

GOD IS ALIVE

STORY: NEW CREATION / YEAR: KINGDOM

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

- God is making all things new

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

- Wonder at how God takes the brokenness of creation and makes it new

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

- Thank God for fixing what sin has broken and making a new creation

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

- To see creation be made new by God

FAMILY DEVOTION: COMING ALIVE AGAIN

Everyone who is alive has received physical life from God, but not everyone has received spiritual life. Because of our sin, we are dead spiritually, but Christ gives us new life and makes us alive again through His own death and resurrection on the cross. He continues to make us alive each day as we live for Him.

STORY: NEW CREATION

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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.”

God is a living God.

- God has always existed.
- God is one God in three persons.
- God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have always existed in perfect unity.
- God is not made of stone or human materials.
- He exists and lives among us.

God is the giver of life.

- All life is from God because God is life.
- Nothing existed before God created it.
- Everything exists because God gives life.
- All things have life because God is a living God who creates life and sustains it.
- We live and breathe because God breathed life into us and His creation sustains our existence.

God gives new life.

- In the beginning, God, in His three persons, created life.
- God sustains life and He continues to allow life on earth.
- God brought light to the darkness of the earth when He sent Jesus.
- Jesus came to the world to bring new life to those who believe.
- All who believe in the work of Jesus receive new life.
- Jesus is the light sent to drive the darkness out.

BIBLE STORY: ACTS 9:1-31

Saul's Conversion

Opening Illustration:

Gather together a flower pot, potting soil, and grass seeds. Ask the children to help you put the potting soil into the flowerpot. Next, give each child a few grass seeds and ask them to push the seeds into the soil. Next, use a water bottle to help the children water the seeds. Set the pot somewhere safe so they can watch the grass grow. Talk with the children about how our world now is broken and dying, like the flower pot was empty, but Jesus is making a New Creation. The flower pot will have new life in it when the grass grows.

STORY: NEW CREATION

GOD IS ALIVE

BIG IDEA: GOD IS LIFE.¹

God is the Creator of all things.

- Nothing creates itself, or begins existing on its own.
- We are not able to create life.
- God is the source of all life.
- Not only is He the source of all life, He sustains all life.
- He creates all things and gives life because He is life.



Have the children sit in a circle. Play a game of “Hot Potato” with them. When a child ends up with the “hot potato”, they get to name one thing that God created and thank Him for creating it. Remind them that all life comes from God.

Everything has life because of God.

- We would have no life if it were not given to us by God.
- God gives us our life.
- He breathes breath into our lungs and He holds our life in His hands.
- He is the beginning of everything.
- He has always existed and it is through His power that everything else exists.

God is our life.

- Even those who do not follow Christ still receive life from God.
- Everyone receives physical life from God because God is the creator of all life.
- God is our source of living and breathing.
- He is the reason we even exist on the earth.
- He continues to keep the earth functioning and people living.
- He controls life and death and because of Him, we have life.

Who is our source of life? (God is the source of all life.)

1. 1 Timothy 6:13: All life is given by God. He is the source of all life.

STORY: NEW CREATION

GOD IS ALIVE

BIG IDEA: GOD GIVES NEW LIFE.²

We are dead in our sin.

- Every person is born with a sin nature that causes them to rebel against God.
- Every person owes a sin debt.
- The wages, or payment, of sin is death.
- Our hearts are wicked and sinful because of our sin nature.
- We are all dead in our trespasses.
- We cannot make ourselves new or create a new life for ourselves.
- Saul was dead in his sin.
- He did not follow God or see the truth.

God gives physical life and spiritual life.

- God breathes breath into our lungs and He gives us new life in our hearts.
- Saul had physical life, but He was spiritually dead.
- He lived in rebellion to God.
- He sought out Christ's followers to kill or imprison them.
- God gave Saul new life.
- Jesus opened Saul's eyes to see the truth about Him and gave him life spiritually.
- God gives us new life spiritually when we have saving faith in Jesus.
- He makes our hearts new and makes us new creations.
- We have new life because of God.



Bring in pictures of winter in different places of the country and pictures of spring from different places. Pass the pictures around and ask the children to describe the differences they see. Remind the children that new life happens in spring, just like Jesus gives us new life when we have saving faith in Him.

From whom do we receive new life? (We receive new life from God.)

How do we receive new life? (When we have saving faith in Jesus, we receive new life.)

2. 2 Corinthians 5:17: Anyone who has repented of his sin and placed his faith in Christ becomes a new creation.

STORY: NEW CREATION

GOD IS ALIVE

BIG IDEA: GOD IS MAKING US ALIVE.³

Our old hearts make us dead, but our new hearts give us life.

- We are dead in our sin, but we do not have to remain that way.
- God made a way for us to be alive.
- He sent His Son to pay our sin debt and now we have freedom in Him when we believe.
- Our faith in Jesus gives us new hearts.
- God continues to make us new through His Spirit.



Bring in several types of glasses, such as sunglasses, eyeglasses, a magnifying glass, a telescope (if you have one) and ask the children to take turns looking through the different glasses. Tell the children that Saul received new sight when he met Jesus. His life was new because of Christ just like we receive new life through Jesus.

We are always becoming new as we become more like Christ.

- God's Spirit works inside of us to make us like Christ.
- God continues to work in us, making us new creations.
- His Spirit works to take away the old sinful behaviors and gives us new righteous behaviors.
- God gave Saul new life on the road to Damascus and He continued making him new through His Spirit.
- We are all like Saul. We receive new life when we believe and then the Spirit continues to make us new.
- When we become new creations, we live differently because we are given a new heart.

We are made alive through Christ.

- We are dead in our trespasses, but when we believe in Jesus, we are made alive.
- Just like Jesus died on the cross, was buried, and then raised again to life, we are dead and then raised to a new life in Christ.
- We have new desires and new behaviors when we are in Christ.
- His Spirit works inside of us to make us more like Him every day.
- Just like Saul was transformed from his old way of life, we are transformed from our sinful ways when we have saving faith in Jesus.

How are we made alive? (Through Christ we are made alive.)

Whom do we become more like when we have saving faith? (We become more like Christ when we have saving faith.)

3. Ephesians 2:5: Through Christ we are able to receive new life. Through the Spirit we are made more alive in Christ daily.

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HOOKS



A Whole New World

Bring in two large Styrofoam balls, paint and paint brushes. Divide the children into two groups. Give each group a Styrofoam ball, paint and paintbrushes. Ask one group to paint the ball to look like a dying creation. Ask the other group to paint the ball to look like a new creation. Talk with them about how Jesus is making a new creation. He is making things new.



- Creation is broken now and it is dying.
- We are dead in our sin, but when we have saving faith in Jesus, we have new life.
- Jesus is making creation new. He will make a new heaven and a new earth when He returns.



The Two Faces Of Life

Give each child two paper plates and colored pencils. Ask the children to create two faces—one face is the face of someone who doesn't know Jesus and the other is the face of someone who does. Help the children create faces that show what it means to have new life in Christ. Talk with them about how we are made new through Christ when we have saving faith in Him.



- We are all dead in our sin. We have no real spiritual life when we don't know Christ.
- Just like Saul was blind to the truth about Jesus, we are blind, too.
- When Saul met Jesus, his life was made new. He lived a different life after that.
- When we have saving faith in Jesus, we have new life and live different lives, too.