

JUNE 2023



DEEPLY ROOTED

← CONNECTING THE DOTS →



Lesson 3 > The Past, The Present, The Future ALL - IN - ONE GUIDE

Suggested Use: June 15, 2023 – June 21, 2023

SERIES INFORMATION



SERIES GOAL: Preteens will encounter El-Olam, the Everlasting God who is unchanging and proclaims the future.

Lesson 1: Jesus Connects the Dots



KEY QUESTION:
Is God ever surprised?



ENCOUNTER:
El-Olam's Perspective



KEY VERSES:
Hebrews 13:8, Luke 24:25-27,
Micah 2:12-13

Lesson 2: Serpent and the Son



KEY QUESTION:
Did God plan my salvation?



ENCOUNTER:
El-Olam's Plans



KEY VERSES:
Malachi 3:8, Acts 3:18,
Genesis 3:15

SALVATION MESSAGE

Lesson 3: The Past, The Present, The Future



KEY QUESTION:
Where did God (and everything else) come from?



ENCOUNTER:
El-Olam's Place



KEY VERSES:
Revelation 1:8, Psalm 118:22,
Matthew 21:42

Lesson 4: Yes and Amen



KEY QUESTION:
Are God's promises for me, and will he keep his promises?



ENCOUNTER:
El-Olam's Promises



KEY VERSES:
Psalm 90:2, Romans 8:28,
2 Corinthians 1:20

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Reader's Version®, Nlrv® Copyright © 1995, 1996, 1998, 2014 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Biblica. All rights reserved worldwide. The "Nlrv" and "New International Reader's Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™

Notated Scripture quotations are from the The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, ESV®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



LESSON OVERVIEW

CONNECTING THE DOTS > Lesson 3 > The Past, The Present, The Future

Jesus is the Cornerstone. The Alpha. The origin of all things.

Preteens are growing in their perspective of time, and they're grasping the concept that all things have an origin. They're starting to connect the dots from themselves to their parents to their grandparents, and they're beginning to see that the dots can be connected back even farther. They start to ponder how the dots go all the way back to Adam and Eve.

From there, they contemplate that Adam and Eve came from God. But then, an interesting question comes into their mind. Since all things come from something else, they ask: "Where did God come from?"

In this lesson, we'll explore how God is unique. God doesn't come from something else. Just like there is no letter that comes before "A," there is nothing that comes before God! He is unique in all the universe. John 1:3 tells us that all things were created through Jesus, and that nothing that has been made was made without him. All dots connect backward in time to him.

Today, as our preteens are encountering the Everlasting God, El-Olam, our hope is that they would marvel at God's unique place in all the Universe!

God is the beginning of all things. He's the end of all things. He's the main thing in all of Creation. Every one of our lives, and everything else in all of Creation, have El-Olam as our origin and as our ultimate destination!

Even when the builders reject him, Jesus is the Cornerstone.

He is the Alpha and Omega!



LEADER PREP & DEVOTIONAL

CONNECTING THE DOTS > Lesson 3 > The Past, The Present, The Future

Scripture: **Colossians 1:16**

What's the earliest memory you have of God working in your life? Pause for a moment and consider it.

Our awareness of God doesn't mark the beginning of his work in our lives. God is the ALPHA in each of our lives, and his reach extends before any of us can remember.

- He knit you together in your mother's womb, yet you weren't aware then that he was at work in your life.
- He planned the day of your birth, and yet you weren't aware then that he was at work in your life.

God is the Alpha and the Omega. There's not one moment of your life that was before or after God. Every moment, whether you've made the connection or not, has something to do with God. He's the point and origin of every breath, every heartache, every laugh, every tear.

Consider for a moment a memory from your life that you've yet to connect to God. Write it on the left dot below. Then, slowly, draw a line from that dot to the God dot as you consider and talk with God about how he was a part (and the point) of that moment.



GOD



SERVICE ELEMENTS

CONNECTING THE DOTS > Lesson 3 > The Past, The Present, The Future



Preservice Activities (10-40 min)

Polka Dot Party Popcorn | Polka Dot Coffee Mug | Silent Line Up | Alphabet Pictionary



Opening Worship (4 min)

Suggestion: "Great Things" by Phil Wickham



Announcements + Series Intro (5-10 min)

God is the Alpha and Omega



Mystery Challenge (6 min)

Now I Know My ABC's



Lesson Setup (6 min)

First and Lasts



Small Group 1 (8-15 min)

Welcome | Share | Discuss




Transition Worship (4 min)

Suggestion: "What a Beautiful Name" by Hillsong



Lesson (16 min)

1. **Engage:** Before Your First First and After Your Last Last (3)
2. **Illustration:** Tracing a Pencil back to God (8) 
3. **Teaching:** The Cornerstone (4)
4. **Wrap-Up:** Stand in Awe of El-Olam (1)



Responsive Worship (4)

Suggestion: "Promises Never Fail" by Bethel Music



Response Stations (8-15 min)

The Cornerstone | Worship | El-Olam | Tracing It Back to Jesus



Reveal Window (5 min)

2 Big Questions



Small Group 2 (8-15 min)

Reveal | Questions | Prayer



Closing Song (4 min)

Suggestion: "Love Goes On" by Hillsong Young and Free



SERVICE PLANNING

CONNECTING THE DOTS > Lesson 3 > The Past, The Present, The Future

40 Minute Service



6 8 16 10

60 Minute Service



4 6 6 6 9 4 16 9

75 Minute Service



4 5 6 6 9 4 16 8 5 9 4

90 Minute Service



4 8 6 6 11 4 16 12 5 10 4

120 Minute Service



18 4 9 6 6 15 4 16 4 14 5 15 4

RUNNING BEHIND SCHEDULE? If you notice that you're behind, you can omit the **blue text sections** in the teaching guide without interrupting the flow.



SUPPLIES & PREP

CONNECTING THE DOTS > Lesson 3 > The Past, The Present, The Future



Multimedia

- ☐ Videos:
 - ☐ **VIDEO01** 30 second timer (AFTER Slide11)
 - ☐ **VIDEO02** 3-Minute Dot Themed Countdown (AFTER Slide25)
- ☐ Audio clips:
 - ☐ **AUDIO01** Connecting Dots (WITH Slide02)
 - ☐ **AUDIO02** Mystery Challenge Music (WITH Slide10)
 - ☐ **AUDIO03** Bible Ready (WITH Slide18)
 - ☐ **AUDIO04** Bible Look Up (WITH Slide19)
 - ☐ **AUDIO05** Dismissal (WITH Slide21)
 - ☐ **AUDIO06** Welcome Back (WITH Slide22)
 - ☐ **AUDIO07** Reveal Music (WITH Slide32)
 - ☐ **AUDIO08** Dismissal 2 (WITH Slide33)
 - ☐ Prepare music for preservice and for transitions during the service
- ☐ Slides
- ☐ Song lyrics, recordings, and/or lyric videos



Worship

- ☐ Find recordings or sheet music for each song that you'll be using
- ☐ If using a live band, confirm who will be playing for this service



Preservice

- ☐ Select activities from the Preservice page and prepare for the stations you've selected
- ☐ Tell Small Group leaders which stations they'll be leading and e-mail directions
- ☐ Place a copy of the directions at each station



Welcome & Announcements

- ☐ Prepare any ministry-specific announcements



Mystery Challenge

- ☐ **Contestant One Question Sheet**
- ☐ **Contestant Two Question Sheet**



Lesson Intro

- ☐ None

[continued]



SUPPLIES & PREP

CONNECTING THE DOTS > Lesson 3 > The Past, The Present, The Future

[continuation]



Lesson

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Wooden pencil
- ☐ Pens or pencils for each preteen
- ☐ Sheet of paper for each preteen



Reveal Window

- ☐ **Reveal Card** for each preteen and leader
- ☐ Pen for each preteen



Response Stations

- ☐ Select which of the suggested Response Stations you'll be using and prepare for the stations you've selected. As an alternative, some of these stations can be turned into Small Group activities.



Small Group

- ☐ Set of **Discussion Cards**



PRESERVICE OPTIONS



CONNECTING THE DOTS > Lesson 3 > The Past, The Present, The Future

Polka Dot Party Popcorn

SNACK

Supplies:

- ☐ 10 Cups popped popcorn (unpopped kernels removed)
- ☐ 12 Oz. Bag Vanilla candy melts
- ☐ Multicolored candy sprinkles

Directions: Add popped popcorn to a large mixing bowl. Set aside. Line two medium baking sheets with wax paper. Melt candy melts in microwave according to package directions. Stir until smooth. Pour melted candy melts over popcorn and stir to combine. Turn out coated popcorn onto lined baking sheets in one layer. Sprinkle with candy sprinkles and allow to cool. Break apart and serve.

Leader Tip: An easy way to remove unpopped kernels from popped popcorn is to empty the popcorn into a large bowl, top the bowl with a baking rack, and then turn the bowl upside down. The unpopped kernels should fall through the grid of the baking rack.

Polka Dot Coffee Mug

CRAFT

Supplies:

- ☐ Dollar store white coffee mugs
- ☐ Sharpies of various colors
- ☐ Option 2: Q-tip and various colors of paint

Directions: Begin drawing or painting polka dots on the mug. Once you have reached your desired number of dots, let the mug dry for 48 hours. To permanently seal, place the mug in cold oven, set it to 325 degrees and leave in for 30 minutes.

Silent Line Up

GAME

Supplies:

- ☐ NONE

Directions: There are various rounds to this game. Separate preteens into two teams. Without talking or making any sounds the preteens must line up in order based on the given theme.

Round 1: line up by birthdate

Round 2: line up by age

Round 3: line up by height

Round 4: line up based on number of siblings

Round 5: line up based on number of pets

The team with most overall wins is the winner.

Alphabet Pictionary

GAME

Supplies:

- ☐ 2 Whiteboards and markers or large sheets of paper and markers
- ☐ 2 ABC Word Lists

Directions: Both teams go at the same time. Each team chooses an "artist" to go first. That person must go through their ABC Word List from A to Z and draw the next word on the list while the rest of the team guesses. If you have two leaders who can show the next word to the players, you can change artists after each word. The first team to guess the "Z-word" wins.



WELCOME



CONNECTING THE DOTS > Lesson 3 > The Past, The Present, The Future

Personalize this section by welcoming preteens to your preteen ministry and letting them know about any upcoming events for your church or ministry.

[Slide01 Connecting the Dots]

Hello! I'm so glad you're with us today as we continue our Connecting the Dots series.

Over the past two weeks, we've seen how, through God, the past, the present and the future are all connected.

Let's do another quick dot test to get things started today.

On the screen, you'll see dots which form a five-letter word if you connect the dots in your mind. Let's see how you do. Call out the word if you can see it.

(For each pair of slides, put up the first slide and let the preteens attempt to guess the word for just a moment before showing the next slide with the picture revealed.)

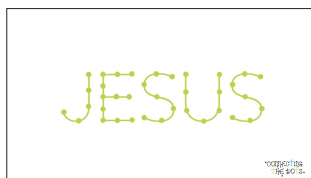
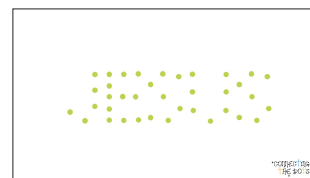
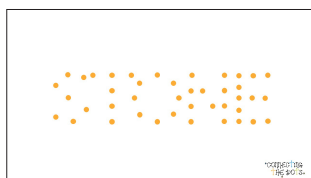
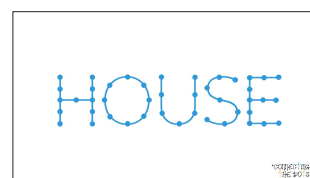
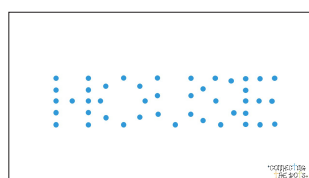
[Slide02-07 Dot Game]

[AUDIO01 Connecting Dots]

Nicely done.

Over the past few weeks, we learned some amazing truths about God.

[continued]



WELCOME



CONNECTING THE DOTS > Lesson 3 > The Past, The Present, The Future

[continuation]

[Slide08 God sees]

Stand up and say both things with me.

(God sees yesterday, today and forever. God's plan WILL happen.)

OK. You can be seated.

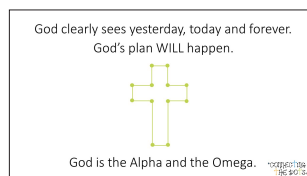
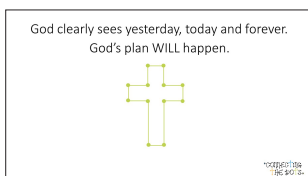
Today, we're going to encounter another truth about the Everlasting God. Today, we'll look at this truth: God is the Alpha and the Omega.

[Slide09 Alpha and Omega]

Raise your hand if you have an idea about what that means. (Look for hands, but don't call on anybody.) Great. You can put your hands down.

By the end of today, I think you'll all have a much better idea about what it means that God is the Alpha and Omega, and you'll also have a closer relationship with God.

First, it's time for our Mystery Challenge. Today, I need two contestants who know their ABC's. Raise your hand if you want to play.



MYSTERY CHALLENGE



CONNECTING THE DOTS > Lesson 3 > The Past, The Present, The Future

[Slide10 Mystery Challenge]

[AUDIO02 Mystery Challenge Music]

1. Select two preteens to play.

Leader Tip: When you have 2 contestants playing a game, it can be more interesting for the audience if everybody has a representative up front. Perhaps you can choose a boy to play for the boys and a girl to play for the girls. OR, you can do leader versus preteen. OR, you could do 5th grade versus 6th grade. OR, left side of the room against the right side of the room.

2. Explain that today's challenge is to be called "Now I Know My ABC's."

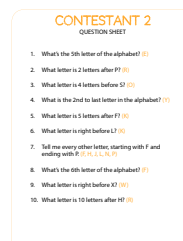
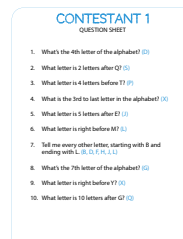
[Slide11 Now I Know My ABC's]

3. Explain that each contestant will have 30 seconds to answer as many questions as they can about the ABC's. At the end, whoever answers the most questions correctly in 30 seconds is the winner.

[VIDEO01 30 second timer]

[Slide12 Now I Know My ABC's]

4. Start the timer and ask the first contestant questions from the Contestant One Question Sheet until the timer hits zero. Note how many questions he or she answers correctly.
5. Repeat the timer and ask the second contestant questions from the Contestant Two Question Sheet until the timer hits zero. Note how many questions he or she answers correctly.
6. Announce the winner, and optionally, award a prize.



LESSON INTRO



CONNECTING THE DOTS > Lesson 3 > The Past, The Present, The Future

[Slide13 Connecting the Dots]

It's interesting, because I know my ABC's pretty well, but if you ask me questions like "What are three letters before N?" It forces me to stop and think about it.

I have a pretty simple question about the alphabet for everybody to think about: what letter comes before "A" in the alphabet?

[Slide14 What comes before A]

(Look for answers. You'll probably get some creative preteen responses.)

The real answer is that there is NOTHING before the letter "A." "A" is at the very beginning and nothing comes before it.

Here's a similar question: what letter comes after "Z" in the alphabet?

[Slide15 What comes after Z]

Again, the answer is NOTHING. "Z" is at the very end and nothing comes after it.

There are different alphabets in the world. Some of them have different letters, like these two letters that we'll put on the screen.

[Slide16 Alpha and Omega 1]

These are two letters from the Greek alphabet. **Does anybody know the name of these two letters?** *(Take answers.)*

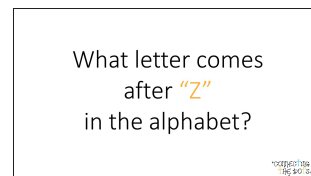
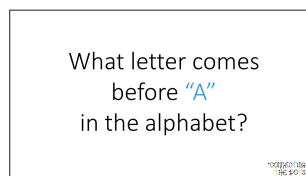
The one on the left is Alpha, and the letter on the right is Omega.

[Slide17 Alpha and Omega 2]

"Alpha" is the beginning letter of the Greek alphabet, just like our letter "A."

"Omega" is the ending letter of the Greek alphabet, just like our letter "Z."

[continued]



LESSON INTRO



CONNECTING THE DOTS > Lesson 3 > The Past, The Present, The Future

[continuation]

There's a Bible verse that mentions the letters Alpha and Omega. Get your Bibles ready to look it up.

[Slide18 Bibles Ready]

[AUDIO03 Bibles Ready]

Let's see who can be the first person to look up this verse and stand up. Here we go.

[Slide19 Revelation 1:8]

[AUDIO04 Bible Look Up]

(Have the first preteen who finds the verse come to the front of the room and read it. Then (s)he can have a seat.)
Help me connect the dots here. What does it mean that God is the Alpha and the Omega? What do you guys think? *(Take some responses.)*



UNDERSTANDING THE METHOD: You're not looking for a definitive answer. You'll be teaching more about this verse in the lesson. Instead, you're looking to engage the preteens in thinking about this verse and about what it might mean that God is the Alpha and Omega.

Over the past few weeks, we've been learning that God is called El-Olam.

[Slide20 The Everlasting God]

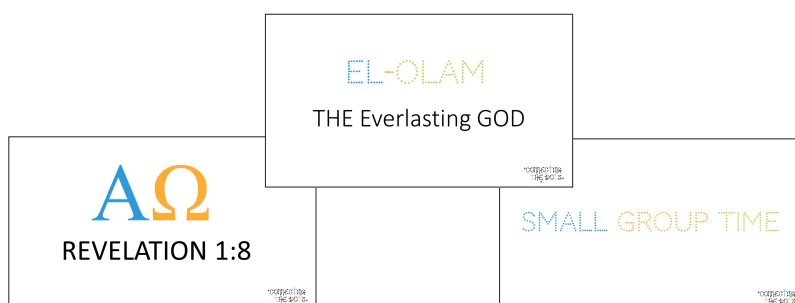
We learned that El-Olam means "The Everlasting God." **El-Olam is a name for God that reminds us that God is the same yesterday, today and forever. El-Olam can see the past, the present and the future and his plans never change. His Word stands forever. He's the Everlasting God.** Today, we're going to add to our understanding of the Everlasting God with this truth: God is the first and the last, the Alpha and the Omega.

We'll think some more about firsts and lasts in our Small Groups before we talk about what it means for God to be the Alpha and the Omega. Your leaders have discussion cards with "first" and "last" questions. I'm going to give you about [10] minutes in your Small Groups to talk about firsts and lasts. Then we'll come back and explore how God is the first and the last!

(Dismiss to Small Groups.)

[Slide21 Small Groups]

[AUDIO05 Dismissal]



LESSON



CONNECTING THE DOTS > Lesson 3 > The Past, The Present, The Future

1 Engage: Before Your First First and After Your Last Last

[Slide22 Connecting the Dots]

[AUDIO06 Welcome Back]

In your Small Groups, you had the chance to share some of the firsts and lasts from your lives.

Our lives are full of things beginning and things ending, but let's go back to the very beginning of your life; back before your first day of school, before your first step, before your first word. Let's go back even farther before your first breath.

Who will read this verse for everybody? *(Call on a preteen to read it.)*

[Slide23 Psalm 139:13]

Before all your firsts, God was there.

Now fast forward through your life. Move past your last day living at home with your family, past your last day of your last school, past your last day at your last job. Let's go forward even farther to after your last breath. Who will be there ready to meet with you face to face at the end? Shout out the answer. (GOD.)

God. That's right. Look again at Revelations 1:8 with me again.

[Slide24 Revelation 1:8]

(Read the verse.)

El-Olam is before your first first, and he's after your last last. But it's not just you that God is before and after. He's before and after all things. Just like the letter "A," or "Alpha," there is nothing before God. Just like the letter "Z," or "Omega," there is nothing after God.

Let's look at one more verse. Stand up, and we'll all read this together. Girls, you read the part in **BROWN**. Boys, you read the part in **GREEN**.

[Slide25 Colossians 1:17]

[continued]



LESSON



CONNECTING THE DOTS > Lesson 3 > The Past, The Present, The Future

[continuation]

Great. Everybody have a seat.

El-Olam isn't just part of the story of your life. HE IS THE POINT of the STORY of your life. He's at the beginning. He's at the end. He's everywhere in between.

2

Illustration: Tracing a Pencil back to God

Let's focus in on the Everlasting God being the Alpha.

As you look around this room, you can see a lot of things. Pick one of them and say it out loud on the count of three. 1...2...3... (Allow preteens to shout out an item.) Now let's connect some dots. Here. I'll go first.

(Hold up a pencil.) This is a pencil. It came from a store. Before that, it came from a pencil factory. Before that, the wood that they used in the pencil came from a lumbermill. The wood at the lumbermill came from a cedar tree that was brought from the woods. The tree grew from a seed that came from a cedar cone, which dropped from an older cedar tree. That tree came from a cedar cone, which dropped from an even older tree, and so on and so on all the back to the first cedar tree which God spoke into being. The beginning for this pencil is God.

Whatever item you shouted just a moment ago can be connected back to God, too.

Look at this drawing.

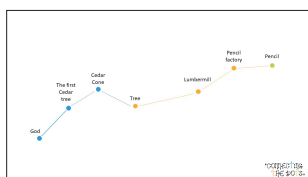
[Slide26 Pencil to God]

Just like pencils, everything else in all of Creation can be connected back to God.

Stars, iPhones, fish sticks, your favorite book, toilet seats, doorbells, flowers, picture frames, socks: all of these can be connected back to God.

Let's do a little activity. When I say "GO," get into partners and grab a piece of paper and a pen from [location]. Now, just like I did, connect the dots from some item that exists in the world back to God. It can be any item that you and your partner agree on.

[continued]





LESSON

CONNECTING THE DOTS > Lesson 3 > The Past, The Present, The Future

[continuation]

I'm going to give you three minutes to create a dot drawing like the one on the screen about pencils to show how it all connects back to El-Olam.

Ready. Set. Go.

[VIDE002 3-Minute Dot Themed Countdown]

[Slide27 Connecting the Dots]

(After the video, look at the drawings the preteens draw and hang them up to create a large mural.)

3

Teaching: The Cornerstone

In the beginning, there was God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. All things were created in Jesus (*See Colossians 1:16*). In this way, Jesus is the beginning of all things. A cornerstone of a building is similar to Jesus in this way.

[Slide28 Cornerstone]

Does anybody know what a cornerstone is? (Take answers.)

A cornerstone is the first block of stone that builders place when they were building a building. It is the first stone, and it's carefully selected from a quarry. A stone has to be just right for a builder to select it to be the cornerstone of their building.

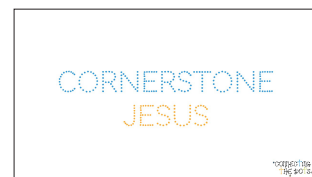
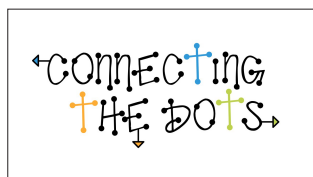
Just like the name says, it's placed in a corner, and then the building is built around it.

Jesus is sometimes called the Cornerstone. He could be called the Alphastone. Why do you suppose that Jesus is called the Cornerstone?

[Slide29 JESUS]

(Take answers.) Great answers.

[continued]



LESSON



CONNECTING THE DOTS > Lesson 3 > The Past, The Present, The Future

[continuation]

Jesus is the Cornerstone. All things start with him. He's the beginning of all things and everything else comes from him. John 1:3 tells us that all things were made through him, and nothing that has been made was made without him.

He is the Alpha. The first. The Cornerstone.

The Church started with Jesus. Our Universe started with Jesus. My life started with Jesus. He's the Cornerstone.

There's something interesting about the Cornerstone, Jesus. Check out this verse from the book of Matthew in the Bible. I'll pause for a moment so you can read it to yourself. Then, I'm going to ask you a question about it.

[Slide30 Matthew 21:42]

(PAUSE.) What does this verse say about the Cornerstone? What does the builder do to this cornerstone?
(REJECT IT.)

This verse helps us to understand something really interesting about the Cornerstone, Jesus. Even though Jesus is the beginning of all things, and all things come from him; Even though he is the place where our lives begin and the one who holds all things together; even though he IS the Cornerstone, he is rejected.

Some people hear about Jesus and say, "I don't want to have anything to do with him!" They live their lives for themselves, and they don't honor God as the reason why they are alive. **Raise your hand if you know somebody who has rejected Jesus as the Cornerstone of their life? (Look for hands.)**

This is nothing new. Jesus is rejected today, and Jesus was rejected 2000 years ago.

However, he is still the Cornerstone. Jesus is the Cornerstone that the builders reject. Even the people who reject Jesus take breaths of air. Where did that air come from? (GOD/JESUS) Even the people who reject Jesus were carefully put together in their mom's tummies before they were born. Who is the Cornerstone of their lives? (GOD/JESUS)

[continued]



Jesus said to them, "Haven't you ever read what the Scriptures say, 'The stone the builders didn't accept has become the most important stone of all. The Lord has done it. It is wonderful in our eyes'?"

Matthew 21:42 (Nirv*)

Copyright © 2023
FourFiveSix.org



LESSON

CONNECTING THE DOTS > Lesson 3 > The Past, The Present, The Future

[continuation]

4

Wrap-Up: Stand in Awe of El-Olam

[Slide 31 Four Names]

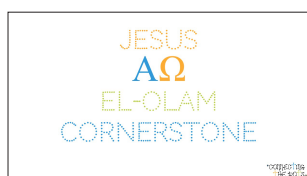
Think of all the names we've learned for God today. He's Jesus. He's is the Alpha and Omega, whether we admit it or not. He is El-Olam, the everlasting. And he's the Cornerstone.

Raise your hand if you understand the idea that God is Alpha and Omega a little bit better because of today's lesson. *(Look for hands.)*

All things in the Universe connect back to God. Wow. As you think about El-Olam, the Alpha and Omega, the Cornerstone, how many of you are in awe of how amazingly awesome our Everlasting God is? *(Look for hands.)*

Let's worship El-Olam! He's so amazing. So awesome! So powerful! He's the beginning of all things. He's the end of all things. He's the main thing in all of Creation!

(Lead a time of worship before heading into Response Stations.)



RESPONSE STATIONS



CONNECTING THE DOTS > Lesson 3 > The Past, The Present, The Future

The Cornerstone

#1

Supplies:

- ☐ Building Blocks / Legos
- ☐ Sharpie

Directions: At this station, preteens will build a representation of your ministry. As you're explaining this station, hold up a building block and write Jesus on it. Then, write your name on a Lego and attach it to the Jesus block. Explain at this station that preteens can build onto what you've started, building off of the Jesus block. As they do this, they should reflect on what it means that Jesus is the Cornerstone.

El-Olam

#3

Supplies:

- ☐ Large Banner with a large circle drawn in the middle of the banner. Inside the circle, write "El-Olam" in large letters to fill the circle.
- ☐ Markers

Directions: Leave this station up throughout this series. Invite preteens to draw a dot and write one truth they are discovering through today's lesson about The Everlasting God next to the dot. Then they can draw a line to connect their dot to the large "El-Olam" dot in the center of the banner.

Worship

#2

Supplies:

- ☐ Recording of a song like "You're Beautiful" by Phil Wickham. If possible, display the words on the screen or play a lyric video.

Directions: At this station, give preteens a space to sit and listen to this worship song. Optionally, provide paper and markers for them to write words that stand out to them as they listen to this song.

Tracing it Back to Jesus

#4

Supplies:

- ☐ Large Butcher Paper with JESUS and a dot drawn in the middle.
- ☐ Markers

Directions: At this station, preteens can extend upon the activity that they did during the lesson. On the large paper, they draw a dot with an item and then trace it back to Jesus, just like they did during the lesson.



UNDERSTANDING THE METHOD:

Because of where preteens are developmentally, this is an interesting activity for them, and some will want to complete it a second time. Allow them to do so—it helps them internalize that God is the Alpha; the Cornerstone. This can be very reassuring for them.



REVEAL WINDOW



CONNECTING THE DOTS > Lesson 3 > The Past, The Present, The Future

[Slide32 Reveal Questions]

[AUDIO07 Reveal Music]

Wrap up Response Time by having preteens come together. You could have everybody sing one more worship song together.

After everybody is back together, hand out Reveal Cards and a pen to each preteen. Direct the preteens to answer one or both questions on the card. These questions can also be displayed in the front of the room on Slide32.

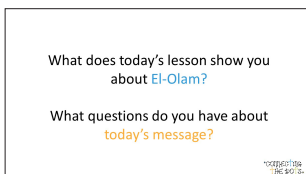
After preteens have had a chance to write on these cards, dismiss them to Small Group 2, where they can share their answers in their Small Group.

If you have any extra time, you can have one or two preteens share their answer(s) and discuss them as a Large Group before sending them to Small Group time.



[Slide33 Small Groups]

[AUDIO08 Dismissal]



SMALL GROUP GUIDE



CONNECTING THE DOTS > Lesson 3 > The Past, The Present, The Future

SMALL GROUP 1

SUPPLIES: ☐ Set of Discussion Cards

WELCOME: Welcome new preteens. Does everybody know everybody's name in your group? Find out by seeing if anybody can name everybody in the group.

DISCUSS: Place the **Discussion Cards** in the center of your group. Allow one preteen to pick up the first card and read the instructions on it. Continue to follow the directions on the cards to have a preteen-led discussion.



SMALL GROUP 2

REVEAL: Allow preteens to discuss what God revealed to them during today's service using their **Reveal Cards**.

QUESTIONS: Allow preteens to ask the questions they wrote on their **Reveal Cards**. Allow these questions to guide the group's discussion.

PRAY: Pray together with your preteens. Focus on the eternal nature of God. You can have the preteens take turns praying, starting with, "God, you amaze me because..."



EXTENDED SMALL GROUP



CONNECTING THE DOTS > Lesson 3 > The Past, The Present, The Future

Main Point: The Past, The Present, The Future: God is the Alpha and the Omega

Bible Verses: Isaiah 48:12-13; Revelation 21:1-8

Take Away: Just like the letter "A" in our alphabet has no letters before it and "Z" has no letters after it, there has and will never be anything before God or after God. He is truly the beginning and the end.

Action Question: What can we learn from God's promise that He is the Beginning and the End? (That he will return and those of us who trust in Him will get to live with Him in Heaven forever!)



OPENING ACTIVITY (5-10 minutes)

Activity: Right and Left Hand Challenge

Supplies: None

Instructions: Ask the preteens, "Who thinks they are super coordinated with both their right and left hands?" Select 2-3 preteens to come to the front. Ask them to perform a series of tasks with both their right and left hands "simultaneously" at the same time. See how well they can do each one.

Tasks:

1. Draw a circle with one hand, and another circle in the opposite direction with the other hand. Now do both at the same time.
2. Rub your belly and pat your head. Now swap arms.
3. Make a clockwise circle with your right foot, while drawing a "6" with your right hand. Did the 6 flip around? This can be done quite easily using opposite hands and feet, because you're using two different sides of your brain.
4. Stick a thumb up and point at it. Now try switching hands. Achievable with practice, and hand cramp.
5. Rotate your head in a circle one way and make a circle with your non dominant hand in the opposite direction as your head rotation.
6. Can you make up one of your own?



BIBLE LESSON Retell (20 minutes)

Hook Question: Who is right-handed? Who is left-handed? Who can use either one for most things?

Find It: Isaiah 48:12-13

Read It and Discuss It: Have any of you ever been in two places at once?

If you think hard enough you can think about how to do that. There is a place in the United states called "Four Corners" and it is where four of our states (Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico) all come and meet at one point. You can actually be in "four places at once" if you put each hand on a corner and each foot on a corner.

[continued]



EXTENDED SMALL GROUP



CONNECTING THE DOTS > Lesson 3 > The Past, The Present, The Future

[continuation]

But, none of us could ever be both first and last at the same time.

Today we have been talking a lot about how God is the beginning and the end, or in verse 12 it says the first and the last. If the power of that hasn't sunk in yet, let's go on and read verse 13 again.

"My own hand founded the earth, and my right hand spread out the heavens; when I summoned them, they stood up together." CSV

? What are some of the useful parts of your body? (*Heart, brain, organs, eyes, legs, hands.*)
Think for a minute about all the things you are able to do with your hands each and every day. Even all the things we could possibly accomplish with our hands could never compare to God.

? What does this verse say he was able to do with His hand at the beginning of time? (*He founded the earth.*)

? And what did his right hand do? (*Spread out the heavens.*)

It says basically that when he spoke, they both (Earth and heavens) stood up together! Close your eyes for a moment and let me read that verse one more time to you.

"My own hand founded the earth, and my right hand spread out the heavens; when I summoned them, they stood up together."

? How does reading a verse like that make you feel?

? What word does it make you think of to describe God?

Hook Question:

Find It: Revelation 21:1-8

Read It and Discuss It:

Before we read this, let's talk for a moment about the book of Revelation.

? Where is it located in the Bible? (*Last book*)

? Do any of you know who wrote it? (*John*)

The book of Revelation was written by John, who recorded the details of an amazing vision from God. He wrote it during a time of terrible persecution for the Christian churches. In the vision he received from God, John received warnings for seven churches, but some of his most awesome revelations were of the events leading up to the end of time.

Let's read starting in verse 1 of chapter 21.

Let's focus in on verse 4, **"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away."**

? What does this verse mean to you? (*This verse seems to be so full of hope. There is hope that one day we will no longer have pain, sadness, tough times, or death.*)

? What does God say in verse 5? **"Look, I am making everything new."**

? Can you even picture everything being new?

Nothing will be the same. God will undo every bad thing caused by sin.

[continued]



EXTENDED SMALL GROUP



CONNECTING THE DOTS > Lesson 3 > The Past, The Present, The Future

[continuation]

Then verse 6 says, ***"It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will freely give to the thirsty from the spring of the water of life."***

Jesus promises us that he will come back to earth. When Christ returns, those who trust in Jesus will be with Him and enjoy Him forever.

Let's reread verses 7-8.

"The one who conquers will inherit these things, and I will be his God, and he will be my son. But the cowards, faithless, detestable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars – their share will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

The words of warning that John wrote in this book of the Bible show how the choices we make in our lives, and whether we believe or not, will affect our eternity.

? How does hearing about eternity like this make you feel?

? Do any of you have doubts about your eternity?

If any of you would like to talk more about placing your trust in God and Him alone, I would love to talk to you more about that.

Let's pray and then we have our final activity.

Pray



FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY (15 minutes)

Activity: Omega to Alpha the Z-A Challenge

Supplies: None

Instructions: Select 2-3 preteens who would like to accept the challenge of saying the alphabet backwards (Z-A) in less than two minutes. You can also time to see who can actually do it the fastest. Have each preteen do it one at a time, timing each one on their turn. Play more rounds as time allows.



CLOSING PRAYER (5 minutes)

Prayer Requests for your Small Group.

Follow up each week with these. Maybe create a Prayer Wall/Jar/Journal for your group.



PRINTABLES

CONNECTING THE DOTS > Lesson 3 > The Past, The Present, The Future



ABC Word Lists

ABC WORD LIST	
TEAM 1	TEAM 2
Apple	Amplify
Bike	Bread
Car	Carry Case
Door	Dig
Evening	Earth
Face	Fan
Gall	Gaze
Happy	How
Light	Ice Cream
Joker	Jump
King	Keyboard
Lollipop	Low
Music	Murderer
Newspaper	Night
Pencil	Pen
Quantum	Quarter
Road	Read
Shorthand	Seize
Taxi	Truck
Unstable	Unusual
Volume	Volume
Whisper	World
X-ray	X-ray
Yarn	Year
Zebra	Zipper



Contestant One Question Sheet

CONTESTANT 1
QUESTION SHEET

1. What's the 4th letter of the alphabet? (2)
2. What letter is 2 letters after Q? (2)
3. What letter is 4 letters before T? (2)
4. What is the 3rd to last letter in the alphabet? (2)
5. What letter is 5 letters after B? (2)
6. What letter is right before M? (2)
7. Tell me every other letter, starting with B and ending with L. (2) (B, D, F, H, J, L)
8. What's the 7th letter of the alphabet? (2)
9. What letter is right before V? (2)
10. What letter is 10 letters after G? (2)

Contestant Two Question Sheet

CONTESTANT 2
QUESTION SHEET

1. What's the 10th letter of the alphabet? (2)
2. What letter is 2 letters after P? (2)
3. What letter is 4 letters before S? (2)
4. What is the 2nd to last letter in the alphabet? (2)
5. What letter is 5 letters after T? (2)
6. What letter is right before L? (2)
7. Tell me every other letter, starting with F and ending with R. (2) (F, H, J, L, N, P, R)
8. What's the 6th letter of the alphabet? (2)
9. What letter is right before X? (2)
10. What letter is 10 letters after H? (2)



Reveal Cards

Reveal Card	Reveal Card
Reveal Card	Reveal Card
Reveal Card	Reveal Card
Reveal Card	Reveal Card



Discussion Cards

QUESTION #1 Ask this question What is a common past tense verb? The word is was .	QUESTION #2 Ask this question What is a common past tense verb? The word is were .
QUESTION #3 Ask this question What is a common past tense verb? The word is had .	QUESTION #4 Ask this question What is a common past tense verb? The word is could .
QUESTION #5 Ask this question What is a common past tense verb? The word is might .	QUESTION #6 Ask this question What is a common past tense verb? The word is should .
QUESTION #7 Ask this question What is a common past tense verb? The word is would .	QUESTION #8 Ask this question What is a common past tense verb? The word is ought .

ABC WORD LiST



Apple
Bike
Cat
Door
Envelope
Face
Girl
Happy
Igloo
Joker
King
Lollipop
Music
Newspaper
Pencil
Question
Rose
Skateboard
Taco
Umbrella
Volume
Window
X-ray
Yarn
Zebra



Armpit
Bread
Candy Cane
Dog
Earth
Fan
Grapes
Horse
Ice Cream
Jump
Keyboard
Love
Monster
Night
Pen
Quarter
Road
Scissors
Truck
Unicorn
Volume
World
X-ray
Year
Zipper

Reveal Card



What does today's lesson show you about El-Olam?

A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for handwritten notes.

What questions do you have about today's message?

A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for handwritten notes.

Reveal Card



What does today's lesson show you about El-Olam?

A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for handwritten notes.

What questions do you have about today's message?

A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for handwritten notes.

Reveal Card



What does today's lesson show you about El-Olam?

A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for handwritten notes.

What questions do you have about today's message?

A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for handwritten notes.

Reveal Card



What does today's lesson show you about El-Olam?

A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for handwritten notes.

What questions do you have about today's message?

A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for handwritten notes.

CONTESTANT 1

QUESTION SHEET

1. What's the 4th letter of the alphabet? (D)
2. What letter is 2 letters after Q? (S)
3. What letter is 4 letters before T? (P)
4. What is the 3rd to last letter in the alphabet? (X)
5. What letter is 5 letters after E? (J)
6. What letter is right before M? (L)
7. Tell me every other letter, starting with B and ending with L. (B, D, F, H, J, L)
8. What's the 7th letter of the alphabet? (G)
9. What letter is right before Y? (X)
10. What letter is 10 letters after G? (Q)

CONTESTANT 2

QUESTION SHEET

1. What's the 5th letter of the alphabet? (E)
2. What letter is 2 letters after P? (R)
3. What letter is 4 letters before S? (O)
4. What is the 2nd to last letter in the alphabet? (Y)
5. What letter is 5 letters after F? (K)
6. What letter is right before L? (K)
7. Tell me every other letter, starting with F and ending with P. (F, H, J, L, N, P)
8. What's the 6th letter of the alphabet? (F)
9. What letter is right before X? (W)
10. What letter is 10 letters after H? (R)

QUESTION #1

Ask this question:

"What do you remember about the first day of Kindergarten or First Grade?"

After everybody has answered, say this: "The tallest person in our group should draw the next card and read it."

QUESTION #2

Ask this question:

"What do you remember about the last day of school this past schoolyear?"

After everybody has answered, say this: "The youngest person in our group should draw the next card and read it."

QUESTION #3

Ask this question:

"What is the first thing you did when you woke up this morning?"

After everybody has answered, say this: "The oldest person in our group should draw the next card and read it."

QUESTION #4

Ask this question:

"What 'firsts' are you looking forward to as you grow up?"

After everybody has answered, say this: "The person with the first name alphabetically in our group should draw the next card and read it."

QUESTION #5

Ask this question:

"What 'lasts' about childhood are you looking forward to as you grow up?"

After everybody has answered, say this: "The person with the last name alphabetically in our group should draw the next card and read it."

QUESTION #6

Ask this question:

"What was the youngest memory from your life that you can remember?"

After everybody has answered, say this: "After I say "GO," The first person to laugh in our group should draw the next card and read it. GO!"

QUESTION #7

Ask this question:

"What was the first time you went upside-down on a roller coaster (if you've done that already)?"

After everybody has answered, say this: "After I say "GO," The first person to give themselves a high five should draw the next card and read it. GO!"

QUESTION #8

Ask this question:

"Does anybody know the first word they spoke?"

After everybody has answered, say this: "What other firsts or lasts do you know from your life?"