

**GOD IS MORE POWERFUL
THAN DEATH****BIG TRUTH: GOD IS MORE POWERFUL THAN DEATH**

John 11:21-25; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Ephesians 1:18-23, 2:1-6; Hebrews 2:14-15

BIBLE VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:56-57

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

BIG IDEAS

- God is the author of life.
- Sin leads to death.
- God is more powerful than death.
- God raises the spiritually dead to life.

BIBLE STORY: JOHN 11

The story of Lazarus is a popular story that reveals the human nature of Jesus while He was on earth. His apparent sorrow over His friends' grief reveals His true humanity. Yet, His ability to raise Lazarus from the grave reveals His divinity. Only God has the power to raise from the dead and Jesus showed this power when He called Lazarus from the grave. This story is more than a happy ending though. In it lies the foundational truth that God raises people to new life when they believe in His Son. God is more powerful than death and He gives new life to spiritually dead people when they believe in Jesus Christ.

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.

**Every child should know that:**

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

**Every child should be able to:**

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

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

- Awe for how strong and powerful God is

**Every child should want to:**

- Trust God with all of their fears

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.

GOD IS MORE POWERFUL
THAN DEATH**WHEN THE DEAD LIVE AGAIN**

Gather several blankets to use. Wrap your child up in the blankets pretending that you are wrapping them up like Lazarus for the grave. After your child is wrapped up, call for him or her to come out. God is more powerful than anything, even death. God makes the dead live again through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. No one or no thing is more powerful than God.

DISCOVER IT:

Read John 11:45

THINK ABOUT IT:

God uses all things for His great purposes. We may not always understand why He does the things He does, but we can trust that He is doing everything for His glory and for our good. Mary and Martha may not have understood why Jesus delayed in coming to them when their brother and His friend was so sick. God's plan was greater than what they knew. It was greater than even Lazarus' illness. Jesus knew that God had a plan to show the world Himself and to bring other people to faith in Him through Lazarus. Lazarus did die, but God raised Him from the grave and the people standing there mourning with Lazarus' sisters saw the mighty power of God and they believed in Him. God raises the spiritually dead to new life, just like He raised Lazarus to physical life again.

TALK ABOUT IT:

- Why did Jesus delay in going to Mary and Martha? (He knew that God had a bigger plan in mind. He knew God was going to raise Lazarus to life again.)
- Who believed in God because Lazarus died and was resurrected? (The Jews standing around.)

**KNOW**

Help your child memorize Philippians 4:13 by singing the verse to the tune of "London Bridge".

**DO**

Create a Lazarus doll using a popsicle stick. Wrap the stick in masking tape or string to make it look like a mummy. Using three large plastic or paper cups, place the Lazarus doll under one of them and allow your child to try to guess which cup or tomb Lazarus is in. When they pick the right one, say "Come Out!". Lead them in a discussion about how God raises the dead to life again through His Son, Jesus Christ.

**FEEL**

As a family write the name GOD on a piece of paper. Allow your child to color it and to decorate the paper. Lead your child in a discussion of the things that they are afraid of. Write the things they list down on a separate piece of paper. Next, lead your child in a discussion about how God is more powerful than anything, even death. Next, go through your child's list of fears and every time you read one aloud, ask your child to hold up the name of God if God is more powerful than the fear. Help them understand that the name of God should be raised for every fear because God is more powerful than anything.

**WANT**