

"Eternal Life"

John 17: 1-5

10/16/22

Discussion Guide

Prepare:

Talk about eternal life. Before the message, when you thought about eternal life, what did you think it was? How important is this doctrine and what difference has it made in your life?

The Passage:

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

"Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. ² For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³ Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. John 17:1-5

1. Share a time you received a gift that you found offensive, to receive it meant having to admit something about yourself that you didn't think was true. Have you ever thought of the gift of eternal life as actually being an offensive gift from God? To receive it you have to admit that you are dead at some level.
2. Have you ever given a gift intentionally that had a message behind it that you hope the person who received the gift took to heart because it reflected a truth about their life that they did not want to face but needed to?
3. Discuss this statement: *"There is nothing more important for us to know than whether or not we have actually received the gift of eternal life."*
4. What is "eternal life?" Have you received eternal life? If so, what evidence would you point to that supports your belief?
5. Is there a difference between people who are cultural Christians, and people who believe the doctrine of eternal life intellectually, versus those who are vitally connected to God?"
6. Talk about the three orders of life and how they differ. In case you forgot the orders are: plant, animal and human.
7. Eternal life opens up to us a 4th order of life. How is living at the 4th order of life different from living at the 3rd order of life – the human level?
8. What difference does eternal life make in everyday life?
9. Have you ever tried to talk to someone about spiritual matters and he/she didn't seem to comprehend what you were saying? In light of the message, do you understand why he/she was unable to comprehend what you were talking about?

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10. Have you ever lived at the human level only and then discovered this 4th level? How did you move from the human level to the spiritual level? What can we do to help others stuck at the human level to make the leap to the next level up?
11. Which is more important: Doctrine – knowing information about God, or knowing God - having a personal relationship with him? What’s the danger of having one without the other?
12. Have you heard this statement: *“Well, I’m of the belief that God is whomever you say he is!”* Why do we think we can treat God this way when we can’t even treat people this way?
13. Reflect on this passage and what it says about having a personal relationship with God: *“No prophecy ever came by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were being carried along by the Holy Spirit. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:21*
14. What role does the Gospel play in moving a person from the 3rd level of life to the 4th level? What is the Gospel? (If you aren’t sure, here are a few passages that express it: Titus 3:4-8; I Peter 2:22-25; Revelation 1:5; Romans 3:19-25; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21)
15. Have you heard the Gospel message and have you received the gift of eternal life? If so, what have you done to maintain it? Have you ever thought about how important it is to maintain your spiritual life?

We know we have to make an effort to maintain all levels of life. Why are we so lax when it comes to the care of our soul?

Closing Passage:

“You, however, are controlled not by the flesh, but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you.” Romans 8:9