

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

The Family Devotion on the next page is a weekly tool for the home. It is designed for you as family to gather for a few minutes on a set night of the week to unpack the Big Truth together. Use the model below and customize it to fit your family. As you continue to learn, love, and live out the Big Truth, some additional Hooks (next page) are provided that correspond to the Big Aims (see above). Use them to keep the conversation going throughout the week with your family.

NOTHING LIVES APART FROM GOD

Take your child to a pet store that sells fish. Allow them to look at the fish and explain the importance of the fish being in the fish tank. If possible, show them tanks of freshwater fish and tanks of saltwater fish. The two can't mix. Just like the fish cannot live without the water and the specific water it needs, we cannot live without God sustaining us or keeping us alive. Nothing can live apart from God.

DISCOVER IT:

Read Genesis 7:15-22; 8:1-15

THINK ABOUT IT:

When Noah and his family entered the ark with all the animals God had commanded to enter the ark, they were most likely not sure of what was about to happen. It had never rained on the earth prior to the flood, so they wouldn't have known what it meant for it to rain. Yet, Noah believed God and trusted Him. Noah knew that God was the giver of all life and the keeper of all life. God kept Noah, his family, and all the animals alive on the ark, even though the waters rose so high that the tallest, highest mountain was covered, even though every other living thing on the earth perished. God sustained the life of Noah and Noah's family. All life is from God and nothing exists apart from God. Without God, there would be no life because He controls all things, even the very breath we breathe in and out of our lungs every day.

TALK ABOUT IT:

- Who went on the ark? (Noah, his family, and the animals.)
- How high did the waters get? (They covered the tallest mountain and killed everything on the earth not in the ark.)
- Who is the keeper of all life? (God is the keeper of all life.)
- How does God sustain life daily? (He provides us with the things we need. He is in control of all things.)

**KNOW**

Help your child memorize Colossians 1:17 by singing it to the tune of "London Bridge is Falling Down."

**DO**

As a family read the creation account in The Jesus Storybook Bible. Talk about the different things that God created and then lead a discussion about how God continues to keep these things alive. He continues to allow the ocean and all the animals in the ocean to live. He continues to allow the sun to shine and the stars to exist. He allows us to continue to live by providing for us each and every day.

**FEEL**

Using a paper plate create a rainbow by folding the paper plate in half to make a half-moon shape. Help your child color the paper plate in rainbow colors. Next, attach yarn or string to the bottom of the plate. The yarn or string should hang down from the plate. Cut out large raindrop-shapes from construction paper. Help your child think of all the things God provides each day to keep us alive, such as air, water, food, clothing, etc. Write these things on the raindrops and then attach them to the bottom of the yarn or string. Hang your rainbow up in a visible place and throughout the week, as a family, thank God for keeping His creation alive.

**WANT**