

# GOD IS FOREVER

STORY: NEW CREATION / YEAR: VALUE

## BIG TRUTH: GOD IS FOREVER

Genesis 1:1; Exodus 3:13-14; Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalm 90:1-4; 102:25-28; Isaiah 40:28; Colossians 1:17; 1 Timothy 6:13-16; Revelation 1:4; 22:13

## BIBLE VERSE: REVELATION 4:8B

*“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!”*

## BIG IDEAS

- God is eternal (neither new nor old).
- God gives eternal life.
- Eternity exists for God’s glory.

## BIBLE STORY: REVELATION 4:8-5:15

John’s exile to the Island of Patmos became much more than a prison sentence. While on the island, he experienced a vision about God and future events. His vision shows how God has always been, is now, and will always be. Not only is God eternal, He gives eternity to man.

## STORY: NEW CREATION

Part of the beauty of the gospel is that God does not just rescue us from the power of sin, but He is also making everything new. God offers new creation to those who place their faith in Jesus. This newness comes in two ways. The first is that by breaking the power of sin, Jesus is making men and women into brand new people with new identities. Second, God is not only making people new, but He is also going to make a new heaven and a new earth for us to live on and worship Him in.

## BIG AIMS



### Every child should know that:

- God offers us new life (new desires, purpose) through Jesus



### Every child should feel:

- The need to live differently because of Jesus



### Every child should:

- See life in light of God’s promises to those who are in Jesus



### Every child should want:

- To be freed and rescued from their sin and given new life in Jesus

## FAMILY DEVOTION: THE GIFT OF ETERNITY

God is the Creator of all things and the sustainer of all life. Not only does He give physical life, but He gives eternal life also. We can spend eternity with Him when we have saving faith in His Son, Jesus.

## STORY: NEW CREATION

# GOD IS FOREVER

### **BIBLE VERSE: REVELATION 4:8B**

*“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!”*

#### **God has always been.**

- God has no beginning and no end.
- He has always existed as God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- He has always been holy.
- He is Lord of all and has always been Lord of all.
- He lived before creation existed.
- He lives now in creation and He will live forever in the new creation.
- God is eternally present.

#### **God’s reign has always been, is now, and will always be.**

- God is holy and just.
- He alone rules and reigns over everything.
- He has always been Lord.
- Before heaven and earth existed, He reigned.
- He reigns now as sovereign Lord over all.
- He alone is the most powerful ruler.
- He will continue to reign in the future.
- He is victorious and holds the power over all, so He will always reign.
- He is never-ending.
- We can hope in Him because He will never end.

#### **God is the holiest of holies.**

- No one is holy like God.
- He is the most holy and the most righteous.
- In John’s vision, the four creatures and the elders cry out praises to the most holy.
- God has always been holy and will always be holy.
- We can hope in Him because He is holy.

### **BIBLE STORY: REVELATION 4:8-5:14**

#### **Opening Illustration:**

Bring in small plastic cups, a bag of rice, and plastic spoons. Give each child a plastic cup with rice in it, an empty cup and a spoon. Ask the children to move the rice to the empty cup one grain at a time with the spoon. As they try to do this, explain to them that it would take a really long time to move the rice one grain at a time. Ask them to imagine how long it would take to move all of the rice in the world one grain at a time. Tell them that eternity is much longer than that. Eternity is forever.

# STORY: NEW CREATION

## GOD IS FOREVER

### BIG IDEA: GOD IS ETERNAL (NEITHER NEW NOR OLD).<sup>1</sup>

#### God has no beginning.

- God is the one true God who has always existed.
- God is one God who is manifested in three persons, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- God has always existed in His three persons.
- God was not created by anyone.
- He has no beginning.
- In his vision, John saw creatures and elders in heaven praising Jesus and God as the One who lives forever.



Divide the children into small groups and ask them to make a list of all the things they can think of that have a beginning and an end. Set a timer and give them a minute to name as many things as they can. Talk with them about how God has no beginning nor end.

#### God has no end.

- God was not created and He will not be destroyed.
- He is everlasting and will always be everlasting.
- He will always exist in His three persons forever.
- He is not confined by time or the restraints that man faces.
- God is not like man in that He does not cease to be. He will never die.
- John saw the creatures and elders worshiping the one true God who has no end.
- They cried out to Him that He is worthy and holy and everlasting.
- He is the one true God who has always been and will always be.

*Who does not have a beginning or end? (God has no beginning and end.)*

*What did the creatures and elders cry out? (They cried out how God is worthy and eternal.)*

1. Deuteronomy 33:27: God is the eternal dwelling place of those who believe. He is always and forever.

# STORY: NEW CREATION

## GOD IS FOREVER

### BIG IDEA: GOD GIVES ETERNAL LIFE.<sup>2</sup>

#### Everything comes from God.

- God is the beginning of all things.
- God is the Creator of all things and the giver of all life.
- All things begin with God because He is the beginning of life.
- Creation has no other source than God.
- God is our source of everything and gives life to the earth.



Ask the children to use a dictionary to define the word “eternity”. As you talk about eternity with them, remind them that God gives us eternity.

#### God gives physical life and eternal life.

- God is the most powerful being.
- He is the only being who can create life from nothing.
- He spoke life into being and He breathed air into man’s lungs.
- God not only gives physical life, but He gives eternal life, too.
- God gives eternal life to those who have saving faith in His Son.
- He alone is the only One worthy to give eternal life.
- John’s vision revealed that the Lamb of God is the only One worthy to open the seal.
- He is the only One who gives eternal life by taking away the sin of the world.

Who gives eternal life? (God gives eternal life through His Son, Jesus.)

2. Psalm 90:2: God is the giver of eternal life. He is the giver of all things.

## STORY: NEW CREATION

# GOD IS FOREVER

### BIG IDEA: ETERNITY EXISTS FOR GOD'S GLORY.<sup>3</sup>

#### All that God created and all that He does is for His glory.

- Only God is holy and righteous.
- He is sinless and everything He does is perfect.
- God created the world because He desired to create it to bring Him glory.
- His power and might are revealed in His creation and this brings Him glory.
- God created all things and He did so for His own glory.



Lead the children in praise songs, such as “Holy, Holy, Holy.” Remind them that all that God does is for His glory.

#### God gives eternity because it pleases Him and brings Him glory.

- God does what pleases Him because He is the highest power.
- Because He is the beginning of everything, He is the ruler of all.
- He gives eternity to man because it pleases Him to do so.
- John’s vision revealed the worship in heaven that happens now and will happen.
- Christ is worshiped day and night as creatures and elders declare His holiness.
- God receives glory from our worship.
- We will worship Him in eternity and He will be glorified by our worship.
- Eternity brings God glory because it reveals His holiness, power, and might.

Why did God give eternity? (*Eternity brings Him glory.*)

3. 2 Timothy 2:10: *Jesus’ glory is eternal. He is eternal and eternity is for His glory.*

# STORY: NEW CREATION

## GOD IS FOREVER

### HOOKS



KNOW

#### For God's Glory

Divide the children into small groups and give each group a Bible. Give each group a verse to look up and ask the children to read the verse to the class. Talk with the children about how everything that God does, He does for His glory. He gives eternity for His glory. Lead them in a discussion about the ways we can bring Him glory now and in eternity.



DO

- In John's vision, he saw creatures and elders praising God.
- We can give God glory now by praising Him. We can give Him glory by obeying Him and following His commands.



FEEL

#### The Beginning of the End

Use masking tape to create a line from one side of the room to the next. Ask the children to take turns walking on the line. Ask the children to return to the beginning of the line and then walk to the end. Once every child has a chance to walk the line, lead them in a discussion about how God has no beginning and end. He is the beginning and end of all things.



WANT

- God is eternal and always has been.
- We have a beginning and we'll have an end, but God does not.
- He is our beginning and end because He is the Creator and Ruler of all.