listened to God and did what the angel told him to do. He and his wife raised John exactly as God instructed them to and when the time was right, John began fulfilling the purpose that God had created him for. John began preaching in the wilderness of Judea that the Messiah, or God's Son, was coming soon. John began preparing people to hear the message that Jesus would soon preach. God had a plan for John and His plan was fulfilled. God has a plan for each person and His plan will be fulfilled. He created us in His image to be a reflection of Him to the world. John fulfilled this plan. John reflected God to the world and helped prepare the way for Jesus. God's plan for our own lives will be fulfilled.

**TALK ABOUT IT:** *(Use the questions to discuss the Big Truth)*

- What plan did God have for John the Baptist? (He planned for John to prepare the way for Jesus.)
- How was God's plan for John fulfilled? (John preached that Jesus was coming soon and that people should be ready.)



As a family, memorize Psalm 138:8 by spending time each day saying the verse over and over.



Spend some time this week making honey sandwiches. Use pretzels for locusts. As you eat your sandwiches, talk with your child about how different John was and how he was created in God's image. Remind your child that we are created in God's image too.



Share with your child about the ways that God has directed your steps in life. Share an experience when God has guided you and fulfilled His purpose for your life. Remind your child that God will fulfill His purpose for her life, too.



Spend some time this week praying and thanking God for giving us purpose and fulfilling His purpose for our lives.