

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:**

- God is making all things new

**Every child should feel:**

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

**Every child should:**

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

**Every child should want:**

- To see creation be made new by God

COMING ALIVE AGAIN

Use a bandana as a blindfold and have your child wear the blindfold. Next, ask your child to walk to a certain spot in the room. As they are walking to the spot, shine a flashlight at their blindfolded eyes. Make sure the flashlight is bright enough for your child to notice the light. Remove the blindfold and remind them that Saul received new life when he met Jesus and we receive new life when we have saving faith in Jesus. We come alive again.

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

Acts 9:1-31

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 all of his time 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 was immediately baptized and began following Jesus. He was 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



FEEL



DO



WANT

As a family, memorize John 1:3-4 by breaking the verses into smaller sections and then hiding the sections around your house. Have your child hunt for the sections and when all of them have been found, put the verses together. Say the verses together several times. Play this several times to help your child learn the verses.

As a family, make a batch of pancakes or some type of food that rises when it cooks. As you make the batter or dough for the food, talk with your child about how God gives us life and He gives us new life. When we don't know Jesus, we are like the flat dough---dead in our sin. Next, place the dough in the oven to bake or cook the pancakes on the stove. When the food begins to rise, tell your child that we change and become more like Christ when we have saving faith in Him.

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