

SESSION 22

ETERNITY

God&Me&Us

Focus Point

God is the God of the past, now and forever. We explore how eternity works and why it matters.

The Key Truths

God is the God of now and forever. How does eternity work? Why does it matter?

Using Scriptures that explore eternity, how 'long' eternity is and God's view of time compared with ours, this episode brings the reality of eternity to the forefront, in a generation that lives very much for the present. This highlights the implications of eternity for our brief lives. When we see our lives as grass, here today and gone tomorrow, we realise how important investing into eternity is, while we still have the opportunity to do so.

Scriptures to Consider

- **Colossians 1:17 (ESV)** - *"And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together."*
- **Psalms 90:2 (NLT)** - *"Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world, from beginning to end, you are God."*
- **Psalms 102:26-27 (ESV)** - *"Even they will perish, but You endure; And all of them will wear out like a garment; Like clothing You will change them and they will be changed. "But You are the same, And Your years will not come to an end."*

Group Discussion Questions

Question 1: Who can imagine what it would be like to live for 1000 years, or 10 000. What do we mean by eternal?

Answer: Guide the preteens to consider how much they have experienced in the last year of their lives and then to multiply that out by a 100, 1000 and 10 000. Stress that even though God created us to live for eternity, it is not something that our human minds can really conceptualize properly.

Question 2: What do you think we will do in eternity? Will we just sing and worship, or will we work and grow old?

Answer: If we are followers of Jesus, when we die we will go to be with Him. This is the start of forever, and living with Him in a perfect state. We will worship and we will see God. We will see Him fully and completely for the first time. This means that we will have complete understanding. We will also have work to do for Him, but it will not have the difficulties that work has here on earth with sin. We will never grow old, sick, or tired.

Question 3: If this life on earth is so very short, compared to eternity, should that impact how we live?

Answer: Many people live for today only, but that is so short-sighted. We need to constantly remind ourselves that this life is very short in comparison to the limitless eternity that we will live.

We should invest in eternity and focus on the joys and rewards we will receive. This helps us to be motivated to do right and also helps us in times of difficulty and suffering, because no matter how hard things get, it is only for a very short time compared to eternity.

The decisions that we make now, and the way we live in this life, have consequences in the life to come. This means that when we weigh up our options and choices, we should carefully consider what we are going to do.

Word of the Day

Omnipresent

Verse of the Day

"[God] alone is immortal and lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To Him be honour and might for ever. Amen." - 1 Timothy 6:16 (NIV)

