

# EVERY PERSON WILL SPEND ETERNITY SOMEWHERE

STORY: NEW CREATION

## BIG TRUTH: EVERY PERSON WILL SPEND ETERNITY SOMEWHERE

Isaiah 66:22-24; John 3:36; Romans 2:6-11; 5:12-21; 6:23; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 6:7-8; Revelation 21:4-8

## BIBLE VERSE: MATTHEW 25:46

“And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

## BIG IDEAS

- God created us in His image to be eternal beings.
- Sin leads not only to physical death, but also to spiritual death.
- Anyone and everyone who dies in their sin will be separated from God forever.
- Only those who place saving faith in Jesus will live forever with God.
- The beauty of eternal life is that it is an eternity spent in the presence of God.

## BIBLE STORY: LUKE 16:19-31

Jesus’ parable of the rich man and the poor man, Lazarus reveals the truth that every person will face judgment and every person will spend eternity somewhere—either in Heaven with God or in hell away from God.

## 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: TO LIVE FOREVER

Every person will face the judgment of God. Those who have believed in Jesus will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. Those who have rejected Him will spend eternity in hell away from God.

# EVERY PERSON WILL SPEND ETERNITY SOMEWHERE

## BIBLE VERSE: MATTHEW 25:46

*“And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”*

---

### Judgment will come to all the world.

- God’s judgment is just and righteous.
- His judgment will come to the world.
- There will be no person who escapes the judgment of God because He is all-powerful and the Ruler of all things.
- Every person will be held accountable for their response to Jesus, God’s sacrifice on our behalf.
- No one will be able to pass by God’s judgment.

### Those who have rejected Jesus will spend eternity in eternal punishment.

- Every person will face God’s judgment. Every person will be held responsible for his or her response to Jesus.
- People will face eternal punishment if they stand before God at the end of their life having rejected Jesus.
- Eternal punishment cannot be undone. It is final and forever.
- Eternal punishment means that those who have rejected God will spend all of eternity dying.

### Those who believe in Jesus will spend eternity with Him in Heaven.

- Those who have not rejected Jesus, but have believed in Him, will have eternal life.
- They will live forever in perfection with God.
- There will be no more sin, hurt, or sorrow. Instead, they will spend their eternity praising Jesus and living in harmony with one another.

## BIBLE STORY: LUKE 16:19-31

---

### Opening Illustration:

Bring in several different colored pom-poms. Divide the children into small groups and toss the pom-poms all together onto the floor. Have the groups race one another to gather a specific color of pom-pom. For example, one team will gather only red pom-poms. Once they are finished, talk with them about how God offers us a new relationship through Jesus and adopts us into His family, which brings us peace.

# EVERY PERSON WILL SPEND ETERNITY SOMEWHERE

## BIG IDEA: GOD CREATED US IN HIS IMAGE TO BE ETERNAL BEINGS.<sup>1</sup>

### All people are created in God's image to live forever.

- When God created us, He created us to be eternal beings.
- After Adam and Eve sinned, God cursed man to die a physical death.
- Sin also causes man to be spiritually dead.
- Man's soul is eternal and will experience eternity somewhere.
- We reflect God's image because we are created to be eternal beings since God is an eternal being.



Have the children make a list of things that last forever. After they attempt to make a list of things, remind them that God made us to be eternal. Only our souls live forever. Everything else passes away.

### All people are created with an imperishable soul.

- Though our physical bodies will pass away, our souls will live forever.
- When we enter eternity, our souls will either live with God forever, or suffer eternal punishment in hell. They will not die.
- Every person has an imperishable, or eternal soul.
- Our soul is the essence of who we are and it will live forever in heaven or hell.

### Because of sin, our physical bodies die.

- A consequence of our sin is the death of our physical bodies.
- Sin destroys life and leaves us spiritually dead.
- Because sin separates us from God, we are separated from our source of life.
- Our physical bodies begin dying the day we are born. They are not eternal and do not last forever.

*How did God create us? (He created us in His image to be eternal.)*

1. Ecclesiastes 12:7: *Our flesh will return to dust, but our souls are eternal.*

# EVERY PERSON WILL SPEND ETERNITY SOMEWHERE

## BIG IDEA: SIN LEADS NOT ONLY TO PHYSICAL DEATH, BUT ALSO TO SPIRITUAL DEATH.<sup>2</sup>

### Sin destroys our physical bodies.

- God's perfect creation broke when sin entered the world.
- Everything in the world began to die including our physical bodies.
- God had created us to live forever, but once sin entered the heart of man, God's judgment brought death to our physical bodies.
- Sin destroys our bodies with disease, destructive behaviors, and age.
- Our physical bodies do not last forever because sin has broken them.



Help the children create a comic strip retelling the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. Remind them that our sin leads us to physical and spiritual death.

### Sin makes us spiritually dead.

- Because every person is born with a sin nature, every person is born spiritually dead.
- God is our source of physical and spiritual life.
- Because sin separates us from God, we are born spiritually dead.
- We have no life apart from God. We only have a shell of an existence.
- Our sin leads us even farther away from God and toward eternal punishment.

### Sin leads to our spiritual destruction.

- Sin not only leaves us spiritually dead, but it leads to our spiritual destruction.
- Because of sin, we are led away from God and toward our own sinful desires.
- We seek to please ourselves, which leads to even further alienation from God.
- Our sin ruins our relationships with others and leads us to serve Satan.

What does sin lead to? (It leads to physical and spiritual death.)

2. Matthew 10:28: We do not have to fear the death of our bodies because they are not eternal.

# EVERY PERSON WILL SPEND ETERNITY SOMEWHERE

## BIG IDEA: ANYONE AND EVERYONE WHO DIES IN THEIR SIN WILL BE SEPARATED FROM GOD FOREVER.<sup>3</sup>

### The wages of our sin is spiritual death.

- The result of man's sin is that death entered the world.
- Because of sin, everything dies.
- The earth and all that is in it dies.
- People die because of sin.
- Death is a consequence of sin and the result of man's continued sin.
- Man's spiritual death is the result of sin. Because of man's sin, man is separated from God who is the source of all life.

### Anyone who does not receive the salvation offered rejects spiritual life.

- We only have life when we are in Christ.
- When we receive Christ, we receive spiritual life.
- Our dead spiritual life is resurrected as we're given new life in Christ.
- When we do not receive Christ, we remain spiritually dead.
- Christ is the only source of true physical and spiritual life.

### Rejection of spiritual life leads to eternal destruction.

- When someone ends life here on earth having rejected Christ, their eternity is eternal damnation.
- Eternal damnation means that they will spend eternity, or forever, being punished for their rejection of the truth and the only source of life.
- The only way for someone to have life is through Jesus.

What does sin lead to? (It leads to eternal separation from God.)

3. Romans 6:23: The wages of sin is death.

# EVERY PERSON WILL SPEND ETERNITY SOMEWHERE

## BIG IDEA: ONLY THOSE WHO PLACE SAVING FAITH IN JESUS WILL LIVE FOREVER WITH GOD.<sup>4</sup>

### Jesus offers salvation to the world.

- Jesus came to the earth to give salvation to a fallen and broken world.
- Jesus came to the world to live the perfect life that whoever believes in Him might have salvation.
- Jesus died in our place so that anyone who believes in Him might have eternal life.
- Jesus lived the life that we could not, and died the death that we deserve, to offer us forgiveness and eternal life.



Play a game of Simon Says with the children. Remind the children that the only way to have eternal life is through faith in Jesus.

### The only way to have eternal life is to know Jesus.

- Jesus is the only way to have eternal life.
- Because God is our source of life, when we are separated from Him, we are separated from life.
- In order to be near to God and to have access to Him, we must believe in Jesus.
- God sent Jesus to be the way that we might come to Him.
- Jesus is the only way for a person to know God and to be part of God's family.

### Jesus gives salvation through His death.

- Because Jesus died on the cross, we have an opportunity for salvation.
- Jesus' death makes a way for us to have life through Him.
- Because His death fulfilled our sin debt, when we repent and believe in Him, we can have life.
- It is only through Jesus' death that we can have salvation.
- We cannot be saved in any other way.

*How can a person have eternal life? (Only those who believe in Jesus can have eternal life.)*

4. 1 John 5:13: Those who believe in Jesus have eternal life through Him.

# EVERY PERSON WILL SPEND ETERNITY SOMEWHERE

**BIG IDEA: THE BEAUTY OF ETERNAL LIFE IS THAT IT IS AN ETERNITY SPENT IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD.<sup>5</sup>**

**Those who follow Christ will receive eternal life in Heaven.**

- All those who believe in Jesus will receive life forever with Him in our heavenly home.
- Eternal life means that the person who believes gets to spend all of eternity with Jesus.
- Being with Jesus means being with the source of all life.
- Eternity means being in the presence of God, never having to be separated from Him again.



Give the children a piece of paper and watercolors. Ask the children to use watercolors to paint a picture of what they think being in the presence of God forever is like. Allow the children to share their pictures. Remind them that when we receive eternal life, we receive life with God forever.

**Eternal life means an eternity with God.**

- Because Jesus is the only way to draw near to God, spending eternity with Him means spending eternity with God.
- When we receive eternal life through Jesus, we are receiving an eternity spent with God.
- Eternal life means that the separation caused by sin will be no more.
- Not only will we be with God spiritually, but we will also be in His presence physically.

**Jesus gives salvation through His death.**

- Because Jesus died on the cross, we have an opportunity at salvation.
- Jesus' death makes a way for us to have life through Him.
- Because His death fulfilled our sin debt, when we repent and believe in Him, we can have life.
- It is only through Jesus' death that we can have salvation.
- We cannot be saved in any other way.

*What is the beauty of eternal life? (The beauty of eternal life is that we get to be in God's presence forever.)*

5. Revelation 3:5: Eternity for the one who believes is eternity with Jesus forever.

# EVERY PERSON WILL SPEND ETERNITY SOMEWHERE

## HOOKS



### Eternity With God

Divide the children into groups and ask each group to look up and read the following verses: John 10:28-30, Proverbs 8:35, and 1 John 2:17. Ask the children to share what the verses say and then lead them in a discussion about what eternal life with God will be like.



- When we receive eternal life, we receive eternity with God.
- We get to be in God's presence forever.
- Nothing can snatch us away from God, and when we are in eternity with Him, we will always be in His presence.



### A Tale Of Two Choices

Ask the children to role-play the parable of the rich man and the poor man, Lazarus. Ask the children to describe the two choices the men made and how those choices affected their eternities. Lead the children in a discussion about how we all have a choice of how we will respond to Jesus.



- We are all faced with a choice of how we will respond to Jesus.
- We can choose to believe in Him and have eternal life with God, or we can choose to reject Him and have eternal punishment.