

GOD CREATED ME FOR WORSHIP

STORY: CREATION

BIG TRUTH: GOD CREATED ME FOR WORSHIP

Psalms 29:1-2; 66:4; 95:6; 100:1-5; 150:1-6; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 4:8-11; 5:13

BIBLE VERSE: Romans 12:1

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."

BIG IDEAS

- There is only one God.
- He alone is worthy of our worship.
- Worship is the mind's attention and heart's affection set on God.
- Through Jesus, all of life can be a sacrifice of worship to God.

BIBLE STORY: DANIEL 3

When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were brought before King Nebuchadnezzar, they were faced with the decision to worship Nebuchadnezzar's statue or to worship the one true God. Though they faced possible death in the fiery furnace, they refused to worship anyone other than the true God. God is the only God and we are created to worship Him alone.

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:

- God created them with purpose for a purpose



Every child should feel:

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



Every child should:

- Live in a way that is honoring to the Lord



Every child should want:

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

FAMILY DEVOTION: A LIFE OF WORSHIP

We are not created for ourselves. We are created to glorify God and we bring Him glory by living lives that bring Him worship. We should live a life of worship to the one true God.

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 12:1

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."

Because of the mercy we've received through Christ, we should worship God.

- Though sin entered the world because of man's sin, man does not have to pay the price for that sin.
- God sacrificed His only Son to pay our sin debt.
- This mercy that God showed the world should produce worship in those who have repented and believed in Jesus.
- The fact that we do not have to pay our sin debt should produce a heart of worship towards God.
- It is God's mercy that keeps us from having to die for our sin.
- This mercy produces worship in the hearts of those who have received this mercy and live for God.

God's mercy means we have new life, which produces worship.

- Before we are cleansed of our sin, our hearts are enslaved to sin.
- Our lives are dead and headed toward destruction.
- When God sent Jesus to pay our sin debt, the sin that enslaved our hearts was defeated.
- We no longer have to live enslaved to that sin.
- When we turn away from our sin and believe in Jesus, we are set free from that sin and given a new life.
- That we have a new life should produce a heart of worship to God.
- Our hearts will worship the only true God because He has set us free from our own sinfulness.

Our worship should involve the giving of ourselves to God daily.

- When God gives us a gift, a blessing, the appropriate response is to give it back to Him.
- God gives us a new life when we repent and believe in Jesus.
- It is only appropriate for us to give our lives to Him daily.
- We no longer have to die for our sin, but we can give our lives to Him in service and worship every day.
- Every day we can determine that we are going to serve God and follow His commands and will for our lives.
- We are created to worship Him and when we have a new life that enables us to worship Him, our response of worship is to give our lives to Him in service every day.

BIBLE STORY: DANIEL 3

The Fiery Furnace

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.

BIG IDEA: THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD.¹**God is the only God.**

- God is one God. There are no other gods besides the one true God.
- He alone is the Creator and Ruler of all things.
- He made the heavens and the earth and all that is in them.
- He controls all things. He alone has all the power, wisdom, knowledge, and understanding.
- There is no other god besides Him.



Help the children understand that there is only one God by having the children look up and read the following verses: 1 Timothy 2:5, Deuteronomy 4:35, 2 Samuel 7:22, and Psalm 83:18. Remind the children that there is only one God.

He alone controls life.

- God controls all life because all life begins with Him.
- He is life and He is the Creator of all life.
- He controls life. He determines who lives and who dies.
- He sustains life on the earth and in the heavens because He is the one true God.
- There is no one else who controls life like God controls life.

He alone has all power.

- God has all the power.
- No one is more powerful than God.
- No person has more control or power than God does.
- Even though Nebuchadnezzar wanted to kill Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, he did not have more power than God.
- God has all power over the earth and every person. He had power to keep the three men from being burned by the fiery furnace.
- He alone has this power because He alone is God.

Who is the only God? (God is the only true God. He alone has all the power.)

1. Deuteronomy 32:39: God alone is the true God. He controls all things.

BIG IDEA: HE ALONE IS WORTHY OF OUR WORSHIP.²**God is greater than any other.**

- God is the greatest of all beings.
- There is none like Him.
- He is the highest being because everything begins with Him.
- He has always been and will always be.
- There is no one who is as mighty as He is.
- He controls all things and all things are created by Him and for Him.
- He is greater than any earthly king. He is greater than Nebuchadnezzar ever was.



Help the children create a drawing that shows worship to God. For example, they can work together to draw a picture of something that brings God worship, such as people singing praises, people praying, etc. Remind them that God alone is worthy of our worship.

God is the holiest of holies.

- God is perfect.
- Everything He does is right and good.
- He only speaks truth and only does what is right.
- All that He is is right and good.
- He never sins and has no sin in Him.
- He is the holiest of holies.
- There is none more holy than He.

He is to be held in awe.

- Because God is holy and righteous, He is worthy of our respect and awe.
- There is no one like Him, which means He is unique and the only God.
- Because He is so holy, we are to hold Him in awe. We are to fear Him and obey Him.
- Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego feared God more than they feared death in the fiery furnace.
- They understood that God is mighty and holy. He alone is worthy of our praise and worship.

Why is God worthy of our worship? (He alone is perfect and sinless. He is the holiest of holies.)

2. 1 Chronicles 16:25: God is worthy of our praise. He is to be held in awe and worshiped.

BIG IDEA: WORSHIP IS THE MIND'S ATTENTION AND HEART'S AFFECTION SET ON GOD.³

Worship is seeking to know God.

- We bring God glory when we seek to know Him.
- When we start our days desiring to know God and see Him at work in our lives, we are bringing Him glory.
- When we bring God glory, we worship Him for who He is.
- By seeking to know God, we learn everyday more about Him and then our hearts will worship Him.
- We will see God's hand at work in the world around us and know that He is mighty and powerful.



Divide the children into pairs and give each pair a blank piece of paper and markers. Ask the pairs to write down as many things they can think of about God, such as He is all-powerful or His love is everlasting. Ask the pairs to share and then remind them that worship is placing our hearts and minds on God.

Worship is placing our thoughts on who God is.

- When we seek to think about who God is, we will worship Him.
- God wants us to know Him and when we seek to know Him, He will reveal Himself to us.
- When we grow in knowledge of who God is, then we will worship Him because we will grow in understanding just how great and wonderful He is.
- Our minds will be filled with thoughts of how great God is and we will see His handiwork all around us.
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego chose to worship only the one true God with their thoughts. They did not allow themselves to be overcome with fear at the thought of the fiery furnace. Instead, they worshiped the one true God.

Worship is seeking to fill our hearts with God's truth.

- We bring God glory by knowing His truth.
- When we fill our minds and hearts with His truth, our lives will worship Him because we will know His greatness and how much He loves us.
- When we fill our hearts with His Word and hide it in our hearts, we will worship Him for who He is and what He has done.

How can we worship God with our minds and hearts? (When we seek to know Him and to hide His Word in our hearts, we will worship Him.)

3. Psalm 105:4: When we seek God continually, our lives will worship Him.

BIG IDEA: THROUGH JESUS, ALL OF LIFE CAN BE A SACRIFICE OF WORSHIP TO GOD.⁴

Jesus reconciles us to God.

- Our sin separates us from God. It keeps us from knowing Him.
- Because our sin separates us, we cannot truly worship God until we know Him.
- Jesus is the only way to know God. It is only through a repentance of sin and belief in Jesus that we can be reconciled to God.
- When we are reconciled to God, we can have a relationship with Him and know Him.
- Once we know Him, we will worship Him for who He is and what He has done.



Play a game of musical beanbag with the children. The child left holding the beanbag when the music stops gets to name one way to worship God with our lives. Examples are giving our time to help those in need. Remind the children that Jesus makes a way for us to worship God.

Because of Jesus' sacrifice, we can worship God through sacrifice of our own wills.

- We do not have to die for our sin because Jesus died in our place.
- Because of Jesus' willingness to die in our place, when we repent and believe, we can give up our own plans for our lives to serve God.
- Jesus makes a way for us to truly worship God.
- He enables us to know God and to understand just what God has done for us.
- When we understand exactly what God has done for us, we will worship Him.

We worship because we are forgiven for our sins.

- Jesus' death on the cross sets us free to worship God with our lives.
- Before Jesus, we were enslaved to our sin and unable to truly know God.
- When we turn away from our sin and believe in Jesus, we are free from our sin and are able to grow in our knowledge of who God is.
- We see God working in our lives and we will worship Him for all that He has done and continues to do for us.

How does Jesus make it possible for us to worship God? (He paid our sin debt and made a way for us to know God.)

4. 2 Corinthians 5:18: Jesus reconciles us to God and makes a way for us to know Him and then be able to worship Him.

HOOKS

**Fiery Furnace Relay**

Divide the children into two teams and play a relay game with them. Before class, write out the names of different praise songs. Divide the cards between the two teams, placing the cards in a basket on one side of the room. Have the two teams line up on the other side. Ask the teams to race one another to see which team can collect all the cards from their basket first. When all the cards are collected, have the teams read the names of the praise songs out loud. Talk with the children about how Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego chose to worship God even though they were thrown into the fiery furnace.

**Praise Him Always**

Help the children create their own fiery furnaces using contact paper, an outline of a flame or furnace, and yellow and red tissue paper. Place the outline of the flame or furnace onto the contact paper. Next, use the tissue paper to make it seem like fire is coming out of the furnace. Place another sheet of contact paper over the tissue paper to seal them together. Talk with the children about how Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego praised God no matter what.

