

Hope for All Eternity

May 17, 2020



Reading/Group Discussion

Begin with prayer (5 minutes)

As you begin your virtual gathering, have someone open your time together by praying that the Holy Spirit would lead and guide your time together.

Checking the pulse (10 minutes)

Use a few minutes catching up on how everyone has been. Make sure that everyone has time and space to share what is happening in their lives.

Read this overview

Jesus told us that this world would be full of trouble and hardship. But he also told us that all those who build their lives on him will be able to withstand any storm. Part of what has made Christians so impactful throughout the centuries is that they have had resources to care for hurting people *even in the midst of hardship*.

This past weekend we looked at the reality of eternity and what that means for our everyday lives.

As Jesus' followers, we have a unique perspective and a unique burden to love God and love others in extraordinary ways during this unprecedented season because of our viewpoint on eternity.

Talk through this past weekend's sermon & encourage one another (20-30 minutes)

Here are a few questions to guide this time:

- How did this weekend's sermon deepen your faith? How did it challenge you? Explain.
- In this sermon, Tom mentioned that life is temporary, our troubles and afflictions are momentary, that eternity is real, and that judgment is coming. Which of those four points resonated with you the most? Why?
- Do you think that the idea that life is temporary is something our culture leans into or shies away from? Why? What about for you personally?
- How does the reality of the fact that life is temporary, troubles are momentary, eternity is real, and judgment is coming make you feel? How does this change your perspective on your past? What about your present? How about your future?

- What is the most pressing all of the troubles and afflictions you are facing in your life right now? Think internally, relationally, vocationally, etc. What do you think God is trying to teach you about those troubles through Tom's message?
- Tom mentioned that our response to the four main points he relayed in his sermon is that we should live by faith and not by sight. If Paul asked you, "Do you live by faith or sight?" How would you respond? Why?
- Where might God be inviting you to join him in loving others today in the midst of this unique time in our lives?

As a church, we affirm that God is always working. He is always directing, leading, and guiding us. Spend some time discussing what God is inviting you into right now.

- What do you sense God doing **in** you that you need to respond to?
- What do you sense God doing **around** you that you think he is inviting you into?
- What do you sense God doing **through** you that you need courage for?

Spend time thinking through how your group can be #FORTHE317 (5 minutes)

Try asking the following:

- How can we serve one another?
- How can you best serve your family in this time?
- What is a way that we can best serve our neighbors in this time?

Finish with prayer (5-10 minutes)

You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.