

# GOD OFFERS THE PROMISE OF ETERNITY WITH HIM

STORY: NEW CREATION / YEAR: KINGDOM

## BIG TRUTH: GOD OFFERS THE PROMISE OF ETERNITY WITH HIM

Revelation 21:1-4; 22:5; Isaiah 11:6-10; 65:17-25; Matthew 25:41-46; John 10:28-30; Romans 6:20-23; 1 John 5:11-13; Ezekiel 37:25

## 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 created us to live for eternity.
- Only those who place their faith in Jesus have eternal life.
- The hope of eternal life is eternity with God.
- Those who are given eternal life are known by their fruit.

## BIBLE STORY: MATTHEW 7:15-27

Through Jesus, God made a way for those who repent and believe to have eternal life with Him in heaven. Not everyone in this world will follow Christ, only those who have placed their faith and trust in God's Son, Jesus. When we build our lives on the only solid foundation, Jesus, our reward is spending eternity with 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:**

- God is making all things new



**Every child should:**

- Thank God for fixing what sin has broken and making a new creation



**Every child should feel:**

- Wonder at how God takes the brokenness of creation and makes it new



**Every child should want:**

- To see creation be made new by God

## FAMILY DEVOTION:

### THE WISE MAN AND THE FOOLISH MAN

We have the hope of eternal life with Jesus in heaven when we are like the wise man who built his house on the rock, which is Jesus. When we are like the foolish man who built his house on the sand, we will not spend eternity with Jesus. God offers us an eternity with Him if we repent and believe in His Son.

# GOD OFFERS THE PROMISE OF ETERNITY WITH HIM

## 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."*

### God loves the world.

- John's statement of God's love for the world shows that salvation through Christ is for everyone, not just the Jews.
- Prior to John's statement, the Old Testament had spoken of God's love for His people, Israel, but now John is showing that God loves the world.
- God's love for the world is perfect and right.
- God's love for the world is everlasting and unconditional.
- The world does nothing to earn or deserve God's love.
- God loves the world because He chooses to love it.
- The world needs God's love because of sin.
- Every person is lost and broken because of sin, but through His love, God made a way for mankind to have eternal life with Him.

### God shows His love by sending His Son.

- God's love is more than a feeling; it is an action.
- God shows His love for the world by willingly sending His Son to die for the world.
- This sacrifice is the greatest and shows the depth of God's love for the world.
- God sent His Son so that anyone who believes in Him could have eternal life with God in heaven.
- God's offer of salvation through Jesus is extended to anyone who will believe.

### God sent Jesus to give eternal life to those who believe.

- God promised to rescue mankind when He sent Adam and Eve out of the Garden.
- He fulfilled that promise by sending His Son to live a sinless life on this earth.
- He sent Jesus to be the perfect sacrifice for our sins.
- Jesus' life, death, and resurrection give eternal life to those who repent and believe in Him.

## BIBLE STORY: MATTHEW 7:15-27

*The Wise Man and the Foolish Man*

### 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.

# GOD OFFERS THE PROMISE OF ETERNITY WITH HIM

## BIG IDEA: GOD CREATED US TO LIVE FOR ETERNITY.<sup>1</sup>

### God is eternal and He created man to be eternal.

- God is eternal. He has no beginning and no end.
- He has always existed and will always exist.
- God created man with eternity in his heart.
- When we sinned, death entered the world and sin entered our hearts.

### God created man for His glory.

- Man was not created for his own enjoyment, or to fulfill his dreams.
- We were created for God's glory.
- All things exist for God's glory because all things were created by God for God.
- We were created to be with God forever.
- Our sin caused us to be separated from God, but God made a way for us to be with Him again.

### We glorify God by living for eternity and not the present.

- It is easy for us to set our eyes on this world and live for the present.
- We are not created to live for the present world. We are created to live for eternity.
- It is easy to become like the foolish man who built his house on the sand.
- When we build our lives around this world and our own happiness, we are like the foolish man.
- We bring God glory when we live for our eternity and seek to please Him.

*Why did God create us? (He created us to live for eternity.)*



Bring in several small objects that have a clear purpose, such as a can opener, key, flashlight, headphones, etc. Place the objects in a bag and have one child at a time come to the front of the room and pull out an object. See if the child can guess the purpose of the object. Continue until all of the objects have been shown. Explain to the children that just like each object they saw has a specific purpose, God created us with a specific purpose as well. He created us to live for eternity and bring Him glory.

1. Revelation 3:5: We are created to live for an eternity with God. This eternal life is forever.

# GOD OFFERS THE PROMISE OF ETERNITY WITH HIM

**BIG IDEA: ONLY THOSE WHO PLACE THEIR FAITH IN JESUS HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.<sup>2</sup>**

**Jesus is the only way to eternal life in heaven.**

- All people are sinful and unable to save themselves.
- Because all people are sinful and unable to save themselves, no person is able to save someone else.
- Only the perfect sacrifice could save us.
- Jesus came as a man, lived a perfect life, and died for the sin of the world.
- He is the person who can save us from our sin.
- He is the only path to eternal life in heaven.



Lead the children on a “trust walk” by blindfolding them and leading them around the room or through an obstacle course. Remind them that faith is trusting completely in Jesus.

**Placing our faith in Jesus means repenting of our sin and believing that Jesus died for us.**

- Faith is a complete trust in someone or something.
- Faith in Jesus means completely trusting that He lived a perfect life as a man, died on the cross, and rose again on the third day.
- It means trusting completely that He is the only person who could pay our sin debt and He fully atoned for our sin.
- When we completely believe in the work that Jesus did on the cross, we understand our need to turn away from our sin.
- Repentance is turning away from your sin and following after Jesus.

**When we have faith in Jesus, we build our life upon Him.**

- Jesus is the rock that we build our lives upon.
- When we build our lives upon Him, we seek to be like Him.
- We follow Him and trust that His ways are better than our ways.
- We trust that obedience to His Word is the best way to live and our lives look like His.

*What does it mean to have faith? (It means to trust in Jesus completely.)*

2. John 14:12: Jesus is the cornerstone of our faith. When we abide in Him, we do the works that He did.

# GOD OFFERS THE PROMISE OF ETERNITY WITH HIM

## BIG IDEA: THE HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE IS ETERNITY WITH GOD.<sup>3</sup>

### Eternal life with God produces everlasting joy.

- Eternal life with God means no separation from Him.
- When we reach eternity with God, we will enjoy complete union with Him.
- There will be no separation between the believer and God.
- This complete union produces joy that is everlasting.
- Everything in eternity is everlasting, so the joy we feel will last forever.
- This joy brings hope to believers while they endure this present world.

### Eternal life with God means we are surrounded by His full glory.

- God's glory is magnificent and mighty.
- No one on earth has seen the full glory of God because it would overwhelm him.
- When we receive eternal life with God, we will see His full glory.
- We will understand His complete holiness and live in His glory.
- This glory eclipses all sorrow and pain.
- We will feel only the joy of God's glory as we are united with Him in body and spirit.
- This glory brings hope to the believer while they endure this present world.



Bring in a bag of small stones, a container of sand, and a bottle of water. Pass one container to each child and ask the children to feel the stones and the sand. Next, pour water into the container of rocks and then into the sand. Ask the children how the water affected the rocks and the sand. Point out that the water caused the sand to change form, but not the rocks. When we build our faith on Jesus, we can always hope in a future eternity with God that will never change.

*What hope does eternity with God bring? (It brings hope of eternal joy and being in the full glory of God forever.)*

3. 2 Corinthians 4:17: *The affliction we face in this world will seem as nothing when we are in the presence of God and are surrounded by His full glory.*

# GOD OFFERS THE PROMISE OF ETERNITY WITH HIM

## BIG IDEA: THOSE WHO ARE GIVEN ETERNAL LIFE ARE KNOWN BY THEIR FRUIT.<sup>4</sup>

### God's people obey His commands.

- Following Jesus means we repent of our sins and follow Him.
- When we repent, we turn away from our old way of living with the power of God's Spirit.
- Our hearts change because they are made new.
- Our hearts desire the things that please God and we seek to do His will.
- We live to obey God because He loves us and we love Him.
- God rescues us from our sin so we may become like Him by obeying His commands.



Bring in several toy or plastic fruits. Write several behaviors that exhibit the fruit of the Spirit, such as being patient with a friend, being kind, etc. Hide the fruit around the room and explain to the children that they must find all of the fruit hidden in the room. When they've finished, have the children sit in a circle and show the fruit they found. Remind them that when we have eternal life in God, we bear fruit that shows we follow Him.

### God's people grow more like Him as they live for eternity with Him.

- As God's people obey His commands, they begin to become more like Him.
- They obey His commands because they understand they are made for eternity.
- They desire eternity with God and they seek to continually live in obedience to Him.
- When they live in obedience to God, the works they do are works that please God.
- These works, or fruit, are righteous because they are done through faith and the power of God's Spirit.

### The works God's people do for Him are eternal.

- Obeying God means working for eternity.
- Working for eternity means living and doing things that have eternal value.
- God's people invest in the things that are eternal or have eternal value.
- The fruit God's people bear here on earth is everlasting because it goes with them into eternity.

*How long does the fruit that God's people bear last? (It lasts forever.)*

*How are God's people able to bear good fruit? (They bear good fruit through the help of God's Spirit.)*

4. John 15:5: We are rescued from our sin so that we may please God by doing the works He's prepared for us.

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## HOOKS



### Foolish Man Sand Art

Give each child a blank piece of paper. Help the children use glue to create a design on their paper. Next, place the paper on a cookie tray. Gently sprinkle sand over the paper. Tap the paper to remove excess sand. Repeat for each child's paper. Once they all finish, lead them in a discussion about how the foolish man didn't build his house on the rock, but the wise man did.



- The foolish man built his house on the sand and it didn't last through the storms.
- The wise man built his house on the rock and it withstood the storms.
- Jesus is the rock that we should build our lives upon.



### Good Fruit/Bad Fruit

Write the words "Good Fruit" on a piece of paper and tape it to one side of the room. Write the words "Bad Fruit" on another piece of paper and tape it to the opposite side of the room. Explain to the children that they are going to stand in the middle of the room while you read an action that represents either fruit of the Spirit or bad fruit. They will decide which fruit best fits the statement by running to that side of the room. Statements could include "sharing your toys with a friend", "obeying your parents", or "talking poorly about another student at school". Remind the children that those who belong to Jesus show they are His by doing good things and bearing good fruit.



- Jesus gives us new hearts when we have saving faith in Him.
- The Spirit comes to live inside of us and helps us change to become like Jesus everyday.
- When we follow Jesus, we will do good works that reflect our new hearts and with the help of the Spirit, bear good fruit.