

BIG TRUTH: GOD GIVES ETERNAL LIFE

John 3:16-18; 6:40; Romans 10:11-13; 1 John 5:11

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

BIG IDEAS

- God gives eternal security and safety to His people.
- There is no danger that God cannot overcome.
- We can rest in God and do not have to worry.

BIBLE STORY: DANIEL 3

God's great provision of His people is exemplified in the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Their willingness to lose their lives in order to remain faithful to the one, true God is a great example to all followers of Christ. God's power over all things is evident as He kept the three faithful followers from experiencing any of the heat from the fiery furnace. Even if He had allowed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to perish in the furnace, they would still have received eternal security in their eternal life with Him. God protects His people. The three young men could trust God and rest in His great power regardless of the outcome.

FOUNDATION: GOD IS KEEPER - GOD GIVES SECURITY

God is keeper over all His creation. That means that God is not only greater than creation, but He is present in it. Everything in creation is held together by God Himself. Not only is God keeper of His creation, but He also keeps His promises. We can live confidently and securely knowing that He is in control and holds all things together for His glory. He has promised to redeem a people to himself, to finish the work He starts in believers, and to make all things new. When God starts something, we can rest securely in the fact that He will bring it to completion.

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.

THERE IS NO DANGER THAT GOD CANNOT OVERCOME

On a poster board or piece of large paper, help your child make a list of things that are too hard for him or her, or things that are dangerous for them. You can list things like playing in the road, staying at home alone, or cooking by themselves. Talk about why these things are hard or dangerous for them. Remind them that nothing is too dangerous for God. He can overcome anything because He is all-powerful. Things are impossible for us, but nothing is impossible for God.

DISCOVER IT:

Read Daniel 3:14-25.

THINK ABOUT IT:

King Nebuchadnezzar was the ruler of Babylon and whatever he decreed, people were to do or face the consequences. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego understood the authority that Nebuchadnezzar had, but they were faithful to not bow down and worship the idols that he was commanding them to worship. They, instead, were faithful to worship only the true God. They knew that they would be cast into the fiery furnace, but they trusted that God would protect them by either saving them from the furnace or giving them eternal life in Heaven. They knew there was no danger they could ever face that would be too hard or difficult for God. God can overcome any danger.

TALK ABOUT IT:

- What did King Nebuchadnezzar ask Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to do? (To bow down and worship the idols he had made.)
- Why did they refuse to worship the idols? (They were God's children and knew they should not worship any other god.)
- How did God save them from the furnace? (He kept them from being burned up in the furnace.)



As a family read Psalm 62:1-2. Talk about what it means that God is a rock and a fortress. Using popsicle sticks and glue, build a small fortress.



Take a drive as a family and make a list of all the things that provide protection to people. Some examples are speed limits, police officers, stop signs, fire stations, guard rails, etc. Lead your child in a discussion about how God gives eternal protection and security to His children.



Using pretzel sticks, crackers and cheese, create a fiery furnace snack. Use the pretzel sticks to shape the door of the furnace and the cheese to be the fiery flames. Place the pretzel sticks and the cheese on the flat cracker to create the fiery furnace. Lead your child in a discussion about how God protected Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego from the flames in the furnace and He protects all of His children.



Use plastic cups, rubber bands, beans, and construction paper to make maracas. Use the maracas as you sing worship songs to God. Talk with your child about how God is the only true God and Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would only worship Him and not idols. We, too, should only worship the one, true God.