

SECTION

1.5

God Is Eternal



Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 1: Stacked for Eternity

What You'll Need: Easily stackable items

PREP: Ahead of time, gather items that are easy to stack (e.g., Legos, coins, paper clips, puzzle pieces, etc.). Make sure you have enough items for the activity below.

Place the stackable items in the middle of the table or on the floor.

STEP 1: Direct kids' attention to the stackable items, and tell them to imagine each item as one year. Ask each kid to make a stack that represents the number of years they have been alive. Encourage leaders to participate as well!

STEP 2: Compare the stacks to see who has the tallest and who has the smallest. Then ask the following questions:

- How tall do you think the stack would be for someone who lived to be 100 years old?
- How many items would you need to show the number of years in eternity?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- There are not enough items or enough room in the world to represent the years of eternity. We can't even count that high!
- God is eternal. He never had a beginning, and He has no end.

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that God is eternal.

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Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 2: What's the shelf life?

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What You'll Need: Food, sticky notes, 3 x 5 cards, pens or pencils

PREP: Gather food with expiration dates (e.g., milk, eggs, yogurt, peanut butter, soda). Place the food items on a table in the front of the room. Cover their expiration dates with sticky notes.

STEP 1: Tell kids that many food items have a date stamped on the container to let buyers know how long the product is good to eat. Direct their attention to the items on the table, and explain that each item has an expiration date hidden under a sticky note. Give each kid a 3 x 5 card and a pen or pencil. Encourage kids to guess the expiration date of each item.

After one minute, reveal the expiration date of each item to see which kid guessed the closest date for each one.

STEP 2: Ask the following questions:

- Why do food items go bad?
- What other items around the house eventually fall apart or wear out?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- God is eternal. He never had a beginning, and He has no end.
- After Adam and Eve sinned, all of God's creation began to wear out. Death entered the world, and all of God's creation would eventually die.
- Man is different from all of God's other creation. Even though our bodies will wear out, our souls—who we really are—will live forever.

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that God is eternal.

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Main Lesson (10 Minutes)

Option 1: Verse Sculptures

What You'll Need: Bible, Play-Doh® (Leader's Note: You can use sheets of blank paper instead if you are not able to print the handout.)

PREP: Bookmark a Bible to John 3:16.

STEP 1: Read or recite this week's memory verse, Psalm 90:2. Repeat the verse a second time, pausing after each phrase.

Share these key concepts:

- God is eternal. He has always been God.
- There was never a time God did not exist. He was there before He created the mountains, the earth—and everything else!

STEP 2: Ask kids to work in small groups. Give each group a container of Play-Doh, and give them three minutes to make a sculpture of creation described in Psalm 90:2. While groups work, sculpt a person out of Play-Doh.

STEP 3: After three minutes, have all the groups present their sculptures. Then, display the person you sculpted.

Share these key concepts:

- We had a beginning. We have not always been alive like God.
- Man is different from all of God's other creation. Even though our bodies will wear out, our souls—who we really are—will live forever.
- We will always be alive, but we have a choice whether we want to spend eternity with God in heaven or apart from Him in hell.

STEP 4: Ask a volunteer to read or quote John 3:16.

Share these key concepts:

- Eternal life begins when we trust Jesus Christ as Savior (John 3:16, John 5:24).
- But, God says that we can have eternal life, which means we can have life forever with God (John 3:16).

STEP 5: As the Spirit leads, share how we can have eternal life with God. Then follow up with Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.

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Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 2: Creative Verse Expression

What You'll Need: Bible, circular item, easel, whiteboard, dry erase markers (*Leader's Note: Larger clubs may divide into smaller groups to complete the activity.*)

PREP: Locate an item shaped like a circle (e.g., Hula-Hoop®, plain wreath). Make sure the item does not have a clear beginning or ending. Bookmark a Bible to John 3:16.

Step 1: Display the circular item, and call on a volunteer to examine the item in front of the class.

Ask the following questions:

- Where does the circle begin?
- Where does the circle end?

Step 2: Share these Key concepts:

- Like this circle, God has no beginning or no end.
- No one created God. He has always been alive, and He always will be alive.

Step 3: Read or recite this week's memory verse, Psalm 90:2. Repeat the verse a second time, pausing after each phrase.

Share these key concepts:

- God is eternal. He has always been God.
- There was never a time God did not exist. He was there before He created the mountains, the earth—and everything else!

Step 4: Draw a dot on the board and an arrow extending from the dot. Near the dot, write the year you were born. Near the middle of your arrow, draw another dot with an arrow extending in same direction. Write the year that most of your kids were born near the dot. Explain that the arrow represents our lives. Point out that even though there is a beginning point when we were born, there is not an end.

Share these key concepts:

- We had a beginning. We have not always been alive like God.
- Man is different from all of God's other creation. Even though our bodies will wear out, our souls—who we really are—will live forever.
- We will always be alive, but we have a choice whether we want to spend eternity with God in heaven or apart from Him in hell.

Step 5: Ask a volunteer to read or quote John 3:16.

Share these key concepts:

- Eternal life begins when we trust Jesus Christ as Savior (John 3:16, John 5:24).
- But, God says that we can have eternal life, which means we can have life forever with God (John 3:16).

STEP 6: As the Spirit leads, share how we can have eternal life with God. Follow up with Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.