Lesson 5: Jesus Is the Eternal God

Overview:

Key Focus: Jesus is the first, last, and everything in between because He is eternal.

Bible Story: Jesus Gives John a Vision

Scriptures: John 1:1–3; Isaiah 48:12; Psalm 145:13; Isaiah 41:4; John 8:58; Matthew 24:35; Rev 1:17–18; Romans 6:23

Memory Verse: Revelation 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Prep:

Materials Needed:

- Hula hoops or something circular like a large ring or bracelet
- A variety of different size items that are circles

Classroom Prep:

- Print out or make the Greek letters for Alpha α and Omega Ω.

Engage:

Display the Greek letters for Alpha and Omega. **Alpha is the Greek letter for the beginning and looks like our beginning alphabet lower case letter a. Omega is the last Greek letter but doesn't look like our letter Z. Let's make some timelines that show the beginning and the ending.** Draw a line on the board with a dot at the beginning and a dot at the end and write down the example of making a cake: buy the cake mix, gather all the needed ingredients and utensils, mix the ingredients, warm the oven, bake the cake, let the cake cool, frost the cake, and eat the cake. Brainstorm and have kids name things as you write down the beginning and end of each item, such as a puppy (born, lived 10 years, died), homework (start, parent's check, turn it in), reading a book (pick it out at the library, read for a week, finish the book). Leave the timeline on the board. **These things all have a definite beginning and an ending**

point when each is finished. For living things like people, the beginning is birth and the ending is death. If something doesn't have a beginning or end, we could say that it is eternal. Today's lesson will explore things that don't have a beginning or an end and are eternal!

Memory Verse Activity:
Display the verse and practice it together. Have everyone gather in one long line. Point out who is the first and the last in line. As the group says the verse together, the first child in line runs to start a new line when the word "Alpha" is said. The last child runs to the new line when "Omega" is said. The same thing happens with "Beginning" and "End." Continue repeating the verse together until everyone has joined the other line. If time allows, repeat with children starting a new line again.

Memory Verse: Revelation 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Bible Story:

What do you think of when I mention the beginning of the Bible? (Genesis and creation) **Was that the beginning of God?** (No.) **God existed before He created everything. Our brain can't really understand how God existed before things were created, but we know that God can't lie. We don't have to understand how God existed, but we can definitely believe that God existed before creation. What else do you remember about the three parts of God that created everything?** (The Trinity was present: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit) Read John 1:1–3. **We just read that Jesus is the Word who was at the beginning with God. How did human life begin?** (God created Adam and then took a rib from him to create Eve.) **Let's turn this timeline on the board into a timeline of the earth and living things, "God created everything" would be the beginning point. So, Jesus, who is God the Son, existed before people were created.** Write "Jesus" before the first point on the timeline.

Now you can see why our Bible verse said Jesus was the "Alpha, the beginning, and who always was." Even before Jesus came to the earth, the Old Testament said the same thing. Read Isaiah 48:12.

Depending on your group, you may want to have children look up the verses and read them to the group. Read Psalm 145:13. **How long does this Psalm say God's kingdom lasts?** (It is an everlasting kingdom and endures throughout all generations.) **Everlasting is another word for eternal. The verse mentions generations. You might have parents, grandparents, and even great-grandparents—that's three generations before you. This verse tells us that God and His kingdom last throughout ALL generations. You could count as high as you possibly can, but God exists throughout all of those generations, wow!** Read Isaiah 41:4. **This verse points out that Jesus was there when the generations began and reminds us that He is the first and the**

last. Lead a cheer for God's everlasting kingdom. **So, the first eternal thing is God's kingdom.** Write "God's kingdom" on the board to show it is eternal.

When Jesus lived on the earth, He was the Son of God and the Son of Man. He said some things that were hard for His followers to understand. Read John 8:58. **Jesus said that He existed before someone, who?** (Jesus said that He existed before Abraham.) Hold up your Bible and show where the verse in John is located and then turn back to Genesis 12 where Abraham was blessed to be a blessing to all people on the earth. **You can see why Jesus' disciples were confused. They were looking at someone who said that He existed before someone whom they learned about and knew lived hundreds of years earlier. Only the Son of God, Jesus, is eternal. He existed before Abraham; He existed when the disciples lived; He exists right now; and He will exist when your great-great-grandchildren exist!**

Jesus also mentioned something eternal to His disciples. Read Matthew 24:35. **What did Jesus say would last forever?** (Jesus' words will not pass away.) Write "Jesus' words" on the board. **This verse says that heaven and earth will pass away. The book of Revelation explains more about the earth's ending and a New Jerusalem that will be created.** On the endpoint of the timeline, write "the earth will pass away" and write "Jesus" after the endpoint.

The disciple John wrote the book of Revelation about the things that will happen in the future. Jesus gave John a vision and John wrote it down for us. Read Revelation 1:17–18. **How do we know this was Jesus talking to him?** (We know Jesus is the "First and Last" and lives forever.) **What do we know about Jesus' death and being alive again**? (Jesus lived a sinless life so that He could pay the price for all sin. He died on a cross, but three days later God's power raised Him from the dead.) **Jesus became victorious over sin and death. He offers people the free gift of salvation, which is the forgiveness of our sins. When we say "yes" to Jesus' offer to forgive our sins, Jesus shares something eternal with us!** Read Romans 6:23. **Will everyone have eternal life?** (Yes.) **Everyone will die and have eternal life either with Jesus or without Jesus. When people believe that Jesus paid for their sins, they will have eternal life with Jesus. When people choose to ignore salvation through Jesus, they will spend forever away from Jesus in hell. People must choose to believe in Jesus while they are alive so that when they die, they will spend forever with Jesus. The sooner you choose to say "yes" to Jesus, the sooner your eternal life begins. You don't have to wait to die to have Jesus, the Eternal God, live in you and help you start preparing for eternity with Him. The more you learn about Jesus and praise and worship Him now—the more you will be ready to praise and worship Him forever!**

When you look at the board, you see that Jesus is eternal. Maybe you had a grandparent or great-grandparent who is not alive anymore, they can't talk to you or help you now. Jesus will always be available to help you because He is eternal. You can find comfort in knowing that any problem you have in your life — Jesus existed long before that problem and will exist long after that problem has passed. No new problem will confuse Jesus because His power to heal and do miracles is forever. This week you can ask the Eternal God to help you. He won't leave or stop existing. He will always be with you and when you accept

the gift of salvation you know that you will always be with Him, too! Lead a cheer for Jesus, the Eternal God.

Bible Story Questions:

- **Who existed before the world was created?** (God; the Trinity; Jesus)
- **Who from the Old Testament did Jesus tell His disciples that He existed before?** (Abraham)
- **How would you describe "eternal" in your own words?** Allow responses.
- **What things are eternal?** (Jesus, God's kingdom, Jesus' words, and eternal life)
- **What would you like the Eternal God to help you with this week?** (Answers will vary.)

Bible Story Activities:

Games:

- Hold up a hula hoop or circle item. **The timeline has a beginning and end but this hula hoop has no beginning or end.** Set the chairs in a large circle with the seat part facing outside the circle. Place as many hula hoops as you have around the room and remove the same number of chairs as there are hula hoops. Have the children move around the room while music plays. When the music stops, everyone should move to find a chair. The children without a chair go to a hula hoop and hula hoop around while the music plays again and the rest of the children move around the room. You can give a specific direction for the movements, such as hopping, slow motion, backward, etc.

- Ideas for Working with Younger Kids:
  Set out a variety of circles of different sizes. As the children trace a circle with their fingers, have them say, "Jesus has no beginning and no end." If you have hula hoops, let the children sit in the hula hoop and trace the circle with their fingers. Remind the children that Jesus is forever and will love them forever.

Craft Idea:

- Ideas for Working with Older Kids:
  Have the children draw a Venn diagram and title the circles: "Was," "Is," and "Is to Come." In the intersection of the circles write "Jesus." See how many things they can write in each circle. Encourage them to use their Bibles and to think about current miracles or ways Jesus is helping them now. Allow time for them to share their diagrams.

Worksheet:
Guide the children to fill in timeline events like their salvation, when younger siblings joined the family, or a family move or special vacation. As children finish, help them find Hebrews 13:8 in their Bibles and write in the missing words. On the back of their papers, have them write the alphabet A–Z and next to each letter write something about Jesus that starts with the letter, such as E – Eternal God, M – Miracles, etc.

Affirmation/Declaration:
Jesus is first, last, and everything in between.
Jesus is eternal.
Jesus lives in me. I will live with Him forever.

Make Connections:

Biblical Worldview Connection:
When people are confronted with mortality through a pandemic, wars, natural disasters, and loved ones dying, they start to wonder about eternity. God is eternal and wants people to spend eternity with Him. Encourage the children to live so that people can see God is alive in them and working through them.

Missions Connections:
People visit the graves of leaders of major religions. Jesus left an empty tomb. We know that He is alive and living in us. Pray for missionaries to have opportunities to show Jesus living in them as they love, forgive, teach, and be Jesus' hands and feet reaching out to people. Remind the children that when they say “yes” to Jesus, He wants them to tell others about Him. Their mission field is anywhere their feet take them.

Family Connection:
Today’s lesson showed that Jesus is eternal meaning that He has no beginning and no end. Together, go through the refrigerator and pantry reading box and can labels to see when the items were made and when they expire. Talk about the symbol of a circle used for wedding rings because it shows that the union is eternal. Take a tour of the house looking for things that are circular. Afterward, pray and thank God that Jesus is eternal and someday in heaven you will be together with Him.

Prayer Points:

Take time to pray with any child who is ready to accept the free gift of salvation and eternal life with Jesus.

Remind the children that when they pray in the name of Jesus, they are praying and asking for help from the eternal God who will always be with them. Have the children repeat each phrase of this prayer:

Dear God,
Thank You for being forever.
Jesus, thank You for being
with me forever.
Please help me this week.
In Jesus' name, amen.

Name _____

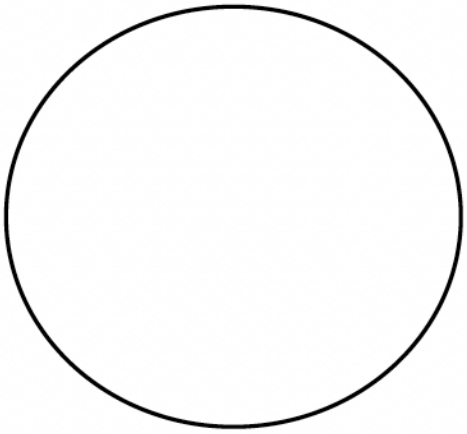
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Create a timeline for your life so far. Put dots on the timeline and explain what event took place and how old you were.

I was born in _____.

I am ___ years old.

Jesus is the Eternal God, so we use a circle to show that He has No beginning or end. *Write as many events of Jesus' life as you can inside and around the circle.*



Hebrews 13:8 says Jesus Christ is the same _____,

_____ and _____.

BONUS: *On the back of this page, write the letters A-Z and write something about Jesus that starts with each letter, such as A-Alpha, and M-Miracles.*

ANSWERS

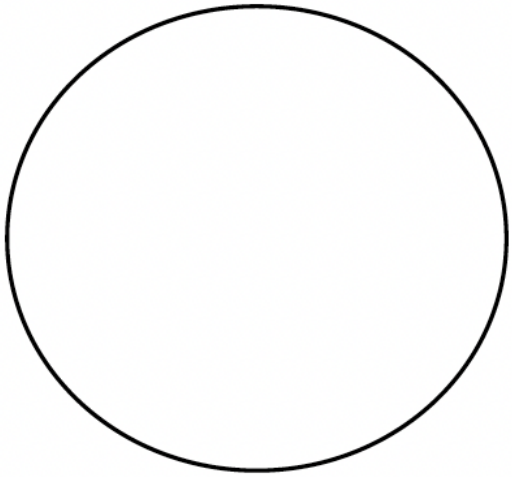
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I was born in _____.

I am ___ years old.

Jesus is the Eternal God, so we use a circle to show that He has No beginning or end. *Write as many events of Jesus' life as you can inside and around the circle.*



Hebrews 13:8 says Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

BONUS: *On the back of this page, write the letters A-Z and write something about Jesus that starts with each letter, such as A-Alpha, and M-Miracles.*

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