

Weekly Study Guide

November 20, 2016

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Life Everlasting

Things I'd like to remember about today's message...

Daily Readings

Monday

Acts 17:10-15

Thursday

Acts 18:18-28

Tuesday

Acts 17:16-34

Friday

Acts 19:1-22

Wednesday

Acts 18:1-17

Saturday

Acts 19:23-41

Regular habits of private Bible reading strengthen our relationship with God and teach us how to follow Jesus. In addition to the thematic exercise above, you can use this guide each week to lead you through relevant sections of the Bible.

Group Discussion Guide

CONNECT

We are learning today about the hope for what Christians call “everlasting life.” Have you ever been to a funeral that impacted you? Share that experience with your group.

LEARN AND APPLY

Read **John 3:11-16**. In these verses Jesus speaks to a Jewish leader named Nicodemus about the work God was doing in him.

- What does Jesus say or promise to Nicodemus?
- These verses are some of the most famous in the Bible. Why do you think they have mattered so much to so many people?
- Why do we care so much about “eternal life”?

The Bible teaches us to believe in, and hope for, “new creation;” that is, God will intervene to give creation a do-over and make everything right.

- If you were going to imagine our broken world being fixed, what are the kinds of things you would hope for?
- **Read Isaiah 65:17-25**. This way of expressing hope for God’s new creation is over 2,500 years old. What things did God say in this context?
- How is this description similar to, or different from, your list? Does it add anything to your hope or imagination?

When Jesus was raised from the dead and God poured out His Spirit on the church, the early Christians realized the new creation and life everlasting had already begun. But much to their surprise, the future began in the midst of the present, instead of simply replacing it.

- Read **Acts 2:14-18**. What did Peter realize was true in light of the presence of God’s Spirit?
- In this week’s message we learned three phrases to describe our present life everlasting: New Power, New Community, and Present Future.
 - Do you need the power of the Holy Spirit to help you overcome or endure something in life right now? What is that something? Share it with your group and ask for their help and prayers.
 - The Spirit creates a new community of every race and nation in Christ. What are the biggest obstacles you or your community face in building relationships across races?
 - If the future starts in the present, look back at the list you made about your hope for a world made right. Can you pick one thing on that list you could start living for now?

PRAY

The character of the everlasting life happens only by the power of the Spirit. Pray together for the power and leading of God’s Spirit in your life.