

BIG TRUTH: GOD KEEPS HIS PEOPLE ALIVE

Matthew 6:30-33; John 3:14-16, 10:27-29, 17:1-3; Acts 17:24-28; Ephesians 2:1-6; 1 John 5:11-12

BIBLE VERSE: ACTS 17:25

nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

BIG IDEAS

- God gives healing and eternal life to His people.
- We are saved through faith, by the grace of God.
- We can trust God with our lives.

BIBLE STORY: NUMBERS 21:4-9

When the people of Israel were wandering in the desert, they again complained about the Lord's provision. God punished them by causing poisonous snakes to bite them, making them very sick and killing many. This story is one that points to the redemptive work of Christ. The antidote for the poisonous snakes was a bronze or copper snake lifted on a staff. Anyone who looked at the bronze snake was healed. Christ also was lifted up and those who believe in Him are healed for all of eternity. God gives His people healing, on this earth, but even more so for all of eternity.

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.

OUR LIVES ARE SAFE WITH GOD

Take your child on a tour of your local fire station, or walk around outside your local fire station. Firemen and other public servants work to protect our lives from danger. Sometimes they even save our lives when we've been hurt in an accident or gotten very sick. In the same way, God protects us and provides eternal life for us if we place saving faith in His Son. We can trust our lives to God because He is faithful to provide for us.

DISCOVER IT:

Read John 3:14.

THINK ABOUT IT:

We can always trust God with our lives. He promises eternal life and healing to those who place saving faith in Him. As John recounts the story of Jesus meeting Nicodemus, he reminds us that Jesus is the way to eternal life. Jesus was lifted up on the cross just as Moses lifted the bronze serpent up on a pole to save the Israelites. God promised that He would send someone to save His people and He sent His Son, Jesus. We can trust God with our lives because God is faithful and He does what He says He's going to do.

TALK ABOUT IT:

- What does John 3:16 tell us about how we can receive eternal life? (If we believe in Jesus Christ we will have eternal life.)
- How was Jesus lifted up just as Moses lifted up the bronze serpent? (He was crucified on the cross for the sins of the world.)



Read John 3:1-4 and talk about how Jesus told Nicodemus he could have eternal life. Jesus secures us for all of eternity when we place saving faith in Him.



Help your child memorize John 3:16. Play beanbag toss with them to help them memorize the verse.



Spend some time playing "doctor" with your child. Use bandages and Band-aids to help you play. Talk with your child about how doctors provide healing to people when they are hurt or sick, but God provides eternal healing and eternal life. He does this through His Son, Jesus Christ.



Make a paper chain snake out of green paper. Add eyes and a tongue using plastic eyes and ribbon for the tongue. Spend some time acting out the Israelites being bitten by the serpents using the paper-chain snake. Talk with your child about how the Israelites received healing and how we can receive healing through Jesus Christ.