

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Jesus is the Everlasting Father.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn they can put their hope in Jesus because he is their Everlasting Father.

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 2:1-16, The Magi and King Herod

MEMORY VERSE:

“And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6b (NIV)

SUMMARY:

When something is everlasting, it means that it will never end. When King Herod learned that Jesus had been born, he knew his kingdom was coming to an end, so he tried to stop Jesus. Jesus loves us like a good father, and we can take comfort knowing that Jesus’ love and Jesus’ kingdom will never end.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

It is so good to know you are always there for us!

*In Jesus’ name,
Amen*

MEMORY VERSE

“And he will be called Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God. He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever and Prince Who Brings Peace.” Isaiah 9:6b (NirV)

“And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6b (NIV)

“And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6b (NLT)

“And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6b (KJV)

LARGE GROUP:

Read the verse in a normal speed with the kids. Then read it super slow. Then read it super fast!

SMALL GROUP:

Give each kid one word or a few words of the verse on a note card. See if they can arrange the cards and get the verse right. Then read the verse aloud with the kids.

SKIT

GOOD MAN IS OLD NEWS

ITEMS NEEDED:

A fake Good Man action figure

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

2M

CHARACTERS:

The Announcer

Fred - A little boy

The Announcer enters carrying a Good Man action figure.

ANNOUNCER: Howdy, folks! I'm here at the River Falls Mall in Shermer, Illinois, to see what kids are asking for this Christmas – as if I didn't know. Everybody knows that the hottest toy in the history of toys is GOOD MAN! And when the kiddies see the new and improved version of Good Man now available, it will blow their minds.

Fred enters.

ANNOUNCER: Excuse me, little boy.

FRED: I'm not a little boy. I'm a big boy!

ANNOUNCER: What's your name, kid?

FRED: Fred.

ANNOUNCER: Hi Fred! Have you made your Christmas list yet?

FRED: Kinda, yeah.

ANNOUNCER: Well I hope you wrote it down in pencil, because you're going to need an eraser handy.

FRED: Actually, I typed it on my iPad.

SKIT

ANNOUNCER: Even better! Fred, get ready to behold the greatest Christmas toy ever! The Announcer shows Fred the action figure.

FRED: *(unimpressed)* Wow. Good Man.

ANNOUNCER: I know, right?

FRED: Sorry. I got Good Man last Christmas. Not interested.

ANNOUNCER: Hold on there, Fred! This is the new and improved Good Man, with 50% more goodness!

FRED: So?

ANNOUNCER: So?? Isn't that exciting? Doesn't that blow your mind?

FRED: Not really, no.

ANNOUNCER: Come on, kid, this is Good Man. Don't you like action figures? Don't you like super heroes?

FRED: I thought I did. That's why I asked for a ton of Good Man toys last Christmas.

ANNOUNCER: Did you get them?

FRED: Sure did.

ANNOUNCER: Best Christmas ever, right?

FRED: Eh, I'm not so sure. I played with them for a week, but then I got bored.

ANNOUNCER: Come on, kid, you're ruining my commercial. Can you at least fake it and tell the world it brought you everlasting joy?

FRED: No. But you know who did give me everlasting joy? The Everlasting Father!

ANNOUNCER: The who?

FRED: You know, Jesus! He's the Everlasting Father. He loves me like my dad, and He's always by my side. He will always be there for me because He's given me eternal life!

SKIT

ANNOUNCER: No kidding. You're the second kid to come along bragging about this Jesus.

FRED: Well, Christmas is His birthday. Tis the season, you know?

ANNOUNCER: I do now!

FRED: Well, good luck on your toy sale, Mister. I hope you sell a few.

ANNOUNCER: Thanks. Say kid! Do you think this Jesus could be my Everlasting Father?

FRED: Are you kidding? Of course He would! All you gotta do is ask Him!

ANNOUNCER: Really? I think I'll do that. Thanks again!

FRED: You're welcome, and Merry Christmas!

Fred exits.

ANNOUNCER: This Jesus sounds amazing. I wonder how I can find Him.

The Announcer exits.

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

Energizer batteries

For many decades, a cute little pink bunny with a bass drum has paraded across our TV screens making a very bold promise. The Energizer bunny wants us to know that his batteries last longer than anyone else's. When all others quit, they keep going, and going and going. I can't speak to whether or not this is true, but I do know this: Energizer batteries don't last forever. Like Duracel, Everready, and all the other brands, they will eventually run out. And we'll keep replacing, and replacing, and replacing.

Everlasting means never ending. It means no beginning and no end. When Isaiah calls Jesus the Everlasting Father, he wants us to know that if we are part of God's family, we will dwell with Him forever. We can trust in Jesus knowing that we will have everlasting life, and that God will always be with us!

Jesus is the everlasting father. When this world comes to an end, our time with him will keep going, and going, and going!

LARGE GROUP GAME

HOOK 'EM CANES

ITEMS NEEDED:

Candy canes

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose several players for this game. Give each one a candy cane. Spread out a large number of candy canes on a table. Start the clock, and give players 60 seconds to hook as many candy canes from the table as they can onto the one in their hand. Players may NOT use their hands to touch any candy cane except the one they start with. The player who hooks the most wins.

VARIATION:\

Let younger kids use hands to push the candy canes but not to pick them up.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Candy canes only last for a season, but the love of Jesus is everlasting.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Jesus is the Everlasting Father.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn they can put their hope in Jesus because he is their Everlasting Father.

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 2:1-16, The Magi and King Herod

INTRO:

If you watch the Macy's Parade year after year, you may notice a trend. Every Thanksgiving, there are new products being advertised. From the latest and greatest Fisher Price play set. To the current model of the Lexus luxury car, you're guaranteed to see new, improved, and exciting offers for all ages. The ads that flood our mailboxes scream out to us as well: "New toys! New appliances! New jewelry! New fashions!" There's always something new and exciting that advertisers hope we will jot down on our wish list.

It's not hard to see why there are so many new things every Christmas. For one thing, advertisers know we're all shopping this time of year. Their job is to create the products boys and girls and even adults hope to find under the Christmas tree or even in the drive way. But there's another reason for all this new product mania. The things we got last year, the things we thought would bring us so much joy, they stopped bringing us joy.

How many of you can think of one thing from last Christmas you still play with every day? How about two years ago? Three? Sad but true, most of the things we HAD to have just a year ago have lost their luster, or fallen apart, or become too small for us. The joy they brought us did not last, and much as I hate to say it, a year from now, you'll feel the same way about the things you wish for this year. There's nothing everlasting in this world.

There is, however, one person who is everlasting. He is called the Everlasting Father, and He is the real reason we celebrate Christmas. While toys and fashions and appliances and all those other things will come and go, only Jesus is eternal. Only He is everlasting.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Our scripture today takes us to the palace of King Herod. One day out of the blue, three wise men from a far away land arrived asking him where they could find the newborn king. While the news of this newborn king does not sit well with Herod, our story is a reminder of why Jesus still matters today.

READ MATTHEW 2:1-16

MAIN POINT:

King Herod was very anxious listening to these men. They spoke about ancient prophecies and a king whose kingdom was said to last forever. Herod thought maybe someone was coming to try to overthrow him and steal his own throne! If only he knew Jesus had come to be his king and Savior too, he could have found joy with the wise men!

The wise men sought Jesus because they knew the ancient prophecies. They may even have known that Jesus would be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace! Two thousand years ago, we remember them because they led the way for us. Jesus is the Everlasting Father. He loves us like a parent, and if we love Him in return, we will have everlasting life!

DRIVE IT HOME:

It's not hard to see the fatherly attributes in Jesus. As we read through the gospels, we see Him teaching His disciples like a father teaches His children. He speaks in parables, and then He explains them to His disciples. He builds them up and encourages them when they need it, and He disciplines them when they need to be set straight. In all things, whether teaching, encouraging, or correcting, He is loving and gentle.

Jesus shows the same fatherly compassion to everyone who comes to Him: the blind man, the woman with the bleeding disease, a Roman soldier, a curious Pharisee. When children want to visit with Him, Jesus welcomes them with open arms and scolds His disciples for trying to keep them back. We see the Everlasting Father in Jesus as He hugs and blesses every boy and girl that races to Him.

Jesus is often described as the Good Shepherd, and He Himself used the imagery of a shepherd to describe Himself. Jesus also spoke about His immense love for us in the parable of the Prodigal Son. It's Jesus sitting on the porch watching the road for His lost child to return to Him. It is Jesus who races out to embrace His child, kiss him, and welcome him home!

It is Jesus who wants us all to respond to His call to follow Him and be disciples. Jesus wants to be my Everlasting Father and yours. He wants everyone to receive Him as their Savior.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

He wants to be our Father now and for eternity, when we will enjoy everlasting life with Him!

If you're ready to seek Jesus like the wise men, if you are ready to meet the Everlasting Father, we encourage you to take that step today. Jesus is the Everlasting Father, and His kingdom will have no end. You can trust in Him because He will always be there for you!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

It is so good to know you are always there for us!

In Jesus' name,

Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

What is your all time LEAST favorite Christmas show or movie?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Isaiah 9:6b

Give each kid one word or a few words of the verse on a note card. See if they can arrange the cards and get the verse right. Then read the verse aloud with the kids.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Play a game of hot potato with a stuffed Santa or Snowman.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 2:1-16

Who were the Magi?

Who were they seeking?

Why was Herod afraid of Jesus?

What makes Jesus the Everlasting Father?

How can we have Everlasting life?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for your never ending love!

In Jesus' name,

Amen



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

What is your all time LEAST favorite Christmas show or movie?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Isaiah 9:6b

Give each kid one word or a few words of the verse on a note card. See if they can arrange the cards and get the verse right. Then read the verse aloud with the kids.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Play a game of hot potato with a stuffed Santa or Snowman.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 2:1-16

Why did the Magi go to see Herod?

Why was Herod afraid of Jesus?

Why is Jesus called the Everlasting Father?

How can we have Everlasting life?

Is there anyone who wants to receive the gift of everlasting life today?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for your never ending love!

In Jesus' name,

Amen

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

TRUE OF FALSE

The magi traveled from the Far West.

FALSE

The Magi were looking for Jesus.

TRUE

Herod was overjoyed to hear that Jesus had been born.

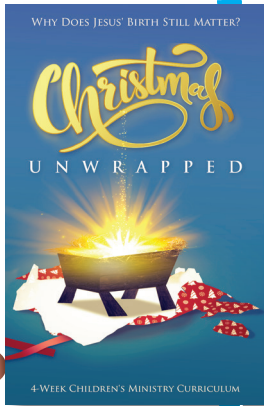
FALSE

The kingdom of Heaven is everlasting.

TRUE

Jesus loves us like a good Father, and His love will never end.

TRUE



MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Christmas Unwrapped Lesson 3

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: EVERLASTING FATHER



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

When something is everlasting, it means that it will never end. When King Herod learned that Jesus had been born, he knew his kingdom was coming to an end, so he tried to stop Jesus. Jesus loves us like a good father, and we can take comfort knowing that Jesus' love and Jesus' kingdom will never end. Matthew 2:1-16, The Magi and King Herod



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Ask your kids to name some good things that God has done for them.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Who were the Magi looking for?
- Why didn't Herod get that the birth of Jesus was a good thing?
- What makes Jesus the Everlasting Father?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6b (NIV)



PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

Jesus loves us like a loving father. His love has no end, and if we trust in Him, we will have everlasting life. Ask God to lead your kids to make a decision to follow Jesus so they can receive the gift of eternal life.



"And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of
Peace." - Isaiah 9:6b (NIV)



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CRAFT ACTIVITY

Each week the kids will make ornaments with the week's featured name for Jesus (from Isaiah 9) written on it. These can be ball ornaments they decorate with markers or ornaments they make with craft material and string - whatever you like! At the end of the series they will have four different ornaments that say Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.