

Present Eternity

Where are you going in life? Do you ever think about your future, the direction your life is taking, or do you just try to 'live in the moment'? Discuss how you approach life with your group and how much you think about the future.

Through different seasons of life we place a greater emphasis on the future than others. Certain life events may trigger future thought---a new baby, a job layoff approaching, kids getting ready for college, etc. Typically, I think most Americans live in the here and now without thinking about the ramifications of the choices that we make will have on the future. A look at the recent housing crisis shows that the country was generally not thinking through the long-term impact of their decisions.

Read through John 13:31-14:7 and discuss the following questions. (Verse 14:6 is the core verse, but the context is crucial for an accurate understanding of this.)

Why are His disciples worried?

How do verses 14:1-7 make you feel? Notice this follows Jesus' statement to Peter that he would deny Him. A look through Matthew 26:31-35 shows that all the disciples shared the same sentiment. Can you relate to denying Jesus through word and deed?

How does 14:6 make you feel? Does this have implications for the rest of the world and world religions?

Does eternity impact the way you walk through life today? Should it?

My guess is that eternity rarely crosses our mind, except at a funeral, but the emphasis in Scripture wants it to be at the forefront. As we walk with Jesus, we begin to see life and people through eternity's eyes! It fills us with hope, joy, and gives us life now, and also motivates to share the message of Jesus. **We want clear directions or a map for our future---Jesus gives us a trust relationship!**

What's challenging about a relationship as the 'Way' in life?

Practicalize the 'Way' as a relationship in life. What does that look like? How do we go about this? What boundaries are there?

Close by reading through 1 Peter 1:3-9 and discuss what this tells us about salvation. Notice the words tied to salvation---praise, hope, rejoice, joy, goal of your faith, etc. This is meant to impact the way we live now! Pray what comes to your heart and pray that you can see Jesus for who He is and who He claims to be and that the future reward of life with Him stirs your heart in this life!

"I Am..... The Way, the Truth, & the Life!"

"Connecting With God" Weekly Guide

This booklet is a resource to help you "Connect with God" this week. He deeply desires ongoing personal connection with you. You are that important to Him.

This Page has some scripture verses for you to meditate on each day this week. Notice the helpful hints section – these are great things to consider when personally engaging with God through His Word.

The Center Pages contain the notes and outline for the message given on Sunday. The message is also available as an audio download from www.pointofgracechurch.org

The Back Page has a study written specifically for a small group of people (or an individual) to drill down deeper into a particular aspect of the week's theme. Small groups can review memorable points of the week's message and then work through the study concluding with a time of prayer.

Scripture & Meditation Guide - May 2 – May 7

Helpful Hints:

- 1) Find a quiet place along with 15-20 minutes!
- 2) Focus on God for a few moments asking His Spirit to speak to your heart!
- 3) Listen to Him by reading a section of scripture then rereading it several times, dwelling on "words and phrases" which grab your heart's attention. Ask God, "What do You want me to hear?" "Why this word at this time?" "How are You inviting me to respond?"
- 4) Pray everything that is on your heart and mind as you are ready!
Worship Him, Bless Him, Thank Him, Ask Him, Trust Him

Monday: John 13:31—14:7

Tuesday: John 14:8-31

Wednesday: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Thursday: Mark 10:17-31

Friday: Revelation 21:1-5

Saturday: Romans 8:28-39