Lesson 4: God Is Eternal

Overview:

Key Focus: God is relational and offers eternal life through relationship with Jesus.

Bible Story: Adam and Eve

Scriptures: Genesis 2:7, 21–22, 3:1–8; Romans 5:19–21; 1 John 5:10–12

Memory Verse: Romans 6:23 (NKJV) For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Prep:

Materials Needed:

- Uninflated balloon
- Wrapped gift with a note inside, "God gives us the gift of eternal life!"

Engage:

Where have you seen balloons? (Possible answers: birthday parties, fairs, celebrations) Hold up the uninflated balloon. **What could I do with this uninflated balloon?** (Possible answers: nothing, snap someone with it, use it to tie something) **This balloon is not very exciting the way it is. What is missing to make this balloon better?** (Someone needs to blow it up.) Invite a volunteer or helper to blow up the balloon. **The balloon didn't have any air until someone blew their air into the balloon. It is almost like someone shared their breath to breathe life into the balloon. In today's Bible Story, we will learn about how God gave life and His plan for eternal life.**

Memory Verse Activity:
Display and read the verse together. Have the group stand in a large circle. Hand the wrapped gift to someone to pass to the left while the class says the verse. When the verse ends, the person holding the gift says the verse. Continue this process as time allows.

Memory Verse: Romans 6:23 (NKJV) For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Bible Story:

Read Genesis 2:7. **When God created humans, the Bible tells us that God "breathed" the breath of life into man. Have you seen how CPR is given?** (Allow responses.) **If someone stops breathing, another person can perform CPR on the person by plugging the nose and breathing into the person's mouth. The breath of the living person goes into the lungs of the other person. This can cause someone to start breathing again. When God formed Adam from the dust, he wasn't alive yet. God breathed the breath of life into Adam's lungs, and he became alive. God gave life to Adam, and since then, all humans have had the ability to breathe and have life.**

God was involved in creating humans and started the relationship with people by breathing life into Adam. Read Genesis 2:21–22. **God took a rib from Adam and formed Eve. Together, they walked and talked with God in the Garden of Eden. They enjoyed a wonderful, close relationship with God. We learned that sin came and ruined that wonderful relationship.**

Read Genesis 3:1–8. **What caused the relationship with God to be broken?** (Eve listened to the serpent. She and her husband ate the fruit God told them not to eat.) **God had wanted to stay in a relationship with the people He created, but their disobedience had a big consequence—they could no longer walk and talk with God in the Garden of Eden. God is holy, and Adam and Eve's sin broke the relationship with God. But God loved people and had the plan to fix the broken relationship through His Son, Jesus.**

Read Romans 6:23a. **The sin of Adam and Eve meant that all people were sinners and separated from God. The only way to solve the sin problem was for someone to die and pay the price of that sin. Jesus was sinless, and His death was the only way to pay for everyone's sins. Jesus died on the cross so we could be forgiven of our sins. Jesus did the hard job of dying so that we could have the easy job of believing and having our sins forgiven. When we**

put our faith in what Jesus did to remove our sins—and don't think we deserve or can do anything to remove our own sins—we get a gift from God!

Read Romans 6:23b. **Since sin isn't a problem anymore, God offers the gift of eternal life to everyone who receives forgiveness of sin through what Jesus already did.** Hold up the gift. **When I have a gift and give it to someone, what do they do to receive it?** (They simply take it.) Offer the gift to someone, let them unwrap it, and read the note "God gives us eternal life." **Jesus restored our relationship with God because sin no longer comes between God and us.** Lead the children to cheer for Jesus. **Eternal means forever, so eternal life means life forever. Let's look at two places in the Bible that explain how we get this amazing gift.**

Read Romans 5:19–21. **Whose disobedience originally made us sinners?** (Adam and Eve) **Whose obedience made things right again?** (Jesus) **What is the reward we get instead of death?** (eternal life)

Read 1 John 5:10–12. **What is the only way to receive eternal life?** (If you believe in the Son of God, you receive eternal life.) **Someday, when we don't have breath in our lungs anymore, life is over, and we die. That is the beginning of eternal life. If we believe in Jesus taking our sins away, we enter eternal life forever and ever with God and Jesus in heaven. If we don't believe in Jesus, eternal life means forever and ever separated away from God, far away from heaven. The Bible makes it very clear that people, who don't accept the free gift of forgiveness of their sins through Jesus, will go to hell. Everyone will spend eternity with God or without God. I want to be with Jesus and God in heaven, don't you?** Take time to pray with any children who haven't asked Jesus to forgive their sins. Stress that we don't accept the free gift only as a way to avoid hell but so that we will always be in a relationship with God.

Bible Story Questions:

- **What details does Genesis 3 give about man's creation**? (God formed man from the dust of the earth and breathed the breath of life into him.)
- **What does eternal life mean?** (life forever)
- **What are the only two places to spend eternal life?** (heaven or hell)
- **How do people get to spend eternity in heaven?** (People spend eternity in heaven by believing in Jesus and accepting His forgiveness of their sins.)
- **What do you think is the best part about eternal life?** (Answers will vary, but should include being with God and Jesus forever.)

Bible Story Activities:

Games:

- God gives us life. Acts 17:28a says, “For in Him we live and move and have our being.” Ask the children to suggest some movements to do, such as jumping jacks, crabwalk, or a dance movement, and write six of them on the board. Select a volunteer to roll the die or spinner and lead the group around the classroom doing that movement. Give a signal and have all the children freeze and say, “God, thank You for the gift of life and eternal life through Jesus.” Choose a new volunteer and continue the activity several times.

- Ideas for Working with Younger Kids:
  Take a skein of yarn. Cut it into several sizes and roll each cutting into a separate ball. One at a time, give a ball to a child to unroll. Explain that the yarn is like a person’s life. As the child unrolls the yarn, the children all chant, “Life, life, life.” When the child reaches the end of the yarn, everyone says, “Eternal life!” Continue until all children have participated.

Discussion:

- Ideas for Working with Older Kids:
  Lead a Bible study looking up verses about heaven and hell. Look up verses in a concordance and list verses to discuss. Guide the young people to see that eternal life is inevitable, but they must make a choice in this life about which eternity they will have.

Worksheet:
Have the children use the code to write Romans 6:23. Guide them to look up the verse in their Bibles to check their answers. On the back of their papers, have them draw a picture or write about where they will spend eternal life and what they will be doing.

Affirmation/Declaration:
God wants a relationship with me.
God offers eternal life through Jesus.

Make Connections:

Biblical Worldview Connection:
Today's lesson reiterates God's commitment to a relationship with people and His desire for us to join Him for eternal life in heaven. People who don't believe in God must deny an afterlife to avoid dealing with hell as the consequence of their actions. Because of our biblical worldview, we choose to live our lives following God’s ways. Encourage children to share with others that

the Bible says that believing in Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins is the only way to heaven and eternal life with God.

Missions Connections:
Many other religions believe people must earn their way to heaven by good deeds. Christianity is the only religion with a loving God who allowed His Son to die so people could have a relationship with Him and eternal life. Pray that people who are trying to earn their way to heaven will encounter the truth about Jesus and God's offer of eternal life.

Family Connection:
The fact that God offers people the choice to join Him in heaven reveals the goodness of God. Create an "eternal life" family celebration. Work together to make some decorations and fun snacks, such as "heavenly brownies." Write a family thank you note to God for giving life and eternal life.

Prayer Points:
Review Romans 6:23. If any children are ready to receive salvation, have the children pray:

Thank You, God, for wanting a relationship with me. Thank You, Jesus, for paying the price for my sin. Thank You, God, for the gift of eternal life. I choose to believe and receive Jesus' forgiveness for my sins. I accept the gift of eternal life. In Jesus' name, amen.

Name _____

Lesson 4: God Is Life

Solve the code by writing the letter that comes 2 letters BEFORE each letter. The first word has been done for you.

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

F o r ___ _____ __ ___ __ _____,

Hqt vjg ycigu qh ukp ku fgcvj,

___ ___ ____ __ ___ __ _____

dwv vjg ikhv qh Iqf ku gvgtpcn

____ __ ______ _____ ___ ____.

nkhg kp Ejtkuv Lgugu qwt Nqtf.

Romans 6:23 (NKJV)

BONUS: *On the back of this page, draw a picture or write about where you will spend your eternal life and what you will do.*

ANSWERS:

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Solve the code by writing the letter that comes 2 letters BEFORE each letter. The first word has been done for you.

y z a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x
a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

For the wages of sin is death,
Hqt vjg ycigu qh ukp ku fgcvj,

but the gift of God is eternal
dwv vjg ikhv qh Iqf ku gvgtpcn

life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
nkhg kp Ejtkuv Lgugu qwt Nqtf.

Romans 6:23 (NKJV)

BONUS: *On the back of this page, draw a picture or write about where you will spend your eternal life and what you will do.*

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