

# SECTION 3.7

# Eternity



## Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

### Option 1: Burst Bubbles

**What You'll Need:** Bubble gum

**PREP:** Before class, purchase bubble gum, one piece per kid.

**STEP 1:** Ask kids to stand in a circle and give kids each a piece of gum. Allow kids a few moments to chew their gum as you explain that they will be competing in a bubble blowing contest.

(Note: If you have kids with allergies or orthodontic appliances who cannot chew gum, appoint them as judges of the contest. Encourage your leaders to participate as well!)

**STEP 2:** After a minute, ask kids to blow their best and biggest bubble and see how long it lasts before it pops or deflates. If you have judges, ask them to watch closely for bubbles that pop or begin to deflate and to tell those participants to be seated. Continue until only one kid is standing.

Ask:

- What causes bubbles to come to an end?
- How would you describe the lifespan of a blown bubble?

**STEP 3:** Share these key concepts:

- God is eternal; He has no beginning or end.
- All created beings have a beginning and an ending. Because of the fall, our bodies will decay and begin to fall apart. Our bodies will die, but who we are on the inside (our souls) will live forever.

**STEP 4:** Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of knowing where we will be for eternity.

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**Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)**
**Option 2: Average Lifespan**

**What You'll Need:** Nothing

**STEP 1:** Have kids guess the average lifespan of the following creatures. For each guess, answer "high" or "low" depending on the guesses. The average age of each animal, according to the Internet, is in parentheses.

Average Lifespans:

- Male housefly (28 days)
- Wild African elephant (56 years)
- Giant tortoise (100 years)
- Humpback whale (45-50 years)

**STEP 2:** Share these key concepts:

- God is eternal. He had no beginning, and He has no end.
- God created all things, and one day the heavens, earth, plants, and animals will die or end.
- We are created in Gods' image. Even though our bodies may grow old and pass on because of sickness or injury, who we are, our souls, will live forever.
- We have the choice to make as to where we will spend eternity.

**STEP 3:** Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of knowing where we will be for eternity.

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## Main Lesson Activity (5 Minutes)

### Option 1: Two Choices

**What You'll Need:** Bibles, two balloons, permanent marker, two slips of paper, pin

**PREP:** Write Revelation 20:15 on a slip of paper, and Revelation 21:4 on the other. Roll each slip of paper up, and put each one inside an un-inflated balloon. Then blow up each balloon, and write ETERNAL PUNISHMENT on the outside of the one with Revelation 20:15 in it. Then write ETERNAL REWARD on the one with Revelation 21:4 on it.

**STEP 1:** Explain to the kids that the lesson today will be about eternity. Our lives are short and fleeting and will one day pass (Psalm 39:4-5). However, because God made us in His image and likeness, who we are on the inside will never end (Ecclesiastes 12:7, John 3:16). Our earthly lives will end in an instant, just like a balloon popping, and we will be left with the eternity that we choose.

**STEP 2:** Explain that it is up to each individual about his or her eternity. Read Matthew 25:46. Then share these key concepts:

- Jesus Christ, God's Son, took our punishment for sin and made it possible for us to live forever with God (Romans 6:23).
- God does not force us to have a relationship with Him. We all have a choice to make. We must choose whether to spend eternity with God in heaven or choose to reject Jesus and spend eternity in hell as punishment for our sin (Matthew 25:46).

**STEP 3:** Hold up the balloon that says ETERNAL PUNISHMENT. Pop the balloon with a pin, and unroll the paper inside. Read Revelation 20:15 and ask kids how eternal punishment is described. (Answers may include separation from God forever, darkness, pain, being alone.)

**STEP 4:** Hold up the balloon that says ETERNAL REWARD. Pop the balloon with a pin, and unroll the paper inside. Read Revelation 21:4. Have kids

describe what eternity in heaven looks like with God forever. (Answers may include: no sadness, no pain, no death, no tears.)

**STEP 5:** Explain that those who trust in Jesus as Savior have eternal promises they can claim. Even though they may face struggles and trials on earth, they can know that NOTHING can take them out of God's hand (John 10:27-28). They will always have the promise and guarantee of eternal life. Also nothing will ever separate them from God's love (Romans 8:35a, 38-39). And one day, they will be in God's presence and live with Him in heaven forever (Revelation 21:4).

**STEP 6:** Close in prayer, praising God for those who have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior, and affirm that they belong to God, and their choice to be saved is really important to Him.

### Notes:

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## Main Lesson Activity (5 Minutes)

## Option 2: No Separation

**What You'll Need:** Bible, No Separation Handout

**PREP:** Print out the handout, and cut it up into slips of paper. Fold them up.

**STEP 1:** Explain that this week's lesson is about eternity. Share that those who trust in Jesus as Savior have eternal promises they can claim. Even though they may face struggles and trials on earth, they can know that NOTHING can take them out of God's hand (John 10:27-28). They will always have the promise and guarantee of eternal life. Also nothing will ever separate them from God's love (Romans 8:35a, 38-39). And one day, they will be in God's presence and live with Him in heaven forever (Revelation 21:4).

**STEP 2:** Tell the group that you will be hosting a password challenge for them with words about what can't separate us from God's love. Read Romans 8:35a, 38-39 out loud for your group.

**STEP 3:** Ask for five volunteers. Give each volunteer a folded slip of paper from the handout. Explain that his or her challenge is to get the group to guess the word he or she has by giving them clues. Have leaders give help or encouragement as needed.

Passwords — What cannot separate us from God's love:

- Death
- Life
- Angels
- Height
- Depth

**STEP 4:** Share the concepts from the Main Lesson Teaching Outline in the Large Group Guide, and follow up with the Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements.

Notes:



# ***No Separation Handout***

***Life***

***Angels***

***Death***

***Depth***

***Height***