

# GOD OFFERS ETERNAL LIFE

STORY: NEW CREATION / YEAR: ETERNITY

## BIG TRUTH: GOD OFFERS ETERNAL LIFE

John 3:36; 5:24; 6:40; 10:27-30; Romans 10:11-13; 1 John 5:11-13

## BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 3:16

*“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”*

## BIG IDEAS

- God loves everyone He has created.
- In His overflowing love, God sacrificed His beloved Son for rebellious sinners.
- Anyone and everyone who places their faith in Jesus will be saved.
- God’s gift of salvation is eternally endless.

## BIBLE STORY: LUKE 23:32-43

Jesus was crucified alongside two other criminals. One of the criminals who was crucified ridiculed Jesus and rejected Him. The other criminal believed Jesus is who He said He was and that criminal was saved. God loves the people He created and He sent salvation to all the world.

## 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:

- Through Jesus, we can have new, true, eternal, abundant life in God



### Every child should feel:

- Excitement for the opportunity to live eternally with God



### Every child should:

- Talk about how this life will pass away, but eternal life in God is forever



### Every child should want:

- To live for eternity rather than what feels right in the moment

## FAMILY DEVOTION: ALL WHO BELIEVE

Each person is created by God, and Jesus’ death fully paid the sin debt of every person ever created. Salvation is available through Jesus to every person who believes.

**BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 3:16**

*“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”*

**All have sinned and are in need of salvation.**

- Every person born is born sinful.
- Because we are all born sinful, no one can save himself or herself.
- Our sin nature keeps us from living the perfect, sinless life that is required in order to pay our sin debt.
- There is no person who can do enough good works or be good enough to pay for his or her sin.

**God ordained that Jesus would die for all.**

- God determined from the beginning that Jesus would come to the earth to die for the sin of man.
- It was God’s plan to send Jesus to save the world from its sin because the world cannot save itself.
- The plan was always that Jesus would come to the earth and live a perfect life that He might be the perfect sacrifice for man’s sin.
- Jesus’ death paid in full the sin debt that man owed.

**All who believe in Jesus receive eternal life.**

- The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus.
- Because Jesus came to the earth and paid the sin debt of mankind, every person who believes in Jesus receives eternal life.
- This eternal life is the product of having one’s sins forgiven and the barrier preventing a relationship with God removed.
- Any person who repents of his sin and places his faith and trust in Jesus, receives eternal life with God in heaven.

**BIBLE STORY: LUKE 23:32-43****Opening Illustration:**

Give each child a copy of the “Jesus Makes All Things New” bookmark or allow them to cut it out themselves. Have them decorate their bookmarks with crayons, colored pencils or markers. Finished bookmarks can be mounted to colored cardstock strips or covered in clear Contact paper to make them more sturdy. As the children work, talk about how caterpillars are transformed into beautiful butterflies through the process of metamorphosis and we can be transformed (or made new) by believing in Jesus’ saving work on the cross for us.

**BIG IDEA: GOD LOVES EVERYONE HE HAS CREATED.<sup>1</sup>****God created every being and He loves every being.**

- God is the Creator of all things and every person.
- All life comes from God and is for His glory.
- God created everything and all that He created He declared good.
- God loves every person because He is love and His love is perfect.
- There is no one that God does not love.



Have the children define the word “love.” Ask all the children to share their definitions and then talk with them about how God loves all the people He has created.

**God’s love is not conditional.**

- God loves us even while we are sinners.
- His love does not depend upon our actions and behaviors.
- He loves us no matter what we do.
- We are all sinners and we all reject Him, yet He loves us enough to send His Son to pay our sin debt.

**God shows His love by offering salvation.**

- God showed His great love for all of the world by sending His Son to pay our sin debt.
- Jesus’ death on the cross fulfilled the sin debt for every person in the world who has ever lived and will ever live.
- God’s love is evident by His willing sacrifice of His only Son for sinners.
- God did not wait for mankind to become good or even to ask for salvation.
- He sent Jesus to save the world while man was still sinful.

*Whom does God love? (God loves everyone He has created.)*

1. 1 John 4:10: God loves the entire world. He loves all of His creation and sent His Son to die for man.

## BIG IDEA: IN HIS OVERFLOWING LOVE, GOD SACRIFICED HIS BELOVED SON FOR REBELLIOUS SINNERS.<sup>2</sup>

### God showed love to man when man did not deserve it.

- God's love is perfect and right.
- He loves all of mankind even though every person is born sinful and rejects God.
- God shows His love for man even while man rebels against God and chooses to follow His own way instead of following God's way.
- God loves even those who reject Him.

### God sent Jesus to die for sinners, not saints.

- Jesus didn't come to the earth to die for perfect people.
- He came to the earth to die for the lost. He died for those who cannot save themselves.
- Jesus lived the perfect life because no person can live a perfect life.
- Jesus died on the cross because no person is perfect and without sin, and therefore, no person can pay his or her sin debt.



Have the children share a time when they have experienced forgiveness for some disobedience that they did towards their parents. Help the children see that God offers salvation to us when we do not deserve it because He loves us.

*What caused God to send Jesus to die for the world? (His love for everyone and man's inability to pay his own sin debt.)*

2. Romans 5:8: God shows His love by sending His only Son to die for us while we are sinners.

## BIG IDEA: ANYONE AND EVERYONE WHO PLACES HIS OR HER FAITH IN JESUS WILL BE SAVED.<sup>3</sup>

### Those who reject Jesus will receive God's wrath.

- All those who end their lives on earth rejecting God will experience His wrath for all of eternity.
- God's wrath is just and right because man has sinned against a righteous God.
- Anyone who does not believe in Jesus and the work He did on the cross will enter into eternity under God's wrath.



Ask the children to draw a picture of what they think eternal life looks like or will feel like. Allow the children to share their pictures and then remind them that belief in Jesus yields eternal life.

### Those who repent and believe will be forgiven.

- All those who recognize their sinfulness and their need for Jesus as their Savior, will receive eternal life with Jesus.
- Those who understand their need for salvation and repent of their sinfulness will have their sins forgiven.
- People who repent and believe in Jesus will no longer be under the wrath of God.
- Instead, they will be under His grace and mercy and will be free from the punishment that their sin requires.

### Belief in Jesus yields eternal life with Him.

- Every person will experience either eternal life or eternal death after physical death.
- Belief in Jesus means that a person will receive the gift of eternal life with Jesus in Heaven.
- When a person repents of his or her sin and believes in Jesus, his or her sin is forgiven always and the barrier separating him or her from God is removed.
- This makes it possible for a person to live forever in Heaven with God.

*How does a person receive eternal life? (When a person repents of his or her sin and believes in Jesus, he or she receives eternal life in Heaven.)*

3. John 3:36: Whoever believes in the Son receives eternal life and forgiveness for sins.

**BIG IDEA: GOD'S GIFT OF SALVATION IS ETERNALLY ENDLESS.<sup>4</sup>****God's salvation of man is complete.**

- When Jesus died on the cross, His death was sufficient for every person's sin debt.
- When Jesus died, his death paid the sin debt in full and made it possible for mankind to be forgiven.
- God's salvation is not partial salvation. Man's sin is completely and fully paid for through the death of Jesus.
- Once man places his faith in Jesus, he no longer owes a sin debt because it has been paid in full.



Ask the children to share about a time when they have lost something valuable to them. Remind them that our salvation cannot be lost. God's gift of salvation is forever.

**God's salvation of man is forever.**

- When Jesus died on the cross, the death He died was enough to pay man's sin debt forever.
- Even though people still struggle against their sin nature while they are on earth, their sin is forgiven them.
- God's salvation of man is for always.
- Man cannot lose his salvation because God has paid it in full and completely.

**Those who believe cannot lose their salvation.**

- All those who God has saved are saved forever.
- No person can repent and believe in Jesus and then lose that forgiveness.
- God does not remove the work that Jesus did on the cross.
- Jesus' work on the cross was sufficient, and God considers the sin debt of mankind paid in full.
- Now when a person repents of his sin and believes in Jesus, that forgiveness is applied to him or her.

*Is eternal life forever? (God's gift of salvation and eternal life is forever and always.)*

4. Hebrews 7:25: Jesus saves to the uttermost because He is the perfect sacrifice for all.

## HOOKS

**Only Belief**

Divide the children into small groups or pairs. Assign each group or pair one of the following words to define: faith, belief, sin, repentance, forgiveness, and eternal life. Ask the groups to write their own definition of these words and then allow the groups to share their definitions. Once every child has shared, talk with the children about how anyone who believes in Jesus receives eternal life.



- Because we've all sinned, we are all in need of salvation.
- God sent Jesus to live the perfect life and to die on the cross for us.
- Anyone who repents of his or her sin and believes in Jesus receives eternal life.
- Because of Jesus, our sins are forgiven and we can have that forgiveness when we place our belief in Jesus.

**Rebellious No More**

Have the children write down some of the sins they struggle with on strips of paper. Connect the strips together using a stapler or tape. Stretch the paper chain across the room to show the children. Next, have the children find their particular chain and break it from the rest of them. Talk with the children about how God sent His Son to save us even while we were rebellious.

- God loves us and He loves us no matter what. His love is not conditional.
- God sent Jesus to die for us even while we were rebellious and rejecting Him.
- When we repent and believe in Jesus, we are no longer seen as rebellious and sinful.

