

LIFEGROUP LESSON
THE PANDEMIC. Confident in the Future
May 31, 2020

PARTICIPANT NOTES

When it comes to the future, we can be confident because of this – God wins. There is no crisis that will ever defeat or detour the ultimate victory that God will enable us to know at the end of time. The many narrative in Scripture demonstrate that, yes we go through difficulties, but God always shows us how he wins in the end. When it comes to the future, we can trust God, knowing that what he has shown us throughout history is a reminder that he will ultimately win in the future. The desired outcome from this week’s study is that you and your group members would grow your hope in the God who is large and in charge. He’s got the future!

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being extreme and 1 being non-existent how much of time and energy have you put into understanding the future as presented in the Bible?
 2. Do you find future things (the big theological word is eschatology), as presented in the Bible, something you are drawn to or something you are not overly interested in?
 3. We presented **FIVE KEY EVENTS** that are part of the landscape of the future as presented in the Bible. These are clearly identified and constantly reinforced in Scripture. Let’s be reminded of them and dig into some Scriptures to learn more about them.
- **THE CHURCH AGE**- This is the time we are presently living in. It is the time when God is building his Church, those people who have come to trust in Jesus. The Church is on centre stage right now when it comes to the flow of redemptive history
 - Read Ephesians 1:22-23
 - How is the Church described in these verses?
 - What place does the Church have as described in these verses?
 - How should these descriptions of the Church impact our perspective of and approach to the Church today?
 - **THE RETURN OF JESUS / THE SECOND COMING**. The return of Jesus is our hope and longing. The Bible describes it often and in detail.
 - Think about these facts related to the return of Jesus
 - one out of every 30 verses in the Bible mentions the subject of Christ’s return or the end of time.
 - of the 216 chapters in the NT, there are well over 300 references to the return of Christ
 - only 4 of the 27 NT books fail to mention Christ’s return
 - Christ spoke of his return often, especially after He had revealed His death. He never did so in vague or uncertain terms.

- What details about the return of Jesus do these verses teach us?
 - Acts 1:11, Matthew 24:27, Matthew 25:31, Philippians 2:10-11, Matthew 24:30, Matthew 24:32, Matthew 24:44, John 14:3, 1 Thessalonians 4:15-16, James 5:7-8, 1 John 2:28

- What does the return of Christ do for you in the way you live out your daily life?

- THE RESURRECTION. Jesus' resurrection demonstrated his own power over death and it showed us that through Him and just like him, we too will experience resurrection. The Bible spends a good deal of time addressing our resurrection.
 - What do the Scriptures teach about the resurrection of everyone?
 - Isaiah 26:19, Daniel 12:2, Ezekiel 37:12-14, John 5:25, 28-29, John 6:39-40, 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-16

 - How does the teaching of our resurrection impact you personally?

 - How does the teaching of our resurrection impact you personally?

- THE JUDGMENT. Perhaps the most frightening aspect of our future is the teaching around the judgment. For those outside of Christ it will be a day of reckoning. However, for those who are followers of Jesus it will be a day when our commitment to Christ will be vindicated. The final judgment is not intended to ascertain our spiritual condition but rather to make our status public.
 - What do the Scriptures teach us about the judgment?
 - Acts 17:31, Romans 5:2, Hebrews 9:27, Matthew 16:27, John 5:22 & 27, Romans 14:10, 2 Corinthians 5:10,

 - Louis Berkhof states this about the judgment and the sins of believers. He writes, "Scripture leads us to believe that (the sins of believers) will be (revealed), though they will, of course, be revealed as pardoned sins."
 - What do you think of Berkhof's understanding of the sins of believers being judged?

 - How are we to respond to the reality that one day we will be judged?

- THE NEW HEAVEN & THE NEW EARTH God is going to make all things new. When talking about heaven here we are talking about the atmospheric heavens not the abode of God.
 - What are some wild ideas that people have of heaven?

 - Examine the following verses to see what you can learn about the New Heaven and the New Earth.

- 2 Peter 3:13, Revelation 21:1, Isaiah 66:22, Isaiah 65:17
- Do you have any questions about heaven?

Here are some other great resources about heaven:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/heaven-like.html>

Heaven: Randy Alcorn -

https://www.amazon.ca/s?k=heaven+randy+alcorn&crid=38KKMYRTFSPU4&srefix=Heaven+Randy+A%2Caps%2C157&ref=nb_sb_ss_i_1_14

Peter Kreeft, Professor of Philosophy at Boston University, speaks to over 30 common questions we have about heaven. Well worth the read!

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/biblestudies/articles/theology/what-will-heaven-be-like.html>

4. Outside of the five main events of the future that we have looked at what other perspectives do you have or do you know of others to have regarding the future?
5. How does understanding and embracing the future, as God explains it, help you live your day to day life?

MISSIONS PRAYER REQUESTS

Creekside Missionaries the 'N Family' serve in Southeast Asia with Wycliffe, currently in the Netherlands.

Please pray for them:

- Praise God that they found a solution with immigration there for Erin.
- Jason was able to schedule reconstructive surgery of his right knee ACL for June 5th.
- Pray regarding the aircraft accident in Papua, which killed the MAF* pilot, Joyce Lin. Pray for her parents and family who could not attend the funeral due to travel restrictions and for the aircraft crash investigation people that they can get to the bottom of what caused this accident. Also pray for the MAF team who is processing this difficult situation.

*Mission Aviation Fellowship