

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS KEEPER

Colossians 1:15-17; Isaiah 45:5-8; Job 38; Psalm 135:6-7; 145:14; Acts 17:25; Matthew 6:30; John 10:28; John 17:11

BIBLE VERSE: COLOSSIANS 1:17

"And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together."

BIG IDEAS

- God keeps everything alive.
- God keeps His promises.
- God keeps His people and gives them security.

BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 6-8

The story of Noah and the great flood shows us that God is our Keeper. He gives us life and keeps us alive. He destroyed all living things on the earth with a flood, but He kept Noah and his family alive on the ark. God sustains all life.

FOUNDATION: GOD IS

"God is" means that there is only one god in the universe. He alone is Lord over everything that exists, and He alone is worthy of our worship. This also means that every good thing that exists comes from God. All good things come from Him because goodness is a part of who He is as the one true God. It is a part of His nature and character to be good, and everything that comes from God is good. Thankfully God has not chosen to withhold His goodness from His creation, but instead gives it freely to us.

BIG AIMS**Every child should know that:**

- There is only one true God, and He is good.
- We can know God because He has made Himself known.
- God alone is our source of life and joy.

**Every child should be able to:**

- Memorize the Bible verse each week about who God is.
- Pray that God would open their hearts and minds to know Him more.
- Tell someone else a truth about God each week.

**Every child should feel:**

- Loved by God, and thankful for His love for us.
- Broken over the depth of our sin against God.
- Joy in Jesus, the only Son of God who came to save us.

**Every child should want:**

- Learn more about the God who has made Himself known.
- Repent of their sin and of the lies they believe about God.
- Cling to God as the source of truth.

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.

THE KEEPER

Help your child create his or her own ark using cardboard or cardstock. Trace the outline of a boat onto the cardboard or cardstock, cut it out, and then tape it together to form the boat. Talk with your child about how God kept Noah and his family safe on the ark and He keeps His people safe now. He is the Keeper.

DISCOVER IT: *(Use the passage to illustrate the Big Truth.)*
Genesis 6-8.

THINK ABOUT IT: *(Use the commentary to reinforce the Big Truth.)*

Noah was a man who followed God when no one else on earth was following God. The evil on earth was great. This meant that many, many people were doing things that displeased God. Because sin grieves God's heart, He determined to wipe every living thing off of the earth, except for Noah and his family. God commanded Noah to build an ark and to gather two of every living thing into the ark once it was built. Noah trusted God and believed that God would do what He had said He was going to do. He built the ark and gathered the animals and birds into the ark. Then, Noah and his family entered the ark, too. They had gathered enough food to feed themselves and the animals and birds. Next, God closed the door to the ark and caused the flood waters to come upon the earth. The flood waters came on the earth and killed every living thing on the earth. The only living things that were safe were Noah, his family, and all the animals and birds that were on the ark. God had done what He said He was going to do---destroyed all living things on the earth. God didn't forget Noah and his family. He kept them safe in the ark. He watched over them and kept them from dying in the ark. When it was time, God caused a wind to push back the flood waters and to dry the land so that Noah and his family could leave the ark. God had kept them safe and provided for them. Just as Noah had believed, God had indeed protected him. Noah and his family left the ark and walked on dry ground. God showed that it is He who is the Keeper of all living things. He keeps things alive and sustains all life. He protects His people and keeps them secure. He gives His people eternal life through His Son, Jesus, who came to the earth to die for the sin of the world. God is the Keeper.

TALK ABOUT IT: *(Use the questions to discuss the Big Truth)*

- Why did Noah and his family get on the ark? (God had determined to destroy all living things on the earth with a flood.)
- How is God the Keeper? (He is the One who gives life, sustains it, and provides for His people.)



As a family, memorize Colossians 1:17 by using sidewalk chalk to write the verse on your driveway. Say the verse out loud several times with your child.



Create a scavenger hunt for your child in which he or she looks for things that are living and things that are dead. After they complete the scavenger hunt, talk with your child about what keeps the living things alive and what killed the dead things. Remind them that God is the Keeper of all living things. He keeps things alive.



Throughout the week point out the ways that God provides for your family. Talk with your child about the ways that God keeps your family, such as providing a house, food, clothes, and always providing your daily needs. Remind your child that God is the Keeper of His people.



Spend time praying with your child this week. Thank God for being our Keeper.