

date: **9/3/17****Bible Passage: Genesis 1—3**  
(Creation/Fall of Man)

## God Is Eternal

**REMEMBER VERSE**

**Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.  
Psalm 90:2**

### Inspire

*Shares personal stories from fellow ministry leaders about how God has worked in their lives*

A few years ago I visited the Grand Canyon. While I enjoyed the view, a cloud billowed into the canyon and filled it with ribbons of mist. The buzzing of conversations and the scuffling of footsteps stopped as thunder rolled through the canyon like a low growl. “The heavens declare the glory of God,” Psalm 19:1 says, and even though I didn’t hear an audible voice that day, God’s majesty spoke clearly.

That day offered just a glimpse of God’s beauty and how much He deserves our praise. I wanted nothing but to worship Him. Maybe you’ve felt this way before—while looking at a field of grass rippling in the breeze or waves bombarding a craggy cove or the colors of the sky changing into fluorescent hues at sunset.

Standing quietly outside, looking at creation, I marveled that the same God who made everything I saw was also present with me—a cosmic, awe-inspiring, awesome God. He is eternal.

*Tori Funkhouser*  
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### Equip

*Offers perspective and context to the lesson's Bible passage*

God is eternal. He has always been and will always be. His creation of and interaction with humans can be found in the first book of the Bible, Genesis, which sets up the backdrop for the rest of The Big God Story. Genesis explains our need for the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, who will one day defeat Satan and redeem us back to Himself.

The first chapter of Genesis gives an account of creation from the beginning of the universe to the creation of man in God's image. It refers to God as *Elohim*, the infinitely powerful One who created the universe and our earth out of nothing. Chapter 2 focuses more on the creation of man and woman and speaks of God as *Yahweh Elohim*—"I Am who I Am," who formed Adam from the dust, like a potter forms a pot from clay, and breathed into his nostrils, giving him life.

Genesis 3 describes the fall of mankind and gives us a picture of God as a pursuer. At the outset of sin, God began to draw Adam and Eve—and subsequently fallen humanity—back to Himself. When Adam and Eve hid from Him, God looked for them. He also protected them by making clothes for them.

In the Genesis account we see the relationship God desires to have with us—one in which we're in perfect harmony with the eternal One.

## Support

*Provides reflection and assessment through encouragement, prayer, and time in God's Word*

As you prepare for this lesson, spend time reading the Scripture passage on your own, and ask the Holy Spirit to transform you with the same words you'll be bringing to the children. Let what you share be infused with the passion and conviction that comes from the overflow of your own life.

Pray the Holy Spirit powerfully impacts your time with the kids, bringing them into closer relationship with Him. Pray that your kids and parents will be transformed by their encounter with God, that they will know Him better, and that they will respond to Him with faith and obedience. If possible, find a time to pray with the parents for their role as spiritual leaders.

Ask God to use His story to reveal His great love for all of you and His desire to be in perfect relationship with you.

## SMALL GROUP

SECTION

## EXPLORE// 10 min.

Small Group Leaders

*Children engage in fun, creative activities designed to pique their curiosity about the day's portion of The Big God Story.*

## Under Pressure

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Today your children will participate in a simple experiment involving air pressure as they discover more about the wonder of God's creation.

### SUPPLIES

- Rulers (3–4)

- Newspaper or 11" x 17" paper (3–4 sheets)

### RELATE

Welcome your children and invite them to join you at the table. **Did you know we're surrounded by air that places pressure on our bodies all of the time? Can you feel the air pressure?** Encourage kids to shrug their shoulders or lift their arms up and down to see if they can feel the pressure of the air. **Scientists have measured this pressure and found that it's about 15 pounds of pressure for every square inch. But we never feel that pressure on our bodies. Why do you think that is?** Invite responses. **Good thinking! God gave us the ability to adjust to this constant pressure naturally. Pretty amazing! Today we'll experience this air pressure using a ruler and paper.**

Place a ruler on the table with about one-third of it hanging off the table. Then invite a child to bring her fist down on the end of the ruler that's hanging off the table (but be sure the child is positioned to the side where the ruler won't hit her). It should fly off the table. **What happened to the ruler?** Allow responses. Then place the ruler back on the table in the same position as before, but this time, cover the ruler with newspaper up to the edge of the table. **What do you think will happen to the newspaper if I smack my fist on the end of the ruler now?** Encourage kids to share their thoughts and speculations.

Now ask a child to bring down his fist sharply on the end of the ruler. The ruler will resist the child's fist! In fact, if you're using a wood ruler, the ruler may even break. Explain to the kids that the air pressure pushing down on the large surface area of the paper keeps the ruler from flipping up. **How did the results of this experiment compare with what you thought would happen? What are some other amazing things about the world God created?** Interact with kids and their responses. **God is truly amazing! The same God who created the universe and everything in it also created you and me. He is eternal—He has always been and always will be.**

Allow other kids to try this experiment using the additional rulers and papers.

## LARGE GROUP SECTION

# DISCOVER// 30 min.

Host/Worship Leader/Storyteller

*Children participate in discovering God's Word through Bible Verse memorization, interactive storytelling techniques, and worship as response.*

## Traditions and Remember Verse

### SUPPLIES

- Mementos for your church Traditions (rocks, marbles, gum balls, etc.)
- [Remember Verse image](#) (see Resources)

**RELATE**

Give the children mementos (such as rocks, marbles, or blocks) for accomplishments such as memorizing the Remember Verse or bringing their Bibles. Have them put the objects into a clear container or add them to a structure, and celebrate when it's complete.

This week's Remember Verse focuses on a character trait of God that's highlighted in today's portion of The Big God Story.

**Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. Psalm 90:2**

## Connect

Encourage the members of your community to get to know one another through engaging questions, energizing games, and creative activities.

### Question

**What's the most amazing thing you've seen in creation?**

## The Big God Story

**Bible Passage: Genesis 1—3**

**Storytelling Technique: Sculpting Images from Clay  
God Is Eternal**

### SUPPLIES

- Timeline image (see Resources)
- Images: Stars, Nature, Animals, Adam and Eve in Garden, Adam and Eve Leaving Garden (see Resources)
- Bibles
- Small table
- Clay or play dough (1 color or variety of colors)
- Hand wipes

### PREPARE AHEAD

You can choose to act as the sculptor while you storytell, or you can have an assistant mold each part of the narrative as you storytell.

### SET UP

Place the small table downstage right or left. Place the clay and hand wipes on the table.

### RELATE

**Last week we remembered the early church and celebrated God's gift of freedom. Now, close your eyes and come with me all the way back to the beginning of The Big God Story. Imagine you're surrounded by nothing but darkness. No people, no buildings, no trees or animals. No sun or moon in the sky. No breeze in the air. Nothing at all! Tech: Dim lights.** Have children open their eyes. **In the beginning, there was nothing ... except God! He is eternal. That means He has always existed and will always exist. And**

**He created everything out of nothing. How did He do that? Before we find out, let's pray.** Lead children in Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.

**When God created the world, He spoke and things appeared. God existed before anything because He is eternal. He said, "Let there be light," and there was light!** *Tech: Turn up lights.* **God created the moon, stars, earth, and everything on earth in the same way.** *Tech: Cue Stars, Nature, and Animals images.* As you storytell, use clay (or have the assistant use clay) to mold an item from nature—a tree, flower, etc.—on the table. **God created everything you see and every living thing. And God saw that everything He had created was good. Everything He made reflected His glory. The Bible says, "The heavens declare the glory of God" (Psalm 19:1). Have you ever looked at a sunset and said, "Wow!"? The beauty of that sunset reflects God's glory.**

Mold a man from the clay. **On the day God created man, He did things a little differently. He used dirt from the ground to form the man. God then breathed into the man to give him life. What did God name the first man?** Invite responses. **Yes! Adam.** Mold a woman and then place "Eve" next to "Adam." **After God created Adam, He created a woman out of one of Adam's rib bones. What was the woman's name?** Allow responses. **That's right—Eve.**

**The Bible says God made man and woman in His own image. God loves us so much that He put His fingerprint on each one of us! God created us to be in perfect relationship with Him, a relationship without sin or brokenness.** Mold a heart between Adam and Eve. **Adam and Eve experienced this perfect relationship while they lived with God in a beautiful garden called Eden—so close to God that the Bible says they could hear Him walking around! Even though God is eternal, Adam and Eve lived in perfect harmony with God.** *Tech: Cue Adam and Eve in Garden image.*

Encourage children to open their Bibles to Genesis 2:15. Read verses 15–17 aloud as kids follow along. **Although God gave Adam and Eve everything in the garden, He told them they couldn't eat the fruit from one particular tree. What was that tree called?** Invite responses. **Yes, the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.**

**At first, Adam and Eve obeyed God and stayed away from the tree. But one day the serpent saw Eve in the garden and told her God's warning wasn't true.** Have kids turn to Genesis 3. Read verses 1–5 aloud. Mold a tree and/or piece of fruit. **What do you think happened next? Let's keep reading to find out.** Read verses 3:6–13. **Eve picked a piece of fruit from the tree and took a bite. Then she gave the fruit to Adam, and he also took a bite. At that moment, sin entered the world and separated people from the eternal God. Their choice broke their perfect relationship with God.**

**Because Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they had to leave the garden.** *Tech: Cue Adam and Eve Leaving Garden image.* **God told them that because of their sin, their lives would be full of hard work and pain, and they would eventually die. But God's love for Adam and Eve never changed. He continued to take care of them, and before they left the garden, He made them clothes out of animal skins.** Read verses 21–24 as kids follow along.

**Even better, God promised something very important: He promised to send a Savior to save people from their sins and restore their relationship with Him.** Mold a cross and place it in the center of the heart. **Who was the Savior God promised to send?** Invite responses. **Right—Jesus!**

God is eternal, and He made the way for us to be with Him forever. Who is *the Way*? Allow responses. Jesus is the Way. He paid the price for our sin by dying on the cross. The God of all creation—who was, and is, and always will be—loves you so much that He made the way for you to be with Him forever. Because of Jesus, you too can be a part of The Big God Story. Share a story of when you realized that God is eternal and that He made the way for you to know Him and be with Him forever.

## SMALL GROUP SECTION

# RESPOND// 15 min.

Small Group Leaders

*Children reflect on what the Holy Spirit is teaching them and respond through creative activities and games.*

## Reflect: God Is Eternal

Encourage kids to open their Bibles and read the suggested passages.

### Questions for Younger Kids

- What existed before God created the world? Genesis 1:1–2
- After God finished creating, what did He call “very good?” Genesis 1:31
- Who gave the breath of life? Genesis 2:7
- What did God tell Adam and Eve about the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil? Genesis 2:16–17
- What were some of the consequences of eating from the tree? Genesis 3:19 How did this change our relationship with God?
- Who is the Savior God promised to send?

### Questions for Older Kids

- Who or what existed before God created the world? Genesis 1:1–2
- After God finished creating, what did He call “very good?” Genesis 1:31
- Who gave the breath of life? Genesis 2:7
- What did God tell Adam and Eve about the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil? Genesis 2:16–17
- What did the serpent tell Eve about God and the forbidden tree? Genesis 3:1–5 How is this different from what God said?
- What do we know about God from this part of The Big God Story?
- What were some of the consequences of eating from the forbidden tree? Genesis 3:19 How does this affect us today?
- Who is the Savior God promised to send?

# BLESS// 5 min.

Small Group Leaders

*Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing may be prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.*

## SUPPLIES

- HomeFront Weekly: [Lesson 2](#) (see Resources)
- Remember Verse cards (see Resources)
- Bible

## RELATE

Have children sit in a circle. Play a simple game of Telephone: Whisper the message “God is eternal” to the first child and have him whisper it to the next child and so on until the message goes all the way around the circle. If the message gets jumbled, enjoy the outcome, and remind the children that no matter what, God is eternal.

Open a Bible and read Psalm 89:1:

**I will sing of the LORD’s great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.**

**May God remind you that He is the Creator, eternal and good. May you know He invites you to be a part of The Big God Story today and forever.**

Send home Remember Verse cards and the HomeFront Weekly with your kids.