

# 3RD GRADE GUIDE 5

## GOD IS KEEPER FOUNDATION: GOD IS

### 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.

### FAMILY DEVOTION: GOD FIGHTS FOR US

God is our defender and help. He fights for us and rescues us. He is our Savior.



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**BIBLE VERSE: COLOSSIANS 1:17**

*“And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”*

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**God is the beginning of everything.**

- Before all other things, there was God. He is before all things and is preeminent. This means that nothing came before Him. When we look around at the world around us, everything we see and even the things we do not see all had their beginning in Him.
- He is the center of everything. Just like lamps have sources of energy, God is the source of all life. Life is found in Him because He gives life. Without Him, there would be nothing. If there was no God, there would be nothing else.

**The heavens and earth were made through Him and for Him.**

- Nothing exists apart from God. There's no life that happens separately from God. No one on earth creates life or forms something separate from God because all life is from Him. He is the one source of everything. Even the things we cannot see or have yet to discover come from Him.
- Not only is all life made through Him, but it exists for Him. He didn't create life and set it in motion for the sake of man. He did so for His purposes. His purposes are His glory. He created all things to bring Him glory. All things belong to Him. He has ownership of them because He is before them and they come from Him.

**God sustains all life for His purposes.**

- God has clearly set life cycles in motion with the creation of the world. When we examine the way life works on earth and in the heavens, we can see His handiwork. We can see that cycles exist and patterns were formed, but all of these continue to work because God sustains them.
- The sun continues to shine because God continues to sustain it. The earth has enough oxygen because God allows it to and enables it to. All that God has done on the earth and in the heavens continues because He continues it for His purposes, which is His glory.

**BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 6-8***Noah and the Flood*

Supporting Scripture: Colossians 1:17; 2 Corinthians 1:20; Matthew 6:25-26

**Teacher Introduction:**

After the first man and woman sinned against God, the sin in their hearts caused evil to spread on the earth. The wickedness of men and women became so great that God determined that He was going to destroy all living things from the face of the earth. During this time, Noah lived on the earth and he followed God. God also chose to save Noah and his family. He commanded Noah to build an ark, or really large boat. On the ark, Noah was to take two of every kind of living thing into the ark, male and female. Noah was also to bring food to eat and food to feed the animals and birds. Noah followed God's instructions and did exactly as He said. When the ark was finished, he entered it, along with the animals, birds, and his family. God closed the door of the ark and then caused a great flood to cover the earth. The flood was so great that it killed every living thing on the earth. Noah and his family survived the flood because they were kept safe in the ark. God provided for them and protected them. Even after the flood was on the earth for 150 days, Noah and his family were kept safe in the ark because God is the Keeper of His people. When it was time, God caused a wind to push away the flood waters and dry the land so that Noah and his family could leave the ark. God continued to provide for them and care for them. God is the Keeper of all living things. He is the One who gives life and sustains it. He provides security and keeps all things safe. He is the One who allows life on earth to continue. He keeps His promises to His people. What He says He is going to do, He does. He can always be trusted.

**Teaching Guide:**

The guide below is provided to help you teach the story: Noah and the Flood. The three points are the Big Ideas that should guide your lesson as you share from Genesis 6-8 and teach the truth that God is Keeper. 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 children to think about and process the truth that God is Keeper.

**Opening Illustration:**

Blow up a balloon and gather the children in a circle. Toss the balloon up in the air and tell the children to keep the balloon up in the air. Tell them that they can't let it drop to the floor. Play this game several times. When you finish, tell the children that God is the Keeper. He keeps His promises, He keeps His people secure, and He keeps all living things alive.

**BIG IDEA: GOD KEEPS EVERYTHING ALIVE. <sup>1</sup>****God keeps all living things alive.**

- When God created the world, He set life cycles in motion. We can see these cycles in the world around us. Seeds become plants that yield flowers or vegetables. Baby animals grow into adult animals that have baby animals and the cycle continues.
- Though our world is full of these life cycles, it doesn't mean that they continue to happen on their own. God is the One who keeps them and keeps the world so that they can continue to happen.



Give each child a yellow piece of construction paper and help them cut out a circle. Next, help the children glue or tape a craft stick to the end of their yellow circle. Tell them that they have made a sun. Tell them that the sun is necessary to life on earth. Tell them that God is the Keeper of the sun. He is the one who keeps it burning and keeps all life going on earth.

**God provides for all living things.**

- In Matthew 6:25-26, Jesus taught His followers that He provides for the birds of the air. When we look at the birds, we can notice that they do nothing to prepare for themselves. They eat food that they do not grow. God provides this food for them.
- Jesus taught people that it is God who provides for all living things. It can look like we are the ones who provide for ourselves, but truly it is God who provides.

**God sustains all life according to His will.**

- We can look at creation and see that God is keeping all things alive. He sustains, or keeps living things alive, because He wants to do so.
- God has a purpose and plan for the world and all living things. Because of His purpose and plan, He keeps living things alive. We can know that He is the Keeper and He keeps us alive and sustains our life because He is God and in control of all things.

*Who keeps all things alive? (God is the Keeper and keeps all things alive.)*

1. Colossians 1:17: All things were made through God and for Him. He keeps everything alive. He sustains all life.

**BIG IDEA: GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES.<sup>2</sup>****A promise is a declaration that something will be done.**

- When we make a promise, we are saying that something will be done or completed. Everyone makes a promise at some point in their lives. As people, we do not all keep our promises, though.
- Because we are humans, we can't keep them always. Even when we try really hard, it's hard for us to keep our promises because we do not control everything. Sometimes, things happen that are outside of our control that keep us from following through with our promise. This isn't true of God. He keeps His promises.



Write out John 3:16 on a small piece of paper and place it inside of a small box. Bring the box to class and ask each child to hold it. Tell them there is a promise inside of the box and they are to keep the promise safe as they pass it from child to child. Once each child has held it, open it and read the verse to them. Tell them that God is the Keeper of the promise of John 3:16. He is the Promise-Keeper.

**God does control all things, so He keeps His promises.**

- When God told Noah and his family to get on the ark, He promised to take care of them. His command to them to get on the boat was His promise that He would save them from the great flood. Noah and his family got on the boat showing that they believed God was going to protect them.
- God is in control of all of nature and all of the world. He said He was going to flood the world and He did. He said He was going to protect Noah and his family and He did. God provided for the animals and birds on the ark, too. He kept them all alive during the great flood. His promise to them came true.

**God's "saying" is His "doing".**

- We can trust God's promises because His saying He is going to do something is as good as His doing it. This is because He always does what He says. This is what it means to say that God's "saying" is His "doing". If He says it, He will do it.
- The story of Noah and the flood is a true story. It is part of the history of the world. Because of this historical narrative, we can know that God keeps His promises. His Word is true. He is the Keeper of promises.

*How is God the Keeper of promises? (God is the Keeper of promises because whatever He says He is going to do, He does.)*

2. 2 Corinthians 1:20: God keeps His promises. His saying is His doing.

**BIG IDEA: GOD KEEPS HIS PEOPLE AND GIVES THEM SECURITY.<sup>3</sup>****God is the solid foundation His people rest upon.**

- Noah had to have a lot of trust in God to get on the ark. To take his family and do all that God commanded him took a lot of faith and trust that God would do what He said He was going to do.
- Noah believed God and had faith that God was going to destroy all living things. His faith rested on God, not the world. He didn't trust in himself or anything else. Instead, he trusted in the solid foundation that is God.
- We can have that solid foundation, too. God takes care of His people. He is the solid foundation that our faith is built upon. He is not shaken or moved by anything in this world.



Bring in a small ball and ask the children to try to balance the ball on the top of their head. Once each child has a chance, ask them if the ball is secure on their heads. Tell them that the ball isn't. Tell them that God is the One who keeps us secure. He is the Keeper of His people and He keeps His people secure.

**God is aware of His people's needs and concerns.**

- After all living things died on the earth, Noah and his family remained on the ark. God didn't leave them on the ark to perish. He remembered them because He is always aware of His people. He knows what His people need. He knows what their concerns are.
- He sent a wind to push away the flood waters and dry the land so that Noah and his family could leave the ark. God took care of Noah and his people. God takes care of us. He knows what we need and He provides when we need it and not before or not after.

**God keeps His people secure.**

- To be secure in this life is to be known by God and to know Him. Knowing God means that we have saving faith. To have saving faith means that we have trusted in Jesus as our Savior. When we know God, we have eternal life. This is our security.
- Nothing can take us away from God. Once we are reconciled to God, we are always reconciled to God. He keeps us secure because He has the power to do so. He holds us fast and we remain in Him because of His power.

*How does God give us eternal security? (He gives us Jesus who gives us eternal life.)*

3. Matthew 6:25-26: God cares for even the birds and He will care much more for His people.

## HOOKS

**God Is Keeper**

Give each child a plastic spoon and ask them to place it on their nose. Ask the children to walk with the spoon on their nose from one side of the room to the next keeping the spoon on their nose. Try this several times. Once everyone has a chance to try, talk with them about how it is hard for us to keep things secure. Remind them that we do not have all the power to control all things, but God does. Tell them that God is the Keeper of all things. He controls all things and keeps all things.

**Secure Forever**

Bring in several round objects. Show the objects to the children and ask them to find the beginning and end of the objects. Tell the children that round objects don't usually have beginnings or endings. Tell them that eternity doesn't have an end. It's forever. Remind them that God keeps His people secure forever. Once we know God, we know Him forever.

**All Living Things**

Spend time praying with the children. Thank God for keeping all living things alive. Thank God for keeping all life alive.

