



What Do We Believe?

Lesson 8

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2008

Created for use as discipleship material for older children to adults

What Do We Believe?

Lesson 8: God the Father: He is Eternal

Scriptures:

Romans 16:25 – 27; Revelation 22:13

Lesson Goals:

To show the learner that God is eternal.

To show the learner that God was present before the world began and will be present after the world ends.

To show the learner that God is three in one.

Scripture Memory:

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. (1 Timothy 1:17)

The Lesson:

What does eternal mean? It is very difficult to define. How can you describe something that has no beginning and no end? Doesn't everything that we know about have a beginning and an end? People are born and people die. A tree is planted, grows, lives for a few or many years, and finally dies. Toys are made, they wear out, and ultimately break. Even the world began...God created it a long time ago. And, the Bible says that someday, the earth will be no more.

God lives in eternity. The best description of eternity may be a figure eight (8) lying on its side that shows no place of beginning and no place of ending. That is called the symbol for infinity. That may show something that has no starting place or stopping place, but it is hard to translate that into the fact that God is eternal. However, that is a fact...God **is** eternal. He has no beginning and no end. As a matter of fact, He says that He **is** the beginning and the end. (Revelation 22:13) It's like He was around to begin the beginning and will be around to finish up the end. (Hebrews 1:12)

God was present at the beginning of the world. The Bible says that "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." (Genesis 1:1) If God was already there, He existed before the world existed. The Bible also says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning." (John 1:1-2) The Word is Jesus. So, not only was God present when the world was created, but Jesus was there also. The Bible also says, "Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." (Genesis 1:2) So, not only was God already around before the world was created, and not only was Jesus around, but also the Holy Spirit of God was there.

God has always been and will always be. He exists as one God who is three persons. Now this may be a little hard to explain. It is one of those things that humans can't get their minds around because it is not of this world. One way to try to explain it is to say that a person can be a daughter, a wife, and a mother. That is okay until you try to separate those three. The Bible says that the three were separate at the baptism of Jesus. John the Baptist was asked to baptize Jesus. When Jesus, *the Son*, came up out of the water, God, *the Spirit*, descended from Heaven in the form of a dove and perched on the shoulder of Jesus and God, *the Father*, spoke from Heaven. (Mark 1:9 – 11) There are other instances of this separation. God is one God, but distinct in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Bible says that God is Spirit. (John 4:24) Maybe if we think of Him as Spirit, it will be easier to see that He can be in many different places at the same time. Also, God is everywhere, as we have already seen, so we have to consider that also. The important thing is that we understand that God is one God. At times, He reveals Himself as Jesus, the Son, and His Holy Spirit. Also, as we will discuss later, the Holy Spirit of God dwells in every believer, as soon as that person asks Jesus to be his Savior and Lord.

God doesn't change. (Psalm 55:19) Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. (Hebrews 13:8) Some think that because God does things differently with different people, He changes. That is not true. God may give to one person and take away from another. Or in the giving, God may give in different measure, but God is the same, no matter what may happen. One author, Herschel Hobbs, explains that God can change the method of achieving His purpose. Like music can be played in a different tempo or a different volume, even by different instruments, the tune remains the same. God accomplishes what He wants to do, sometimes in ways that are different from what we would expect of Him.

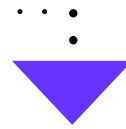
Life Application:

Who would have ever expected our loving, all-powerful God to sacrifice His One and Only Son? God's love for us is so great that He was willing to give His Son, Jesus, to make a way for us to be made right with Him.

When you accept that gift and let God be in control, God's promise of eternal life becomes yours. Our bodies will still die one day, but God will change them into better bodies that can live eternally with Him. God promises eternal life to those who believe in, trust in, put their confidence in His Son. Will you do that today? You will not be disappointed. God can be trusted. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.



Planning for Lesson 9
God the Father:
He is Creator and Sustainer



- ◆ **Memory Verse Activity** - Make a banner like kings used to be announced, or heralded, with. They were banners hung from long, straight trumpets. Use straws and construction paper cones or dowel rods and funnels. Hang construction paper from the straw or dowel rod. Print the memory verse on the construction paper banner.

- ◆ Make Dove Mobiles.

- ◆ Compare the numbers “1” and “8.” The number “1” has a beginning and an end. The number “8,” on the other hand, can go on forever. (Show the “infinity” of it by tracing over the number several times.)

- ◆ Bring pictures of people, trees, toys, and the world. Also write the name of God on a piece of paper. Show the pictures, including the name of God, to your students. Ask them to show you which one is eternal.

- ◆ Talk about the Greek letters α and ω . “ α ” is the first letter in the Greek alphabet; “ ω ” is the last letter. Look at Revelation 1:8. God is described as the alpha and omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

- ◆ Listen. Pick a song to share with your students. This can be as simple as “Mary had a Little Lamb” or “Heart and Soul,” or as difficult as a concerto. You will need several “versions” of the song you choose; different tempos, instruments, etc. Talk about how different the song sounded. Then talk about the fact that it was still one song. God is like our song. He works and moves differently for different people or in different situations, yet He is one God.

NOW TO THE KING

eternal,

immortal,

invisible,

the only GOD,

BE HONOR AND GLORY

FOREVER AND EVER.

1 Timothy 1:17

**God is eternal. He has no beginning and no end.
Trace below for symbol that describes the infinity of God.**

Word Search



Y	T	I	N	I	F	N	I	G	H
I	N	F	T	Y	N	D	N	O	E
S	T	L	A	F	I	I	L	D	G
Y	L	S	P	R	N	Y	A	E	U
E	T	E	R	N	S	U	S	E	J
I	D	O	I	P	I	R	P	S	R
G	N	G	I	O	L	Y	T	H	I
E	E	R	A	F	I	R	S	T	T
B	I	T	I	N	T	F	A	Y	A
T	E	T	E	R	N	A	L	S	T

God

end

Holy Spirit

eternal

infinity

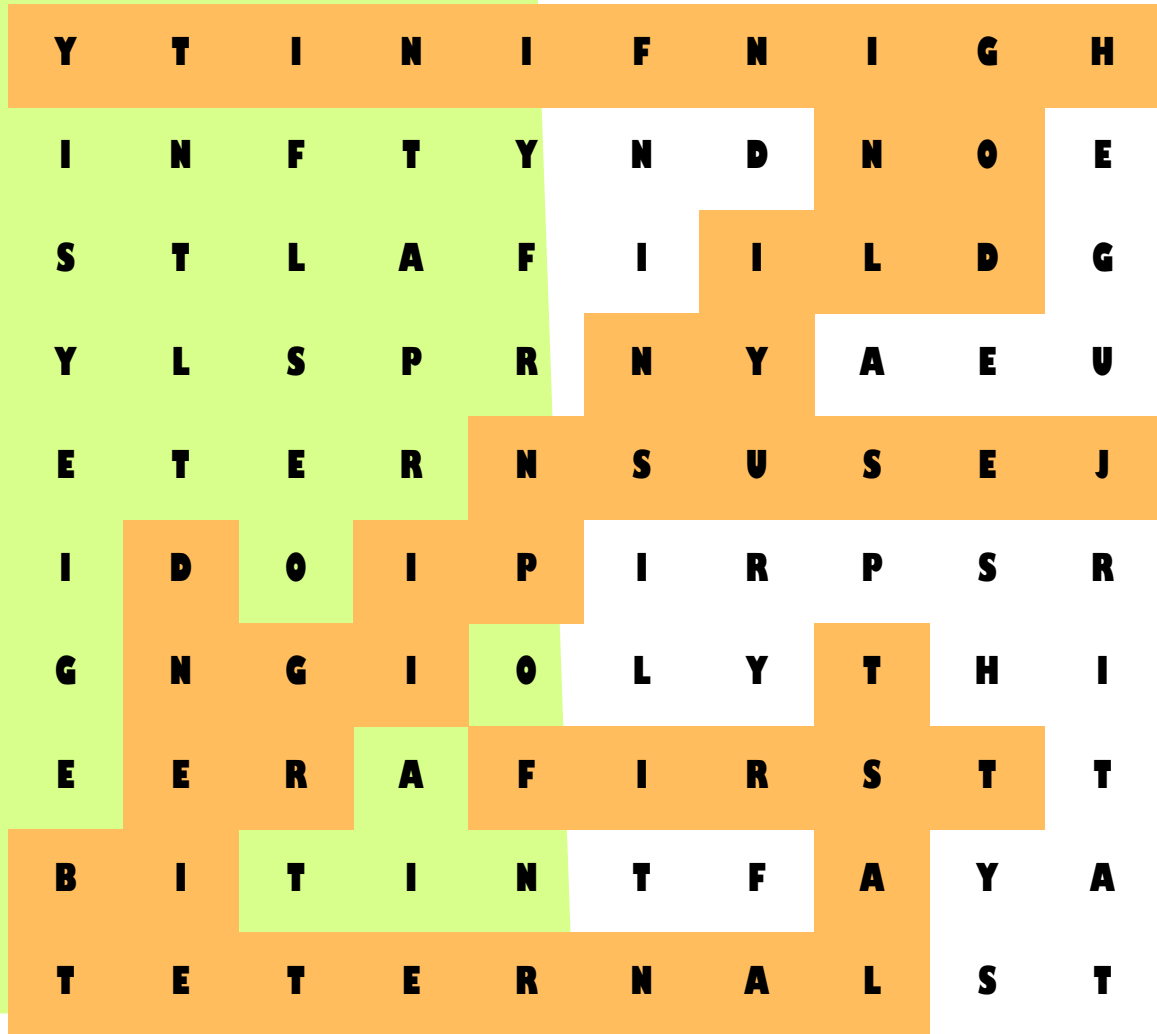
first

beginning

Jesus

last

Word Search



God

eternal

beginning

end

infinity

Jesus

Holy Spirit

first

last