

GOD RULES NATURE

STORY: CREATION / YEAR: HOPE

BIG TRUTH: GOD RULES NATURE

Psalm 148; Isaiah 40; Psalm 29; Proverbs 30:4; Jeremiah 10:13; Matthew 8:24-27; Job 38-42

BIBLE VERSE: PSALM 19:1

“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.”

BIG IDEAS

- God is more powerful than nature.
- Nature obeys God’s commands.
- Nature exists to declare God’s greatness

BIBLE STORY: EXODUS 14

Everything that exists does so under God’s power and control. All of the plants, vegetation, wind, rain, and everything else are under God’s control. God is more powerful than anything and He rules over all things. Nature, the heavens, earth, and everything in them show us God’s greatness as the Creator and mighty 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:

- God is actively involved in creation



Every child should feel:

- Safe and secure in God’s rule over creation



Every child should:

- Remember the ways that God is faithful



Every child should want:

- To trust God’s control over creation

FAMILY DEVOTION: NATURE DECLARES GOD’S GREATNESS

From a peaceful sunrise to a beautiful sunset, God’s greatness is seen everywhere. The clear starry night tells us of God’s might and power, His great majesty. All of nature declares how big and powerful and great God is.



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BIBLE VERSE: PSALM 19:1

“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.”

God’s glory is His power, wisdom and worthiness of honor and worship.

- God created the heavens.
- He spoke into being all that is in the universe.
- The heavens are unique and intricately made and this reveals God’s power.
- The earth is perfectly placed the right distance from the sun so that it benefits from the sun’s rays and doesn’t burn up from them.
- God’s power is seen in His ability to control the wind and the rain just by His Word.
- God’s wisdom is seen in His creation of the heavens.
- In His wisdom, He made the heavens to reveal Himself to His people.

God’s creation tells us of His power, wisdom and holiness.

- The intricate way He spoke the heavens into being shows us just how powerful God is.
- By examining the sky we are made aware of God’s involvement in creation.
- We see in the pattern of the stars God’s infinite wisdom.
- We see in the changing clouds, God’s involvement with the world through weather patterns.
- God is mighty and powerful and all of nature declares His greatness.

BIBLE STORY: EXODUS 14

The Parting of the Red Sea

Opening Illustration:

Gather together several soft balls and medium sized containers. Divide the children into two to three small teams. Give each team one of the balls and ask them to toss the ball into the container. If they hit the container, they get to name something that God created. If they miss the container, they get to name some way that God rules over creation. Once they’ve played several times, lead them in a discussion about how God is the Creator of everything, even people and He rules over everything.

- Who is the Creator of all things? (God is the Creator of all things.)
- Who rules over all of creation? (God is the ruler of all creation.)
- God is our Creator. He creates every person and He cares for us, too.
- God is the Creator of everything everywhere.

BIG IDEA: GOD IS MORE POWERFUL THAN NATURE.**Opening Question:**

What is nature? (Nature is everything on the land, in the sea, in the sky, and in the heavens, such as the sun, stars, birds, animals, wind, rain, etc.)

God controls every part of nature.¹

- Nature includes all of the elements of the earth and the heavens, such as the wind, rain, sun, moon, stars, plants, animals, etc.
- All of these things are under God's control.
- There is no storm, tornado, hurricane, or rain shower that is outside of God's control.
- The ocean does what God commands it to do.
- The sun sets in the west because God has created it to do so, but if God told it to set in the east, it would.
- God controls all parts of nature.



Bring in a small fan and turn it on. Ask the children to control the wind coming from the fan by making the wind blow in a different direction. When they can't, lead them in a discussion about how God controls all of nature. The wind always obeys God.

Nature, even its most powerful elements, is not more powerful than God.

- God created all of nature and He controls all of it.
- When the Israelites left Egypt, they were pursued by the Egyptians.
- As the Israelites made their way away from Egypt, they were stopped by the Red Sea.
- God was not stopped by the Red Sea though.
- He is more powerful than any ocean or sea.
- He caused the Red Sea to part, making a way for the Israelites to get to freedom.

What parts of nature does God control? (God controls all parts of nature.)

1. Job 28:25-27: God knows every part of every element of nature because He created every part. He rules over nature in every way.

BIG IDEA: NATURE OBEYS GOD'S COMMANDS.

What does it mean to obey someone? (It means to do what they tell you to do as they tell you to do it.)

God controls all things.

- God is not only the Creator of all things, He rules over all things.
- God controls everything in the heavens and on the earth.
- When God created the earth, He separated the land from the sea and it obeyed Him.
- He created all parts of nature to live and act as He wanted them to. The ocean tide ebbs and flows, the earth rotates around the sun because God created them to do so.
- He showed His control of nature when He caused the Red Sea to part.
- The Red Sea parted because God commanded it to, not because it did so naturally.



Play a game of beanbag toss with the children. When someone hits the designated spot, they get to tell of a way that God controls nature.

Nature has no choice but to obey God because God is the Creator of all things.

- All things on the earth and in the heavens automatically do what God has created them to do.
- Even more so, they do what isn't natural for them when God commands them to do so.
- God is so powerful and has all of the control. Nature obeys God.
- When God used Moses to part the Red Sea, the sea parted, making the right amount of space for the more than two million Israelites to cross over safely.
- God caused a powerful body of water to go against its natural flow because He is the ruler of nature.

How did the Red Sea obey God's command? (It parted as God commanded it to do and remained parted for as long as God told it to remain parted.)

BIG IDEA: NATURE EXISTS TO DECLARE GOD'S GREATNESS.**All of nature shows God's greatness.**

- Everything that is in the heavens and on the earth shows how great God is.
- The detailed way in which nature exists shows us how great God is.
- Nature is a complex and complicated thing, yet it was spoken into existence by God.
- God is a detailed and intricate creator.
- The way in which nature interacts with itself shows us God's greatness.
- He made the stars to shine in the sky above and gave each one a name.²
- He placed the earth at just the right distance from the sun so that life on earth receives life and energy from it and isn't consumed by its heat.
- God's greatness is seen in all of nature.



On the board, help the children make a list of the many beautiful things from nature. Lead them in a discussion about how these things show us God's greatness.

Nature has a purpose.

- Nature exists to show God's greatness.
- Everything in nature is part of life on earth.
- The tiniest particle in the sky is necessary to join with other particles to create the right conditions for rain, snow, or hail to happen. These things are not coincidental nor do they happen accidentally.
- Everything in the heavens and on the earth has a function and purpose.
- Everything also has a greater purpose to show the incredible greatness of God.
- All of nature shows us God and how powerful and great He is.

What purpose does nature have? (It has a function and it also declares God's greatness.)

What are some ways that nature declares God's greatness? (These answers may vary, but could include the beautiful sunset or the way in which the rain replenishes the earth's water supply.)

2. Psalm 147:4: God knows the number of stars because He determined the number when He created them. He even knows them by name.

HOOKS

**Nature Obeys God's Commands**

Bring in a long dowel rod and a pack of blue balloons. Blow the balloons up and tie them. Attach them to a long narrow piece of light brown paper. Ask the children questions about the story of God parting the red sea. When they answer a question correctly, they get to raise the dowel rod over their head and remove a balloon as they mimic Moses raising his rod and the Red Sea parting. Lead them in a discussion about how the sea obeyed God because nature obeys God's commands.



- When Moses raised his rod, what did the sea begin to do? (It began to part)
- Why did the sea begin to part? (It was obeying God's command)
- All of nature obeys God's commands because God is the great Creator.

**Nature Declares God's Greatness**

Gather together several pictures of striking sunsets and sunrises. Gather the children together in a circle and allow them to pass the pictures around the circle. Ask the children what they see in the pictures. Lead them in a discussion about how nature exists to declare God's greatness.



- These pictures show how beautiful the sky can be when the sun is rising and setting.
- The sky declares how great God is and we know this when we see the sunrise and the sunset. They remind us of how great God is.