

The Big Question

How can God have no beginning?

The truth that God could have no beginning makes us scratch our heads. That's because we exist in time, meaning our lives have a beginning, middle, and end. We have no frame of reference for imagining what an eternal (or timeless) existence could be like. It's sort of like trying to imagine a new color that we've never seen before. Since our frame of reference is limited, there's just no way for our brains to grasp what a new color would look like, or what a timeless existence would feel like.

But whether we can wrap our minds around it or not, God really is eternal! And that means He never had a beginning. This is true because time itself had a beginning, being created by God (Genesis 1:3–5). That means God Himself must exist outside of time, for only a timeless being could create time. Think of a painter. He has to be outside of his canvass in order to create the painting on the canvass. And so it is with God and time. This is why the Bible teaches that God has a different perspective on time than we do (Psalm 90:4; 2 Peter 3:8). Just as He is over and above the universe, He is also over and above time itself.



Case in Point

Now and Eternity

Brent has grown up going to Sunday School just about every Sunday. He doesn't mind church, but he doesn't see the need to be so worried about trying to obey God every moment of every day. Sometimes he likes to hang with his friends and just be a regular guy instead of a Christian. He doesn't guard what he says or watches. He joins whatever his friends are doing or saying.

"I know God understands," Brent thinks. "He knows I'm saved and that I have been good about going to church. Certainly He doesn't care too much about what I do with my friends. I'm just a six grader after all. I don't see how doing what I want to do could ever affect the future. I'll be in Heaven after I die. I know God won't kick me out of Heaven for anything I do or say on earth."



Ponder Points

1. What do you think of Brent's conclusion that what he does now won't affect eternity?
2. What about Brent's unsaved friends? Do Brent's actions affect them for eternity? How?
3. Read John 3:16. What motivation to live for God all the time might Brent find in this verse?

From Forever to Forever



Both God and circles have no start and no end.



G O D _____
(Genesis 1:1)



_____ L _____
(Psalm 90:2)



_____ V _____
(John 3:16)

Each circle has an eternal message about God. To discover the messages, choose one letter in each circle as a starting point. Move around each circle, skipping every other letter. Note the words formed by the letters and the message formed by the words. Write the words in the blanks. Some of the letters have been entered for you.

Forever Valuable

Read the list of things that will have value in eternity. Find the words in the word search.

FAITH	E C I F I R C A S A G
HOLINESS	P O K A T O L O V E V
LOVE	A G N I S S E N T I W
OBEDIENCE	K J E T E S S N E B P
SACRIFICE	G I C H N E S S E E I
SERVICE	O K I N D N E S S L H
WITNESSING	W R V W O R S H I B S
WORSHIP	W O R S H E J A Y I R
	U Y E C N E I D E B O
	P S S E N I L O H I W



Your life can count for eternity right now! God is highly interested in working through you to make an eternal impact on those around you.

Measuring Growth

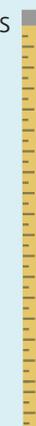


The Junior lesson for this week presented God's eternity. The lesson challenged your child to live for eternity. Pay attention to his or her decisions. Help him or her see the opportunity to use his or her life to make an eternal difference. Spend time with your child talking about the spiritual growth measurables for this week's lesson.

Measurables

Look for the following indicators that your child is living for eternity.

1. My child believes in the reality of Heaven and hell and has trusted in Jesus as Savior.
2. My child serves God, knowing God rewards faithful service.
3. My child seeks God's grace when faced with challenges and fears.



STRONG
kids