

Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

What is your favorite thing about Fall?

SHARE

Welcome back to Group! This week, Doug kicked off a brand-new series called “Vantage Point” by preaching on the eternal perspective. When we take our eyes off the temporary and posture our hearts to eternity, the forever one day, we can start living with anticipation. We can grieve the brokenness of the world but don’t have to fear what’s next because of His promise. We can begin living with excitement instead of living in fear. Before we dive into the sermon, take some time to check in with your Group by answering these questions.

After Doug’s message, what’s one thing you’re hoping to get from this series?

What is one thing you feel like God is teaching you right now?

What was the most challenging part of your week?

What was the highlight of your week?

GROW

Read Revelation 21:1-8

What do you think this passage means by “a new heaven and a new earth”?

How does this speak specifically to you about God's plan for your life after death?

Life is a beautiful thing. The world we live in can be full of beautiful places and things that we get to enjoy. The daily choices we make tend to be based on our past and our present, directly correlating with the decisions we make and the things we do. How we view our timeline in this life is short in comparison to how God views it. It is important to understand that how we live, believe, love, serve, forgive here in this life, affects the way we live out the rest of eternity.

Doug gave us an eye-opening imagery, using a rope to illustrate what eternity looks like.

Marking one end of the rope to represent the short timeline of our existence here on earth as we know it. Beyond that very short point represents eternity, real life and forever, we have yet to experience. The question we must ask ourselves is this: why do we view our lives only in that short timeline? Let's live today with forever in mind. There is so much life to experience beyond what we see. What we are learning from this passage is that our future is not based on only the seen.

In our current world we are faced with a lot of things that bring us trouble. Imagine life as it is described in this passage and see yourself experiencing this kind of life. God has a perfect plan for our future: One where He will dwell among His people. A life with no more pain, no more tears, no more strife, no more sin. A place where we will experience pure beauty in all His creations to freely enjoy just as he designed it to be for us.

What are some things that you really enjoy experiencing on this earth? Can you imagine experiencing those things in pure perfection?

Share with your group some practical ways you can live your life today with eternity in mind.

M O V E

Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

What stuck out to you in this passage?

What does it mean for you to not lose heart?

During these times, it can be very easy to stress over the things that you can see. Often it can seem as if the bad news is never ending, and very little justice is shown. While God did not promise that our lives would be easy, He did promise that we will never have to face them alone. There is always hope when you fix your eyes on what is unseen. To pray and believe that God will always be with you no matter what, is a powerful reminder. There are so many reasons to lose heart but a lot more reasons to never give up, persevere, and count it all joy when you face momentary afflictions.

The writer of this passage, Paul, went through many rough days but he chose to fix his eyes on Jesus. Quarantined in prison, which was half his ministry on earth, Paul's joy remained uncontained. Only a person with a higher perspective than what the eye could see, could write about such joy locked away. By making that choice, his life was not easy but purposeful. When you focus on giving your cares to Jesus, you will grow into trusting him and remember that hard times are temporary, and you can overcome and move forward when you know God has your back.

What is one circumstance in your life that you need to surrender to God?

What will be the easiest way that you can remember to fix your eyes on what is unseen daily?

P R A Y

We need prayer now more than ever. Spend some time-sharing prayer requests. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking off into two separate groups (or calls if you are an online group) to share more freely.

TO GO

“Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 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 4:16-18