

4TH GRADE GUIDE 3

GOD IS POWERFUL FOUNDATION: GOD IS

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS POWERFUL

Jeremiah 10:12; 27:5; Isaiah 40:26; 44:24; Matthew 8:27; Deuteronomy 3:22-24; Psalm 27:1; Isaiah 41:4-5; 2 Chronicles 32:7-8; John 16:33; Ephesians 1:21; 1 Corinthians 15:55-57

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 is more powerful than creation.
- God is more powerful than our fears.
- God is more powerful than death.

BIBLE STORY: JOHN 11

When Jesus' friend, Lazarus, became very sick and died, Jesus taught Lazarus' sisters and His followers a great truth about Himself and the hope He had brought to the world. Jesus is more powerful than creation, death, and our fears. He brings life and overcomes death.

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 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 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 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: GREATER THAN DEATH

God is a big God who is more powerful than anything and everything. He is more powerful than our fears and even death.



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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."

God is the most powerful Being.

"Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power..."

- As Jeremiah declares that it is God who has made the heavens and the earth, he is making a statement about God's power. When we consider the vastness of the heavens and the magnitude of the earth and all that it encompasses, we can understand just how powerful God is.
- God did not struggle to create the heavens and the earth. He spoke them into being. By His Word, He brought them into existence. This creation reflects His power that is matched by no other being.

God's power is unlike any other power known to mankind.

"...by your great power and by your outstretched arm!"

- We struggle to understand and even grasp the depth and magnitude of God's power because it is unlike mankind's. God is the most powerful Being of all beings. When we consider created things like the sun and then realize that God controls a powerful ball of fire, we can begin to get a sense of God's great power.
- God upholds all things and sustains all things by His power. Jeremiah proclaims this great power. We can only marvel at God's power as we stand in wonder and awe.

God rules over all things effortlessly.

"Nothing is too hard for you."

- God is sovereign over all things. As the Creator of everything, He is the rightful Ruler and Sovereign of all His creation. He rules over all of creation because He created it. He alone has authority over everything.
- God rules over creation effortlessly. He does not grow weak or weary. He is not overcome. He does not run out of power or become powerless. His power is limitless.

BIBLE STORY: JOHN 11*The Resurrection of Lazarus*

Supporting Scripture: Jeremiah 32:17; 2 Timothy 1:7; John 11:43

Teacher Introduction:

One of Jesus' greatest miracles during His earthly ministry was the resurrection of Lazarus. What makes this miracle so great is that Lazarus was one of Jesus' close friends. Lazarus along with his two sisters, Mary and Martha, were followers of Jesus and Jesus was a close friend of their family. When Lazarus became ill, the sisters sent word to Jesus of Lazarus' sickness. Surely, they were worried that Lazarus would die if Jesus did not come to him. They obviously trusted that Jesus could heal him of his sickness and even believed that He would. They did not doubt Jesus' power to overcome Lazarus' illness. Jesus' response when He heard that Lazarus was sick is interesting. He hears news that He already knew as God, but He delays two days before He goes to them. Before Jesus leaves to travel to Bethany where Lazarus is, He knows already that Lazarus has died. When Jesus arrives in Bethany, He is met by the sisters who both express that if He had just been there, their brother would still be alive. Jesus has great compassion on them as He teaches them the power He has over all things. He does call Lazarus from the grave, raising him to life again. In doing so, Jesus reveals that He has control over life and death. He also points people to the truth that He has come to bring new life to those who believe and that He gives eternal life. Jesus proved that He is God in the flesh. God is the most powerful Being. He has power over all things, especially death.

Teaching Guide:

The guide below is provided to help you teach the story: The Resurrection of Lazarus. The three points are the Big Ideas that should guide your lesson as you share from John 11 and teach the truth that God is Powerful of all things. 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 Powerful.

Opening Illustration:

Sit in a chair and have the children take turns trying to lift you in the chair. Talk with them about why it's hard for them to lift you up high. Ask them if people are more powerful than anything and everything in the world. Remind them that God is more powerful than everything in the world. He is the most powerful being of all.

BIG IDEA: GOD IS MORE POWERFUL THAN CREATION. ¹**God is the powerful Creator.**

- Because God is the beginning of everything, He is the powerful Creator. He alone is powerful and over all of creation.
- In Jeremiah 32:17, the prophet declares that nothing is too hard for God.
- We see this is true throughout the Bible. Jesus proved this over and over in His earthly ministry.
- God is powerful because He spoke the world into existence, and He controls it all by His outstretched arm.



Bring in a small fan. Gather the children in a circle and turn the fan on. Ask the children to command the fan to stop blowing air. Ask them to explain why they can't stop the fan by commanding it to stop. Remind them that God commands creation with His Word. Remind them that He is more powerful than creation.

Nothing in creation surprises God.

- God is all-knowing and not surprised by anything.
- He knows all and is in control of all things.
- When Lazarus became sick, Jesus was not surprised. When Lazarus died, Jesus was not surprised by this either.
- God is not surprised by any storm or natural disaster. He knows all and controls all because He is the powerful Creator.

God controls and sustains all of creation.

- When God created the world, He set it in motion, and He still sustains it.
- By His great power, He allows the world to continue to function as He sees fit.
- Creation is not more powerful than God. It does not continue of its own power or authority. God has complete authority over it.

How is God more powerful than creation? (Creation continues because God sustains it and allows it to continue.)

1. Jeremiah 32:17: God controls everything and has power over all of creation.

BIG IDEA: GOD IS MORE POWERFUL THAN OUR FEARS. ²**We all face many fears in this life.**

- Fear is a part of this life. We all are afraid of many things.
- It's hard to live in this life without being afraid of things.
- Because we are not all-powerful and do not control all things, we will fear many things.
- Fear is a big part of our lives and something we have to overcome.
- When Lazarus was sick, Mary and Martha were afraid for his life. They knew he could die and they were fearful for him and themselves.



Divide the children into pairs and ask them to come up with a list of common fears. Allow them to share their fears. Discuss with them that God is more powerful than our fears.

God fears nothing.

- God does not have fear.
- When we have saving faith, we receive the Holy Spirit. This means that we receive God's Spirit. When we receive God's Spirit, we do not receive a spirit of fear.
- God does not have to fear anything because He controls all things.
- He is the most powerful being; therefore, He is above all things and controls all things.

God is more powerful than even our fears.

- When Mary and Martha sent for Jesus, He didn't let their fear control Him. Instead, He controlled their fear. He waited until it was time for Him to go to them.
- Our fears do not control God. Instead, He is more powerful than our fear. He controls it and can help us have peace through it.
- We do not have to worry or feel anxious because God is more powerful than our fears.

Why do we not have to worry about our fears? (God is more powerful than our fears and controls all things.)

2. 2 Timothy 1:7: God does not give His people a Spirit of fear because He is more powerful than fear.

BIG IDEA: GOD IS MORE POWERFUL THAN DEATH.³**Death is a consequence of our sin.**

- Because of our sin, we suffer the consequence of death.
- Every human feels the suffering of death in some way because of sin.
- We are all subject to death because of sin.
- Death is a consequence of this sin. Death is not something that affects God.
- He is not subject to our consequence of sin. He does not have to fear death because death is not part of His life.



Lead the children in a time of prayer thanking God for being more powerful than death. Lead them in praying and praising God for defeating death on our behalf.

Jesus came to earth to pay for our sin.

- Jesus is sinless and when He came to earth, He came to pay for our sin debt.
- This means that He subjected Himself to the consequence we owe for our sin which is death.
- When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, Jesus showed the power He has over death and the grave.
- He also showed people that He came to give new life and to give eternal life.

We have victory over death because of Jesus.

- Lazarus experienced victory over his earthly death because of Jesus.
- We experience victory over our spiritual death and earthly death because of Jesus.
- Death holds no power over Jesus; therefore, when we have saving faith, it has no power over us.
- We can live in this victory because we can trust in the power that Jesus has.
- God is more powerful than even death.

How can we have victory over death? (When we have saving faith in Jesus.)

3. John 11:43: God raised Lazarus from the dead proving that He is more powerful than death.

HOOKS

**A Mighty God**

Read Psalm 18:2 to the children. Ask the children to tell you ways that God is a mighty fortress for us. Talk through some ways that God protects us and takes care of us. Remind them that God is more powerful than anything we ever face.

**Overcoming Death**

Role-play the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. Ask the children to take turns being Lazarus and Jesus. After you take turns role-playing, discuss with them how God is more powerful than death. Remind them that God is more powerful than death.

**A Mighty God**

Lead the children in a time of prayer. Thank God for being mighty and more powerful than anything. Praise Him for overcoming death for us and giving us new life.

