

# GOD IS MORE POWERFUL THAN CREATION

**FOUNDATION: GOD IS POWERFUL - GOD GIVES STRENGTH**

## **BIG TRUTH: GOD IS MORE POWERFUL THAN CREATION**

Nehemiah 9:6; Isaiah 40:26, 42:5, 44:24-28, 48:12-13; Jeremiah 10:11-12, 27:5, 32:17; Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Hebrews 1:10-12

## **BIBLE VERSE: Jeremiah 32:17**

*“Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.”*

## **BIG IDEAS**

- God created everything.
- God rules over every created thing.
- Creation exists to point us to the all-powerful Creator.

## **BIBLE STORY: EXODUS 14**

God is the creator of all things and all things are under His power and rule. He has total and complete authority over everything and everyone. This power is displayed when God parts the Red Sea and rescues the Israelites from the Egyptians. The sea obeyed God’s command, just as Moses obeyed God’s command. All of creation is under God’s rule and power. He is more powerful than the sea, the wind, or anything else in creation.

## **FOUNDATION: GOD IS POWERFUL—GOD GIVES STRENGTH**

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 is more powerful than all things: than creation, than our fears, and than death



### **Every child should be in awe of:**

- Awe for how strong and powerful God is



### **Every child should be able to:**

- Recognize that everything they see and everything they feel is under God’s power



### **Every child should want to:**

- Trust God with all of their fears

## **FAMILY DEVOTION: GOD RULES OVER EVERYTHING**

God is the omnipotent, all-powerful Creator. He spoke the heavens and the earth into existence. He breathed life into man, fashioning him with His hands in His own image. God has all authority and controls all things. The One who created everything can do whatever He desires.

**Jeremiah 32:17**

*“Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.”*

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**God is all-powerful.**

- God is all-powerful, or omnipotent. He is the most powerful being that has ever been or ever will be.
- Jeremiah declares God’s power in his prayer to God. God confirms that He is indeed the all-powerful Creator and that nothing is too hard for Him.
- Being all-powerful is part of God’s character. It is unique to Him. No other being is all-powerful, only God.

**God has power over every created thing.**

- God is not limited or held back by anything.
- There is nothing that God can’t do.
- Jeremiah expresses his understanding that God is all-powerful and rules over all of creation in his prayer.
- God is the most powerful Creator who spoke everything into existence.
- He is not held by the same constraints as man.

**He created everything and He does whatever He wills.**

- All authority is God’s. He answers to no one because He is the creator of everything.
- He made the heavens and the earth---all that inhabits the earth is from Him.
- He has the authority and ability to do as He desires.
- He will never act contrary to His character. He is steadfast and faithful always.

**BIBLE STORY: EXODUS 14***The Parting of the Red Sea*

Supporting Scripture: James 1:17; Matthew 19:26; Hebrews 2:8; Isaiah 55:8-9

**Teacher Introduction:**

God, the all-powerful Creator, breathed the world into existence. He fashioned man with His very hands and breathed life into him. He commands all things as He desires and sees fit. All authority belongs to Him because He is the highest of all beings. When God brought the Israelites out of Egypt, He performed great and mighty works, revealing Himself to them as He rescued them out of bondage.

His power over His creation is readily seen when He parts the Red Sea that the Israelites might cross over on dry ground. The elements obeyed God's command. God's creation is under His control. He is not arbitrary in His commands. He works for His glory and the good of His people. He, in His mercy, reveals Himself to the Israelites and to the Egyptians as He exerts His power over the sea, the wind, and their very hearts.

**Teaching Guide:**

The guide below is provided to help you teach the narrative: *The Parting of the Red Sea*. The three points are the Big Ideas that should guide your lesson as you share from Exodus 14 and teach the narrative: *The Parting of the Red Sea*. 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: *The Parting of the Red Sea*.

**Opening Illustration:**

Lead the children to make a list of the strongest people and things they know. Help them make their list, giving them suggestions and ideas to lead them in the right direction.

- Who is the strongest man or woman you know? (They may say their parents, a superhero, firefighter, etc.)
- What are some things in the world that are strong? (Mountains, rocks, tornadoes, hurricanes, the ocean, etc.)
- How do we know they are powerful or strong? (People can move heavy things or protect us. The mountains stand firm when strong winds come. The ocean can overpower everything else. Tornadoes and hurricanes cause damage.)
- Do you know who is stronger and more powerful than anything else in the world? (God is more powerful. He created everything and He rules over it.)

**BIG IDEA: GOD CREATED EVERYTHING.****God is the creator of everything in the heavens and the earth.**

- God created the heavens and all that inhabits them.
- He created the earth and all that inhabits it.
- He separated the night from the day, caused the sun to shine, and set the planets in motion.
- He spoke life into existence on the earth and breathed life into man.
- He gave man understanding and intelligence.
- Man's ability to invent and create is from God, who is the giver of every good thing.<sup>1</sup>



Give every child a piece of paper and markers. Help them draw pictures of all the things that God created in the earth, such as the weather, the wind, the sun, the moon, etc. Remind them that God is the creator of everything.

**God is the all-powerful Creator.<sup>2</sup>**

- God's power is unparalleled. There is no one as powerful as God.
- No one has spoken life into existence. No one has created by merely commanding things to exist.
- God commanded the seas to be, the sun to shine, the dry ground to exist, trees to grow, the moon to shine. He is all-powerful.
- God's power is seen when He goes before the Israelites in a pillar of cloud. He leads them in His strength and might.
- He commands the Red Sea to part, drying the floor of the sea with the wind.

**Nothing exists that God didn't create or allow.**

- Every good thing is from God, birthed in His mind, which is far greater than any other.
- Even the things that man invents or creates are from God because God gives man the knowledge to invent.
- Every ability given to man is from God. God's hand is at work in the life of His people. He orchestrates the events of the world for His glory and man's good.<sup>3</sup>

*Who is the creator of all things? (God is the creator of all things. Every good thing is from God.)*

1. James 1:17: Every good gift that we receive is from God. The ability to invent and create things that better our lives is a good gift from the Lord. He is the creator of all things.

2. Matthew 19:26: God is the most powerful and no one thwarts His plans or prevents Him from doing as He desires. He is the Almighty!

3. Colossians 1:17: All things are from God and are in Him. He holds the whole world together and works things for His glory and man's good.

**BIG IDEA: GOD RULES OVER EVERY CREATED THING.****God controls all of creation.**

- The world is under the power of God---every element, every person is under the control of God.
- Creation is submissive to God.
- We see God's rule when Moses leads the Israelites from Egypt and God parts the Red Sea.
- The Red Sea ceased doing what it had always done since its creation and did instead what God commanded it to do.

**God has power over every situation.<sup>4</sup>**

- God was in control of the Israelites and the Egyptians.
- God's power is not limited to His people only, but He has power over all people and all things.
- God has power over the Israelites and the Egyptians as the Israelites left Egypt.
- God was not surprised when the Egyptians followed the Israelites, pursuing them rapidly. He had not lost control of the situation.

**God rules over all things.**

- God's control is not stagnant or inactive.
- He is actively involved in His creation and rules over it according to His great purposes.<sup>5</sup>
- The Egyptians' pursuit of the Israelites was not unforeseen by God, who is all-knowing.
- He controlled the situation entirely through His great power.
- The Israelites crossed to safety and the Egyptians who pursued them perished in the sea.
- The sea returned to its normal activity when God desired for it to.
- All of this was part of God's plan and all were under His control.



Bring in a container of water. Have the children take turns trying to part the water using tools or their hands to create a dry space in the container. Lead them in a discussion about how we do not have control over creation, but God does. God rules over all of creation.

*Who caused the Red Sea to part? (God parted the Red Sea and saved the Israelites.)*

4. Hebrews 2:8: There is nothing outside of God's control. He is all-powerful and all things are in subjection to Him. Even the hearts of men are under His control. He turns them as He wills and according to His great purposes.

5. Isaiah 55:8-9: God's ways are higher than man's. We will not understand all that He does, but we can know and trust that He is working in His creation to bring about His glory and man's good.

**BIG IDEA: CREATION EXISTS TO POINT US TO THE ALL-POWERFUL CREATOR.****God is revealed through creation.**

- When God chose to part the Red Sea, His purpose was more than rescuing the Israelites.
- He was revealing Himself and all His might to the Egyptians once again and to generations that follow.<sup>6</sup>
- God, in His great mercy, chose to reveal Himself again to the Egyptians by exhibiting His power over creation.<sup>7</sup>
- All of creation points to the existence of God and it reveals His great might and power.
- By obeying God's voice, nature points people to Him.



Sing "He's Got the Whole World In His Hands" with the children. Remind them that God rules over everything. There is nothing outside of His control.

**God is reflected through man.**

- Man was created in the image of God to reflect God to the world.
- All of creation reflects God, but man especially.
- Even the hearts of the Egyptians and Pharaoh were under the rule of God.
- God reveals Himself through man, pointing the world to Himself.

**God's rule over creation reveals God to the world.**

- All of creation exists to reveal God.
- The mighty wind reveals the might of God who controls the wind.
- The abyss of the sea reveals the unsearchable depths of a mighty and powerful God.
- From the metamorphosis of a caterpillar to a butterfly to the lifespan of man, the all-powerful Creator is revealed.
- The Egyptians could not deny the existence of the almighty God when they saw His rule over the very sea.
- The Israelites, God's very people, saw, yet again, the mighty hand of their God fighting for them.

*How do we see God ruling over creation? (He controls the elements, controls our days, nothing is outside of His control.)*

6. Exodus 7:14-11:10: God had revealed Himself to Pharaoh and the Egyptians when He sent the plagues, yet they had still rejected God. He was revealing Himself again when He parted the Red Sea.

7. Psalm 148:1-6: Everything is under the control and rule of God. Everything obeys His voice.

## HOOKS

**God Rules Over Everything**

Bring in a clear container filled halfway with water. Using a whisk or some other tool, spin the water to create a funnel of water, or a “tornado”. Lead the children in a discussion of how God is more powerful than even tornadoes or other storms. Have the children make a list of things that are really powerful in nature, like thunderstorms, the sun, the wind, hurricanes, etc. Remind them that God is more powerful than anything.



- Who created the wind, the rain, and the lightning that is part of a storm? (God created it and He controls it.)
- Who controls everything in the world? (God controls everything.)
- There are lots of things that are really powerful, but there is NOTHING that is more powerful than God.

**God Is The All-Powerful Creator**

Give every child a piece of blank paper and markers. Ask them to draw something that we see in the world, such as houses, cars, clouds, etc. Once they’ve finished, ask a few to share what they’ve drawn. Lead them in a discussion of the things that God has made that they cannot make. Lead them in a discussion about how God is so powerful He created everything.

- What are some things that we can make or create? (houses, clothes, food, etc.)
- What are some things we can’t create? (We cannot create animals or people, etc.)
- Who can create anything? (God can create anything because He is more powerful than anyone or anything else.)

**Creation Exists To Point Us To God**

Create a map with a distinct starting point and ending point. The map should be something that the children can look at knowing that it leads from one point to the next. Set the classroom up so that the map can be used in it. Lead the children on a “treasure hunt” using the map. Lead them in a discussion about how all of creation points us to God.

- What did we use our map to do? (We used it to find the “treasure” or to get to the place we were heading.)
- Whom does creation point us to? (Creation points us to God. It exists so we can know that God exists and is all-powerful.)