

#GetOverYourSelfie:

Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God — truly righteous and holy. Ephesians 4:21-24 NLT

How do I get over myself and experience God's best?

1. Focus on Jesus.
2. Get rid of the old.
3. Put on the new (God's righteousness).

Icebreaker

Quick! In sixty seconds, how many movies or TV shows can your group come up with about heaven? The movies or shows you reference don't have to be an accurate depiction, just something you've seen or heard about that touches on the topic of heaven. Ready. Set. Go!!!

Video

Watch this week's video – Eternity Over Temporary

<https://www.lifegroupleaders.ca/studies/getoveryourselfie/>

Study

Sacrificing the eternal on the altar of the temporary is never a wise way to live. Yet it is so easy in our culture to elevate what has less value over what has greater. God calls on us to live out our lives with eternity in view. This approach puts us on solid ground and makes all we do matter. Our goal today is to help one another live in the light of eternity. By doing this, we choose to live valuing the permanent above the temporary. We can't do this on our own. We need God's wisdom and power. He makes it possible for us to get over ourselves and experience God's best—living for eternity!

Eternal life

“Most of us think of eternity as something that begins after we die. However, Jesus didn't talk about eternity that way. In fact, Jesus defines “eternal life” only once, with great precision, in a way that has been largely lost in our day.” John Ortberg – Eternity is Now in Session

Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. John 17:3 NIV

- What key words or phrases from this verse help us know what eternal life is?
- If you could ask Jesus one question about eternal life, what would you ask Him?
- As a group, see if you can come up with four or five misperceptions about eternal life and their corresponding truths. We want you to think about misperceptions or common misunderstandings about what eternal life is or how to *get* eternal life. One example is a perception that if people are just really, really *good*, they'll get in. The truth is that we can never be good enough to earn eternal life.

“To know God is to live in a rich, moment-by-moment, gratitude soaked, participatory life together.” John Ortberg

- What do you think about John's definition of knowing God?
- Do you think this is the experience of the majority of church-goers in Canada today? Why or why not?

“A common New Testament word for “eternal” is *aiónios*, which carries the idea of *quality* as well as *quantity*. In fact, eternal life is not really associated with “years” at all, as it is independent of time. Eternal life can function outside of and beyond time, as well as within time.” Got Questions – What is Eternal Life?

- What gets you excited about the quality side of eternal life?

In his book, *Eternity is Now in Session*, John Ortberg notes that there are two ways of thinking about Jesus' gospel. The more common way involves how people go about ensuring they go to heaven when they die. It's about how to go from *down here* to *up there*. It usually involves affirming certain beliefs or praying a particular prayer that is thought to make a person “Christian.”

The other understanding is that the gospel announces the availability of life under God's reign and power now. It's about *up there* coming *down here*. This is in line with what Jesus taught about in John 17:3. Eternal life is available now, for anyone who believes. It is about experiencing eternal life now.

- Imagine you are in a conversation with someone on the topic of eternal life. The person you are talking with has doubts about whether or not they will end up in heaven after they die. Using what we've looked at in this study, how might you help this person to understand Jesus' perspective on eternal life?

Getting over the temporary

Our goal today is to get over our tendency to live for the temporary so that we can live for the eternal. In the parable of the Sower, Jesus talks about some of the common pitfalls that can keep us focused on the temporary.

Read Luke 8:4-15.

In this parable, Jesus describes four types of seed. The first three types get caught up in the temporary. As a group, have a look at the first three types of seed.

The first seed (vs. 5, 12)

- What happens to it?
- How do you see a temporary focus in this seed?
- What is a modern day example of what this might look like?

The second seed (vs. 6, 13)

- What happens to it?
- How do you see a temporary focus with this seed?
- What is a modern day example of what this might look like?

The third seed (vs. 7, 14)

- What happens to it?
- How do you see a temporary focus with this seed?
- What is a modern day example of what this might look like?

- How does Jesus' parable help you understand our tendency to focus on the temporary?
- What might it look like for you to get over a temporary focus in your life?

The fourth seed (vs. 8, 15)

- What happens to it?
- How do you see a focus on eternity in this seed? (look at key words or phrases)
- What is a modern day example of what this might look like?
- How does this fourth seed help you see how you can live for the eternal?
- What might it look like for you to more fully embrace this perspective?

Living in light of eternity

For this final part of our study, read through the following Bible passages on eternal life. How do these verses help you understand what eternal life is and how to experience it?

I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. John 5:24 NLT

I tell you the truth, anyone who believes has everlasting life. John 6:47 NLT

And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life. I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life. 1 John 5:11-13 NLT

And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as His own, giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised [eternal life] and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him. Ephesians 1:13-14 NLT

Pray

Ask God to work in your lives to help you put aside your focus on the temporary and live in light of eternity. Ask Him to show you specific ways you can live with an eternal perspective this week.