

HEAVEN

Message Title: *What Will Last Forever?*

Message Date: June 14, 2026

CONNECT

If new people have joined your group, take time to introduce yourselves to each other.

Here are a couple of questions to get the conversation rolling:

1. What's one thing you know now you wish you knew then about relationships? Briefly explain why.
2. What stood out to you from the devotional or your Bible reading this week?

PRAY TOGETHER

Take a couple of minutes to let go of the day's distractions and focus your attention on God. Breathe in and out a few times. Relax your neck and take a moment to let your muscles release any tension you might be feeling.

Then spend a few minutes asking God to meet each of you personally, right where you are. Pray that He would show you new and beautiful things and lead you further along your journey of faith. Allow time for everyone to pray as God leads.

STUDY AND DISCUSSION

This week, we'll consider eternal things—things that last forever.

The goal is to help us focus our time, energy and resources on what truly matters.

Read the following passages, then respond to the questions that follow. Don't worry if you don't get to all the questions. Spend time reading and really thinking about what God is teaching and revealing to you.

Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIV)

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

1. What has hindered or entangled you from running the Christian life with perseverance?
2. What desire, fear or wound might be underneath your struggle to keep running?
3. What's *the race marked out for us*, and how is that connected to Jesus being *the pioneer and perfecter* of our faith?
4. According to this passage, what specific practices will help us finish life well?

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NIV)

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

5. What does it mean to achieve *an eternal glory*?
6. What things are *temporary* and what things are *eternal* (based on this passage and also other things you can think of)?
7. What does it mean to *fix our eyes* on what is unseen, and what are practical ways to do that?

Luke 12:13-21 (NIV)

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him (*Jesus*), “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”

¹⁴Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” ¹⁵Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

¹⁶And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’

¹⁸“Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”’

²⁰“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

²¹“This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

8. What did the person in the crowd want Jesus to do?
9. Why do you think Jesus refused to grant the request?
10. What warning did Jesus give?
11. Why did Jesus call the man in the parable a fool? What was he trying to teach?
12. What happens when we focus on money and possessions?
13. What does it look like to be *rich toward God*?

Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV)

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

14. What are the different kinds of treasures mentioned in this passage?
15. What are examples of treasures on earth?
16. What does it look like to store up treasures in heaven?
17. How can you tell what a person treasures?
18. What have you been treasuring most over the past year, and what impact has that had on your relationship with God?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

1 Timothy 6:6-10 (NIV)

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹ Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

19. How is godliness related to contentment and why is that *great gain*?
20. What truth is Paul trying to teach Timothy in verse 7?
21. According to this passage, what are the results of loving money?
22. When have you experienced or witnessed the love of money bringing great harm to someone's life? What happened?

*He is no fool who gives what he cannot
keep to gain what he cannot lose.*

Jim Elliot, *Shadow of the Almighty*

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Looking back over this series on heaven, what one or two ideas or Scriptures have stood out to you the most? Pause and ask God what He wants to say to you. Allow time for Him to speak, being sensitive to thoughts that come to mind. Growing often comes by simply making yourself available to God. Share with the group what you sense God is saying to you.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Memorizing Scripture helps us keep God's life-giving words close to our hearts wherever we go. Here's a verse to memorize based on this week's teaching:

*So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen,
since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

2 Corinthians 4:18 (NIV)

PRAY

Invite someone to close your time in prayer.