**Learn in Community**

Small Group Study

**Volume Overview**

**Who is God the Father?**

*“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.” (*[*Isaiah 55:8*](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Is55.8)*)*

*Theologian A. W. Tozer is quoted as saying, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” By learning about God being the one true God, being in control, caring about us, and being eternal, we get a broader view of God the Father—our Heavenly Father.*

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| ***You Will Need**** *No supplies needed*

***Getting Ready**** *No prep is needed.*

*First time leading* Learn *for Youth? Look here for the* [Facilitator Guide](https://0b769b0ed3569ef9d18b-f88d8272f61086866d50d048b43ef630.ssl.cf2.rackcdn.com/sites/biblengagementproject/Listen_Facilitator_Guide.pdf). |

*To access session content and videos from a computer, visit:*

[*BibleEngagementProject.com/downloads*](https://bibleengagementproject.com/downloads)

**Engage**

**Welcome**

*Take this time to welcome everyone, introduce new students, learn names, and thank everyone for coming.*

**Opening Prayer**

*Prayer thoughts: Thank God for bringing everyone together and giving you an opportunity to learn God’s Word in community. Ask God to help everyone learn something new about Him today and help those facing a tough time at home or school.*

**Introduction**

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| **QUESTION**What is something you would like to do forever? |

The idea of something going forever or being eternal can be hard to wrap our mind around. But today we’re talking about our eternal God. It’s amazing to think that the one true God has always existed. He was here before the beginning of time, and He will be here forever. He is the God of all generations throughout time. Yet He desires to connect with each of us individually each day.

**Group Activity**

**If I Could—Forever**

Before we talk more about how God is eternal, I’d like to get your thoughts about forever. I’m going to ask some questions. You’ll have five seconds to blurt out the first thing that comes to your mind.

• *Depending on the size of your group, take time to ask individuals one question each or ask each student several questions. If time allows, ask them why they chose their answers.*

• *Optional: Add questions of your own.*

Ready? Let’s begin.

1. If you could eat the same food every day forever, what would you eat?

2. If you could play the same game or sport forever, what would you play?

3. If you could watch the same show or movie forever, what would you watch?

4. If you could be around one person forever, who would you be around?

5. If you could give someone else a gift every day forever, who would you choose?

6. If you could listen to the same singer or band forever, who would you listen to?

7. If you could have the same season or weather all year round forever, what would you choose?

It’s hard to think about doing something forever. Yet the Bible tells us that God not only has been around forever, but He will always be here. Each of us has a beginning, but not God. He has no beginning and no end. He is the eternal God.

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| **QUESTION**What comes to your mind when you think of eternity? |

It’s hard for us to even imagine how long eternity is since we only live for a short part of that time. But to an eternal God, there’s not much difference between a day and a thousand years ([2 Peter 3:8](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Pe3.8)). Let’s watch the video.

**Watch**

**Consider What the Bible Says**

*Ensure each student has access to a Bible, preferably the same version.*

Before we read from the Bible, here’s a little background. The Old Testament has a lot to say about the Israelite Moses. Through a series of events, he grew up in Egypt as an adopted grandson of Pharaoh. Much later, Moses killed an Egyptian because of the way he was treating an Israelite slave. As a result, Pharaoh wanted Moses dead. You can read Moses’s backstory for yourself in [Exodus 1](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ex1) and [2](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ex2).

So Moses fled to the desert and made a life for himself far away from Egypt in a place called Midian. What we’re about to read is Moses encountering God in a unique way.

**The Eternal God Desires to Connect with Us Individually**

Read [Exodus 3:1–6](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ex3.1-6).

You may be thinking that there are some similarities with the account of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fire. Remember, that story is about how the one true God saved them from the fiery furnace. They were not burned and didn’t even smell like smoke when they came out. Similarly, this bush didn’t burn up either. God was using this miracle of fire not consuming like it usually does to communicate. It was an evidence of His power and those who saw it should pay attention.

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| **QUESTION**Which of these two encounters do you believe would be more incredible to witness? Why? |

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| **QUESTION**What was Moses doing when he heard God speak to him through the bush? |

God can reveal himself to us at unexpected times and in unusual ways. In Moses’s case, he was a shepherd, faithfully doing his everyday job when God spoke. He didn’t need to be praying or in some special place of worship for God to connect with him.

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| **QUESTION**How do you think you would respond if God spoke to you from a burning bush? |

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| **QUESTION**Have you ever been in a situation where you knew God was speaking to you? What happened? |

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think God needed to introduce himself as the God of Moses’s ancestors: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? |

This introduction shows us that the eternal God is bigger than time. He let Moses know that He was connected to these ancestors who were alive literally hundreds of years before! God has been connecting with generations of people from the very beginning, including ours. He is God over all people, past and present. Most importantly, He desires to connect with each and every future generation too.

**The Eternal “I Am” Identifies with His People**

Read [Exodus 3:12–15](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ex3.12-15).

God told Moses He wanted to deliver the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. He chose Moses as His spokesperson. But Moses wanted to be able to tell the people who he was speaking for.

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| **QUESTION**What did Moses ask for in verse [13](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ex3.13)? |

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think Moses asked God His name to tell the Israelites? |

God gave Moses a very interesting name to tell the Israelites—“I am.” In that tiny name, God was revealing something special about himself. It let the people know that He is the One who has always existed and will always exist. Someday, each of us will die, and people will say “he was” or “she was.” But God always has been and always will be. He is I am!

Think about the people you know by name. Knowing someone’s name suggests we have a personal connection or relationship with them. Because God introduced himself, He expressed His desire for a relationship with Moses and with us.

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| **QUESTION**Does your concept of God change knowing He created us for relationship? Why or why not? |

In this brief encounter with Moses, God revealed a lot about himself. But this isn’t the only place in the Bible that helps us know God is eternal. Let’s look at what a prophet named Isaiah recorded God saying about that topic.

**Did You Know?**

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| Although little archaeological evidence remains of the Israelites’ enslavement in Egypt, a cultural shift appears to serve as equally convincing evidence of their presence there. Akhenaten, a pharaoh from the fourteenth century BC, provides a possible link to the Exodus. He attempted to change the polytheistic nation of Egypt to monotheism. Most scholars agree that an incredibly monumental event, such as the plagues of Exodus, would have been needed to move a pharaoh such as Akhenaten to reject the deep polytheistic culture of Egypt’s past two-thousand-plus years in favor of a monotheistic way of life. This would have resulted in rejection by his own people, being deemed “the traitor king” in his own generation and for generations to come. |

**Our Eternal God Exists Forever**

Read [Isaiah 46:9–10](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Is46.9-10).

Reading about the amazing things God has done in the past helps us understand who He was. But when we combine that info with knowing that He’s eternal, we learn who He is today as well! The eternal God who took action in the past is still active in the present.

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| **QUESTION**What do you think it means when God says, “I am God, and there is none like me”? |

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| **QUESTION**How can it change what a person believes to learn that there is none like our God? |

There was no one prior to God. He has always been, and no other being called a “god” is eternal like Him. He’s one of a kind.

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| **QUESTION**What is significant about God stating He is the only one who can tell the future before it happens? |

God knows how the future will play out because He knows everything, and ultimately He is in control.

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| **QUESTION**Does knowing that everything God has planned will come to pass give you confidence? Why or why not? |

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| **QUESTION**How should knowing that God already knows the future affect our prayers and our faith in Him? |

**Reflect**

**God Is Eternal**

The eternal nature of God is a massive idea for us to get our thinking around. Knowing God is eternal should help us feel secure about our salvation through Jesus. [Isaiah 46:10](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Is46.10) reminds us that everything God has planned comes to pass—including eternity with Him. One thing to be sure of is that you are no accident in life. You are a part of God’s eternal plan. We can know that He is always with us.

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| **QUESTION**What does it mean to you, knowing that you are a part of God’s eternal plan? |

**Listen to God**

Let’s take time to consider how our life demonstrates a real trust in the eternal God. These questions are meant to serve as a conversation between you and Him. Sharing your responses with the group is completely voluntary.

• *Pause for a few moments of silent reflection before asking students if they want to share.*

God is eternal, and He promises that those who follow Him will have eternal life with Him.

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| **QUESTION**What do you think it will be like to spend eternity with God? |

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| **QUESTION**How should knowing that you can live for eternity with God because of your relationship with Him affect the choices and decisions you make today? |

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| **Salvation Opportunity***Include this if you think there may be some in the group who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus.*We may not see God in a burning bush like Moses did, but when we choose to follow Jesus, we will encounter Him in unexpected ways. [John 6:47](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn6.47) assures us that anyone who believes will have eternal life. That means you can be with God forever.**Is there anyone here that we can pray for who doesn’t have a relationship with Jesus or wants to renew their relationship with Him?***Take a moment to acknowledge those who respond, and thank them for their desire to make things right between themselves and God. Pray with them as you close in prayer or after the group time is over. Following group time, talk more about where they are in their walk with God and how you might be able to help.* |

**Activate**

Just as Moses shared his God encounter with the Israelites, take a moment this week to share about your relationship with God with a family member or friend.

**Conclusion**

The eternal nature of God means followers of Jesus will one day be in God’s eternal kingdom. The same ancestors God spoke to Moses about—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—are our spiritual ancestors. God is our eternal God, too.

**Prayer**

Eternal God, we want to know You. Because You are eternal, we can trust You with our life today and in eternity. Help us to follow Jesus every day, so we can live with You forever. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

I look forward to seeing each of you next time as we continue our journey through God’s Word! Don’t forget the personal devotions in your app and the challenge to each of us to share Christ with one other person this week.

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