



LESSON ONE

Objectives:

The students will be able understand *Sacred Story* is inspired from St. Ignatius of Loyola's conversion process. His life becomes a mission—a Sacred Story—to help others discover that their final home is in the Kingdom to Come and that our lives (thoughts, words and deeds) here on earth are to point in the direction of ETERNITY.

Students are to name and draw a picture of the last of the meditation themes for *Sacred Story*, ETERNITY, by giving examples from their own lives with 100% accuracy participation.

- **Materials:**

- “Eternity” poster
- PowerPoint: *SSI Life of St. Ignatius Loyola Grades 4-8*
- Projector
- Internet access
- Computer
- Screen
- Paper
- Students will need markers or crayons and a pen or pencil



LESSON ONE

Invitation to Prayer: Gather class together in prayer corner

Open with prayer: Sign of the Cross

Teacher reads:

ETERNITY Illuminative Grace

“Here I ask for what I desire: to be graced daily with a profound consciousness of Christ Jesus’ healing love, personally experienced, that will so enlighten my heart and mind that my every thought, word and deed can serve His Great Work of Universal Reconciliation. “

Close with the “Our Father”

Introduction: Who is St. Ignatius and what is ETERNITY?

Share with the students the PowerPoint of St. Ignatius Loyola (SSI Life of St. Ignatius Loyola Grades 4-8)

- ❖ Ask students to share with a partner what they learned about St. Ignatius and prayer. (Think, Pair Share method)
- ❖ Have partners share their thoughts with the class.

God gives us insight into our own lives through prayer. Emphasize the need to be still and quiet in order to hear what God is trying to say to them.

Guided Practice:

Display the “Eternity” poster and share the following:

*“I believe the grace of **forgiveness opens my heart**, making my every thought; word and deed bear **fruit that endures to eternity**. I ask that everything in my life serve Christ’s Great Work of Reconciliation.”*

Discuss the words “bear fruit”, endures, “Christ’s Great Work of Reconciliation”
All things are never ending with God, if we just open our hearts up to his will; God is ETERNAL and forever as is his love for us.

When we meditate we will be listening to God’s voice. One of the meditation themes is “ETERNITY”.

Some thoughts to share: (Teacher could share or make a copy of these and have different students read them aloud. A printable copy of these follows this lesson).

- ❖ For all of Eternity, God has been, is now and ever will be Love. God, our creator, is always present to help us to live as loving beings, forgiving our sins and healing us from the pain of sin, so we can continue to love him and others.
- ❖ Our loving thoughts, words, and actions make a positive impact upon our world that lasts for all eternity.
- ❖ All we have and are and do is meant for our place in eternity. Paying attention to the here and now is important in our development.
- ❖ Developing a strong relationship with Jesus now will have a positive effect that will last through eternity.
- ❖ All spiritual roads lead to eternity with God. It should be our ultimate goal.
- ❖ All things are never ending with God, if we just open our hearts up to his will.
- ❖ We are called daily to forgive and show mercy to one another, just as Jesus did and does. Without these two things, eternity is unattainable.

Independent Practice: Invite students to close their eyes, lie on the floor and try to imagine what Eternal Love is like.

Write or illustrate what Eternal Love means to oneself: (use the *Eternal Love Circle* worksheet).

Then write a personal prayer asking for grace to be generous with material things, not addicted or attached to things because I can only really invest my worth in things that are “Eternal”: (please see attached template).

Closure: Have students share their prayers at the end of the lesson. When we pray our daily mediations we will pray, “Jesus, let me always serve Your Eternal Kingdom of Light, and reject the kingdom of darkness, by knowing what makes me joyful and what makes me sad.”

ETERNITY



Father, I believe You can give me eternal love and life, because by the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus, You

make this Eternal Kingdom
possible.

For all of Eternity, God has been, is now and ever will be Love. God, our creator, is always present to help us to live as loving beings,
forgiving our sins and healing us from the pain of sin,
so we can continue to love him and others.

Our loving thoughts, words, and actions make a positive impact upon our world that lasts for all eternity.

All we have and are and do is meant for our place in eternity. Paying attention to the here and now is important in our development.

Developing a strong relationship with Jesus now will have a positive effect that will last through eternity.

All spiritual roads lead to eternity with God. It should be our ultimate goal.

All things are never ending with God,
if we just open our hearts up to his will.

We are called daily to forgive and show mercy to one another, just as Jesus did and does. Without these two things, eternity is unattainable.

Draw a picture of Eternal Love inside this circle. Then on the back of this paper write a personal prayer asking for grace to be generous with material things, not addicted or attached to things because I can only really invest my worth in things that are “Eternal”.



