

ETERNITY CHANGES THE WAY WE LIVE TODAY

STORY: NEW CREATION

BIG TRUTH: ETERNITY CHANGES THE WAY WE LIVE TODAY

Psalms 119:36-37; Matthew 6:19-21; Mark 8:35; Romans 8:12-17; 13:12-14; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 John 2:15-17

BIBLE VERSE: COLOSSIANS 3:2-4

"Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory."

BIG IDEAS

- Jesus is life.
- We live for Jesus and die to ourselves.
- We live for Jesus' glory when we live in light of eternity.
- Jesus is coming again soon.

BIBLE STORY: MATTHEW 25:14-28

Three servants were entrusted with a number of talents from their master. They were given talents according to their ability. Each of the servants responded to their talents differently and were rewarded accordingly.

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: FOR GOD'S GLORY

When we know Jesus, we understand that seeking His glory is the greatest purpose we can fulfill. Our lives are lived differently when we seek to glorify God instead of ourselves.

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Those who have believed in Jesus live with a new perspective.

- When we have saving faith in Jesus, our lives are transformed from sinful people to redeemed and righteous people.
- Everything about our lives changes because Jesus transforms us.
- Instead of being enslaved to our sinful passions and lusts, we are controlled and guided by the Holy Spirit.
- The lens through which we see the world around us changes because the righteousness of Jesus has been applied to us and we are no longer living for ourselves.
- We see our sin differently and we see eternity differently.

Knowing Jesus means we no longer live for ourselves.

- When we have saving faith in Jesus, our hearts have been enlightened to the truth of why we were created and for whom we were created.
- When we know Jesus, we see the world through a Godly perspective and we understand that we are created to glorify God.
- In order to bring God glory, we can no longer live for ourselves.
- Instead, we live for Jesus, setting aside our own fleshly desires.
- When we know Jesus, our hearts are connected to Him and we long to be with Him again. This changes our perspective and causes us to desire to live for Him.

When we live for Jesus, we serve Him.

- God saves us for more than just freedom from our sin.
- He saves us to be used by Him to show His glory to the world around us.
- When we are living for Jesus, we will serve Him by obeying His commands and sharing the gospel with the world.
- When we live for Jesus, we will live like He lived and that means we will be servants.
- Our lives change and we are no longer enslaved to our sin, but we become slaves to Jesus.

BIBLE STORY: MATTHEW 25:14-28

Opening Illustration:

Make a “Pearl of Great Price” by folding a small white paper plate in half. Using paint, crayons or markers color the outside of the plate gray and the inside pink to resemble an oyster. Glue a copy of the Bible verse for the week inside the oyster along with a small white bead as the pearl. After the children finish making their oysters, help them think of the different things that God offers us in place of our sin, such as joy instead of emptiness, a new eternity instead of our sinful life, etc. Lead the children in a discussion about how God offers us many things that are better and perfect compared to our sinful choices.

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BIG IDEA: JESUS IS LIFE.¹

All things are from God.

- Because God is the beginning of all things, all things come from Him.
- He is the Creator of all things and He is the Ruler over all.
- Our physical life on earth comes from God. He is life and He gives life to all things.
- He also sustains all living things. It is through His power and by His will that life continues on this earth.

We are first given life on earth from God.

- God breathes life into our lungs because He is our Creator.
- We cannot give ourselves life and we do not get life from some other source.
- Only God can bring things to life because He is the one true God.
- When we are born, it is God who allows us to be conceived and speaks life into our bodies.
- We breathe because God brings breath into our lungs.
- We continue to live on the earth because God sustains us and gives us all that we need to have life on earth.

We find eternal life in God also.

- The only way for us to have eternal life in Heaven is through God.
- Because we all sin against God, we all owe a sin debt.
- The wage of our sin debt is that we will have eternal death.
- When we know God by believing in Jesus, we receive eternal life.
- Instead of being separated from God, we are united with Him forever.
- It is through Jesus that we are given new life when our sins are forgiven and we receive eternal life with Him.

Where is life found? (Life is only found in Jesus.)



DO

Play a game of musical beanbag with the children. The child left holding the beanbag when the music stops gets to name something that helps people live on the earth, such as the sun. When you've played several times, remind the children that we have life because God gives us life and sustains our life.

1. John 11:25-26: When we believe in Jesus, we die to ourselves and we find new life in Jesus.

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BIG IDEA: WE LIVE FOR JESUS AND DIE TO OURSELVES.²

Anyone who lives for Jesus must die to self.

- Our human nature is sinful and set on pleasing ourselves.
- When we believe in Jesus and receive forgiveness, we are transformed into new beings.
- Even though we are transformed, we are still living on the earth and we still struggle with our human nature.
- In order for us to live for Jesus, we must set aside our own human desires and submit to the leading of the Holy Spirit inside of us.
- When we do this, we are following Jesus and choosing His way over our own.



FEEL

Help the children think of ways they can serve one another and others around them. Remind the children that when we live for Jesus, we serve Him by serving others.

When we live for Jesus, we set aside our own desires daily.

- We are born living for ourselves.
- Because of our sin nature, we do not seek God and we do not seek to please anyone but ourselves.
- Even when it seems that we are being compassionate towards someone else, our motives are sinful and selfish.
- When we believe in Jesus and our lives change, we are drawn by His Spirit to live for a greater purpose.
- In order to live for this greater purpose, we must actively set aside the fleshly desires that once controlled us.
- We no longer seek to please ourselves or to make ourselves happy.

Living for Jesus means serving Him.

- We live for Jesus by seeking to be like Him.
- Jesus lived as a servant to the world.
- He did not come to be served, but to serve others.
- When we live for Him, we will serve Him by serving others.
- We will set aside our wants and desires and place the desires of others before our own.

What does it mean to live for Jesus? (Living for Jesus means dying to ourselves and serving Him by serving others.)

2. Mark 8:35: When we give up our life for Jesus, we find everlasting life.

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BIG IDEA: WE LIVE FOR JESUS' GLORY WHEN WE LIVE IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY.³

Those who know Jesus seek His glory.

- The transformation that occurs in our hearts when we believe in Jesus changes our desires.
- Before we know Jesus, we are consumed with our own desires.
- We please ourselves and seek to make ourselves known in this world.
- After we know Jesus, our lives are so changed, that we seek His will and His glory.
- To live for Jesus means to become more like Him and we become more like Him by knowing Him.
- As we know Him more and more everyday, we desire for Him to be glorified in all the earth.
- When we understand that this life is not forever, we begin to live for our eternal home.



DO

Divide the children into pairs or small groups and ask them to make a list of ways that we can seek Jesus' glory on this earth. Remind them that when we live for Jesus, we seek His glory.

When we live for our eternal home, we seek to bring Jesus glory here.

- Our perspective changes when we are transformed by Jesus.
- Instead of living for the here and now, we understand that this earthly life is passing quickly and it isn't forever.
- When we grow in our relationship with Jesus, we live for our future home.
- When we live for our future home, we seek to please Jesus and to make His name known here on earth.

Living for Jesus means living for eternity.

- When our lives are transformed, the things of this earth no longer hold the same joy to us that they once did.
- We do not find fulfillment in the things of this world like we once did.
- Instead, we begin seeking better and greater things, which are found in our eternal home.
- Living for Jesus does this to us. We live for our eternal home and not for this life.
- We understand that there is something better than what this earth has to offer.

When we live for eternity, what do we seek? (We seek Jesus' glory and we live to glorify Him.)

3. Colossians 3:2: When we live for Jesus, we set our minds on the things above and not on things on the earth.

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BIG IDEA: JESUS IS COMING AGAIN SOON.⁴

Jesus will return to the earth one day.

- When Jesus ascended into Heaven, He promised to return one day.
- Jesus always keeps His promises and His followers can rest in the truth that He will indeed return one day.
- When we know Jesus, we live for this day when He does return to the earth.
- Jesus will return to the earth and His glory will fill the earth.
- Everyone will know that He is the one true God who died for their sin.



DO

Share with the children a time when you were expecting a guest to come to your house. Share how you prepared for your guest. Talk with the children about how those who follow Jesus should live each day ready for Him to come again.

Jesus' second coming will be to gather His followers.

- When Jesus returns to the earth, He will gather those who have believed in Him who are still alive and those who have already passed away.
- His followers will be united together as His family and will never be separated again.
- Jesus' second coming will be when His followers are joined with Him for all of eternity.
- The faith that people have lived by will become sight.

When Jesus returns, He will judge those who rejected Him.

- Jesus' second coming will also mean that all those who have rejected Him will be judged.
- Those people who denied Jesus and didn't believe in Him will receive their eternal punishment and destruction.
- Just like the master returned to his servants, Jesus will return to this earth.
- Those who have believed in Him will be united with Him in victory. Those who have rejected Him will be ushered into eternal separation from Him.

Who is coming again? (Jesus is coming to the earth again.)

4. Hebrews 9:28: Jesus will return to the earth one day and His name will be known by all.

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HOOKS



A Charade

Play a game of charades with the children. Use pictures of different animals or simple activities as the charades. Once the children have played, lead them in a discussion about what it means to live for Jesus.



- When we play charades, we are pretending to be something else. We act in a different way than what we normally do.
- When we know Jesus, we live a different life.
- We don't live for this life. Instead, we live for our eternal life and we live to please Jesus.



Glory, Glory

Divide the children into pairs and give each pair a piece of paper and craft supplies. Ask the pairs to create a collage or picture of what they think Jesus' glory looks like. Allow the pairs to share their pictures and then lead them in a discussion about how Jesus' followers live for His glory.



- When we know Jesus, we live for our eternal home.
- When we live for our eternal home, we live for Jesus' glory.
- When we live for Jesus' glory, we are seeking daily to obey Him and to make Him known in all the earth.