

# PRESCHOOL GUIDE 13

## GOD KEEPS CREATION ALIVE

FOUNDATION: GOD IS KEEPER - GOD GIVES SECURITY

### BIG TRUTH: GOD KEEPS CREATION ALIVE

Job 38:25-27, 39-41; Psalm 135:6-7, 145:15-17; Isaiah 45:5-8; Acts 17:24-28; Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-3

### BIBLE VERSE: COLOSSIANS 1:17

*"And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together."*

### BIG IDEAS

- God keeps everything alive.
- Nothing lives apart from God.
- Life is a blessing from God.

### BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 6-8; MATTHEW 6:25-26

God is the great and mighty Creator. He, alone, spoke all things into existence. He is the keeper of all things as well. He alone sustains and makes it possible for life to continue. It is His power that controls all of life everywhere. This sustaining power is first seen during the great flood. He chose to allow the world to continue, though it was exceedingly wicked. He chose to sustain the animals on the ark and to allow Noah and his family to live. God keeps all of His creation alive and sustains it according to His will and as He chooses.

### FOUNDATION: GOD IS KEEPER - GOD GIVES SECURITY

God is more powerful than anyone or anything else in the universe. His power is the ability to do what He desires to do. God has a purpose, will accomplish it, and His purposes always bring Him glory. Since God is the source of all power, it means that He gives us strength. We need to do the things He calls us to do. Paul says in Philippians 4:13 that he can "do all things through Christ who gives him strength." That means that we can do anything and endure anything that God calls us to because it is God Himself who is giving us His strength to do it.

### BIG AIMS



**Every child should know that:**

- God keeps all of creation alive



**Every child should be able to:**

- Recognize ways that God keeps them, and the world, alive



**Every child should feel:**

- Aware that they cannot control things
- Awe that God does keep all things alive



**Every child should want to:**

- Show appreciation for God who daily keeps them alive

### FAMILY DEVOTION: NOTHING LIVES APART FROM GOD

God is the giver of all life. He creates all things and He sustains them. Everything is held together because of God. Creation continues because God allows it to continue. Life is a great blessing from God. He keeps His creation alive through His great wisdom and for His glory.



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**BIBLE VERSE: COLOSSIANS 1:17**

*“And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”*

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**God is the maker of all things.**

- The Apostle Paul reminds the Colossians of their great security in their Creator.
- Nothing existed before God because God was before all things.
- God made everything that exists because He is the creator of all life.
- No life existed prior to God; therefore, all things come from God.

**God is not only the maker of all life, but the sustainer of life as well.**

- Paul reminds the Colossian believers that Jesus is God and He existed before anything else in heaven and on earth.
- God is the sustainer of life in heaven and on earth, too.
- Creation continues to exist because God sustains it according to His great purposes.
- The world and life hold together and continue because of God.

**God is actively at work in all of Creation.**

- There is no part of creation that God is not actively involved in.
- He is the creator of all things from the smallest of life forms to the largest of animals.
- God is always present and at work in His creation. He is not absent from it.
- God actively holds and sustains creation, working for His glory and for the good of man.

**BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 6-8; MATTHEW 6:25-26***Noah and the Flood*

Supporting Scripture: Isaiah 45:7; Job 14:5; Romans 9:17-18.

**Teacher Introduction:**

The story of Noah is a story of grace that reveals the incredible power of God, the Creator. God kept Noah and his family alive on the ark in a world that was being washed away by great flood waters. He displayed His power over all things when He held the boat together and sustained the inhabitants of the ark for forty days and forty nights. He showed His great mercy. The world Noah was living in was sustained by an almighty and gracious God. God keeps His creation alive and He determines the number of days for each and every person. God's command to Noah to build an ark is a picture of the ways in which God keeps His creation alive. God's righteousness required the flood, yet His grace made a way for life to continue on a wicked earth. Life is a gift and blessing from God and nothing exists apart from Him. God chose Noah and his family to survive the flood. God chose the exact number of animals and birds to survive the flood. God keeps His creation alive.

**Teaching Guide:**

The guide below is provided to help you teach the narrative: *Noah and the Flood*. The three points are the Big Ideas that should guide your lesson as you share from Genesis 6-8 and teach the narrative: *Noah and the Flood*. Footnotes are provided for further study of the text and God's interaction with His people. Throughout the lesson, questions are placed to help you guide the preschoolers to think about and process the narrative: *Noah and the Flood*.

**Opening Illustration:**

Have the children pretend to be different animals. Lead the "animals" to the ark. (This can be a blanket or large rug that is designated as the ark.) Have the children enter the ark while they are pretending to be an animal.

- All the animals got on the ark because God told them to.
- God was going to bring a great flood and He chose certain animals to keep alive on the ark.
- When the animals got on the ark, God kept them alive until the flood stopped and the waters went away.
- God keeps all of life alive. Nothing can live without God.

**BIG IDEA: GOD KEEPS EVERYTHING ALIVE.****God made everything and determines what exists and what doesn't.**

- God allows life to continue on the earth.<sup>1</sup>
- He allowed mankind to live on the earth even though man was becoming increasingly wicked.
- God determined that He would keep Noah and his family alive, along with a set number of animals and birds.
- God determines the number of days that all life will live on the earth.<sup>2</sup>
- God is Lord over all creation and He keeps it alive as He sees fit.



Help the children come up with a list of all the things that God has made. For older children, you can write the list on the board. Ask the children to name the things that God continues to do each day, such as provide oxygen, keep the earth alive, allow the sun to continue shining, etc. Help them understand that all these things continue because of God.

**Life continues because God allows it.**

- Each day is determined by God.
- Nothing passes away unnoticed by God because God controls all things.
- Nothing continues to exist or live outside of God because He keeps everything alive.
- God determined that the world would be destroyed by a flood.
- He determined that Noah and his family would survive the flood and He determined which animals would survive the flood.
- God gives and sustains all life.

**God gives life daily as He chooses.**

- Life continues because God decides for it to continue.
- The wicked people inhabiting the earth during Noah's time were allowed to live as long as they did because God allowed them to live.
- Noah and his family were allowed to survive on the ark because God chose for them to live.
- God sustained their lives while they were on the ark just as He sustains life daily for every person on earth.

*Who keeps everything alive? (God keeps everything alive and sustains all life.)*

*Who chose to keep Noah and his family alive on the ark? (God chose to allow Noah and his family to stay alive on the ark.)*

1. Isaiah 45:7: It is God who controls all things and allows all things. He is responsible for all of creation and it is He alone who sustains it according to His purposes.

2. Job 14:5: God has determined the length of life for everything on the earth. He not only knows the set number of days of a man's life, but He is the one who determines that number.

**BIG IDEA: NOTHING LIVES APART FROM GOD.<sup>3</sup>****God is the creator of all life and nothing exists apart from Him.**

- God allowed the inhabitants of the earth to live for 120 years after He had declared them wicked. Then He allowed them to live for seven days longer before He closed the door to the ark.
- God determined which animals would go on the ark and which would not.
- God determined that Noah and Noah's family would live on the ark and survive the flood.
- The world continued to live because God allowed it and when He chose to allow it no longer, He destroyed all living life on it by a flood.



Demonstrate that nothing can live apart from God by showing how a lamp cannot work without being connected to an outlet. The lamp can be all life on the earth and the outlet can be God. Ask the children to turn the lamp on when it's not connected to the outlet. Then plug it in and ask them to turn the lamp on. Nothing exists apart from God.

**Life continued because God determined for it to continue.**

- The animals survived while they were in the ark because God wanted them to. They were kept alive by God while they were on the ark.
- Noah and his family survived on the ark because God kept them alive.
- All living things continue to live because they are kept alive by God.
- The dove found an olive branch because God was causing the waters to recede and He was allowing life on the earth again.
- All life is created and sustained by God.

**Nothing exists without God or apart from Him.**

- God is in control of all things and all things exist because of Him.
- Every part of the earth is from God and exists as a part of God.
- Every person is from God and lives because of Him.
- There can be no life apart from God because He is the giver of all life.
- Life cannot continue without God because He is all-powerful and He enables all things to continue to live.

*What can live apart from God? (Nothing can live apart from God.)*

*Why did God allow Noah and his family to survive on the ark? (Because God knew Noah's heart and knew he loved Him.)*

*How can God determine how long a person lives? (He's God and in control of all things.)*

3. Romans 9:17-18: All things exist because God allows them to exist. Nothing exists outside of or apart from God, even those who work against Him. He created Pharaoh and allowed him to live even though Pharaoh did not serve the Lord.

**BIG IDEA: LIFE IS A BLESSING FROM GOD.****All life is from God and is a gift from Him.**

- God determines before giving life who and what receives life.
- All life is from God and is for God.
- God sustained Noah and the animals to preserve life.
- It was His good plan to keep them alive and allow them to survive the flood.



Lead the children in singing “He’s Got the Whole World In His Hands.” Remind them that God controls everything and everything is a special blessing from Him.

**Life is a precious gift from God given according to His purpose.**

- Every good and perfect gift is from God.<sup>4</sup>
- Life is from God and for God.
- God gave life to Noah and his family and He sustained their lives.
- God gave life to the animals and He sustained their lives.
- It was His will that they survive the flood and continue life on the earth.

**God blesses creation by keeping it alive.**

- God did not have to allow the world to renew itself after the flood, but it was His great mercy that allowed mankind to multiply again.
- It is a blessing that God keeps His creation alive.
- It is an even greater blessing that He is involved in His creation and sustains it daily.
- Noah and his family were kept alive on the ark for the duration of the flood.
- All life is a blessing from God. He is the great and mighty Creator and He chooses to daily give life.

*How is life a blessing from God? (We are unable to create life or even to keep it alive, so the fact that God continues to keep the world alive is a blessing.)*

*Who kept Noah and the animals alive on the ark? (God kept everyone and thing alive on the ark for the forty days of the flood.)*

4. James 1:17: Every good and perfect gift is from God who does not change. He is steadfast and immovable and gives good gifts.

## HOOKS

**God Keeps All Things Alive**

Lead the children to a window in the classroom or to a place where they can see outside. Point out the different elements that are outside, such as the air, the sun, the clouds, etc.



- Who caused the sun to rise this morning? (God caused the sun to rise. He created the sun and set it in motion. The sun obeys God's command.)
- Who gives us air to breathe so we have oxygen and can live? (God created the air and continues to give us the air we breathe.)
- God keeps all things alive. If it weren't for God, we would not continue to live. He not only created us and gave us life in the beginning, but He continues to keep us alive each and every day.

**God Keeps Everything Alive**

For this activity, gather several pieces of paper. Give each student one piece of paper that has been folded several times.



- How easy is it for you to rip your piece of paper? (It should be easy to rip just one piece of paper.) Next, give them several pieces of paper folded several times. The idea is to have so much paper folded together that the children can't rip it. Ask the children to rip the folded paper.
- Were you able to rip this paper? (Most probably aren't going to be able to.)
- God is able to do all things. Even though we may think we are in control and can do things, it's really God who is the most powerful.
- God keeps all things alive for us. He is the most powerful being of all.

**Life Is A Blessing From God**

Bring in pictures of the sun, the moon and the stars, animals, food that we eat, and other things that help us live daily. Show them to the children, reminding them that life is a blessing from God. He provides the things we need each day to live.

- Can we live without the sun, our food, water or air? (No, we can't. We have to have those things to live.)
- Who provides those things for us? (God provides our daily needs so we can live.)
- Life is a gift and blessing from God. He daily gives us the things we need to live. He keeps all things alive.