



CONNECT GROUP LEADER GUIDE THEOLOGY #8

BEGIN WITH YOUR HEART

Eternity. Here is a chance to hear what your group currently thinks about eternal life. I hope that the quote will spur some conversation. Be ok not finishing this conversation with an answer or nice bow on top. It is meant to bring up some

questions that the study in God’s Word will help answer. This is one of those answers that I can hesitate with because I don’t want to “get it wrong”. Encourage people to share their current or past understanding of eternal life, knowing that this area comes with a bit of mystery to most of us.

A LOOK IN GOD’S WORD

Truth about God. A great study on a topic you probably have not spent a lot of time thinking about or studying (unless you have, then you may be exception!). This is not a study that your group will likely have quick and easy answers off the top of their heads after a quick reading of the 3 passages. If your group struggles to answer any of the good questions, encourage them to find the wording for their answers from the passages. I found Romans 8:28-30 to be a helpful passage for that purpose.

MY LIFE- OUR MISSION

Life Questions. Here is a list of the life questions because you will need them for this discussion.

My Life ?'s

- Did God make my day?**
Focus: Engagement with God in prayer and the Bible
- Is the Spirit flowing through me?**
Focus: Spirit-filled life
- Who shares my tough stuff?**
Focus: Fellowship
- Who am I fishing with?**
Focus: Spiritual multiplication
- How worn is my welcome mat?**
Focus: Evangelism as a way of life
- How are my investments doing?**
Focus: Investment in Christ’s purposes for people.

Christ Community Church Announcements

BAPTISM | Take that step of faith and proclaim your faith in Christ with many others on Easter Sunday (4/16). Pastor David would love to follow-up with you and let you know what is entailed. Contact Pastor David at dstaff@ccames.org for more info.

SERVE | COMMUNITY
As you begin your spring-cleaning, please consider donating gently used items that can help prepare a home for

people from four partner agencies: Emergency Residence Project, Eastwood Apartments, Curt Forbes Residential Center and Matthew 25 House. Kitchen items, linens, blankets and some furniture pieces. For a full list, go to the church website, app or pick one up at the Start Here desk. Donations will be accepted beginning MAR 26.

Weekend to Remember **Marriage Conference** | Great marriages don’t just happen. Be intentional with yours. APR 7th-9th at Des Moines Downtown Marriott. Sign up at www.familylife.com [link on church website]. Use group name “CCCFamLife to save \$100 per couple! Contact Kevin & Lisa Teske [theteskes@gmail.com] or sign up at kiosk in Atrium starting MAR 12.

Women’s Ministry **Spring Conference**, “How He Loves Us” | MAR 31-APR 1 join us for our annual women’s conference. A great time to learn and connect with other women at Christ Community. Our speaker will be Rebekah Hamby Johnson - teaching from the book of Hosea "Jealous love: How an Unfailing God Rescues and Redeems our Hearts". Friday night will be 6:30-9:00p with dessert provided. Saturday will be 8:30a-2p with continental breakfast at 8 and lunch from the Cafe. Register online today at ccames.org, or in the Atrium starting MAR 12.

CONNECT GROUP STUDY

SERIES: The-o-logy: I Am What I Believe about God

GOD and My Glorification #8 March 5-11th, 2017

BEGIN WITH YOUR HEART

Read this quote from Henri Nouwen and answer the questions that follow.

*“Eternal life. Where is it? When is it? For a long time I have thought about eternal life as a life after all my birthdays have run out. For most of my years I have spoken about the eternal life as the “afterlife,” as “life after death.” But the older I become, the less interest my “afterlife” holds for me. Worrying not only about tomorrow, next year, and the next decade, but even about the next life seems a false preoccupation. Wondering how things will be for me after I die seems, for the most part, a distraction. **When my clear goal is the eternal life, that must be reachable right now, where I am, because eternal life is life in and with God, and God is where I am here and now.**”*

– Henri Nouwen (*Here and Now*: 1994 – p.68-70)

- How would you define eternal life?
- When you pinpoint the moment eternal life begins?
- What resonates with you from this quote, or what challenges you?

Review: What is the definition of glorification?

- *Glorification is the completion, the consummation, the perfection, the full realization of salvation.*
– Wayne Grudem

A LOOK IN GOD'S WORD

Read the following passages aloud in your group and discuss.

Romans 8:18-30

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

Philippians 3:20-21

- How do these passages individually speak about glorification?
- What do these passages seem to agree on when it comes to the idea of bodily glorification?
- When passages of scripture agree naturally, and the truth that emerges doesn't run contrary to what we already know to be true about God, we can begin to build a systematic theology... That means we can see bigger truths about God woven through all of scripture that help inform other smaller or more difficult areas.
 - What systematic truth about God (theology) seems to emerge from the passages above?
 - Is there a passage that seems to disagree or contradict? Or, does this truth contradict something we already know to be true about God?
 - If nothing contradicts, what seems to be the point of this systematic truth about God? i.e. Could you explain it to a 6th grader?
 - How does this systematic truth about God, inform your thoughts on eternity?
- Apply:

MY LIFE- OUR MISSION

MY LIFE – How does this systematic truth about God influence your thoughts on the here and now?

YOUR FAMILY – At a dinner table this week, review the 6 LIFE QUESTIONS. Explore with your family members their understanding of what each question means. Which question(s) resonate best with you...and your kids? Do you think it might help to discuss these together as a family each week?

OUR MISSION – Our LIFE QUESTIONS help us assess if our every-day walk with God is engaging in our church's mission. The more regular our meeting with God, the more we ask for the Spirit's flowing presence, the more we share our tough stuff with spiritual accountability partners, the more we "put out the welcome mat" to people not yet in God's family...well, the more the Lord *connects people to life-defining relationships in Christ*. Right? Let's lean into our Father's provisions, and these great questions, together!!