

SESSION 23

EYES UP

God&Me&Us

Focus Point

In a world that only lives for today, followers of Jesus are those who live for eternity.

The Key Truths

In this episode we are encouraged to live looking forward, and live for eternity. We are in the world and not of it. As a follower of Jesus I may often feel like I don't fit in.

Continuing to look at eternity, but now with more emphasis on our own mortality and how we view eternity, this episode encourages us to store up treasure in heaven rather than on earth. When we do not feel like we fit in, we can take comfort in knowing we are sojourners (temporary residents) and aliens on this earth, but Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us where we will be truly at home for all eternity. Our home is with God, just as His dwelling place will one day be with us.

Scriptures to Consider

- **John 5:24 (ESV)** - *"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life."*
- **Luke 18:29-30 (ESV)** - *"And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life."*
- **Matthew 25:44-46 (ESV)** - *"Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then He will answer, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."*

Group Discussion Questions

Question 1: How do we choose whether we spend our eternity with, or without God?

Answer: If we accept Jesus as Lord of our lives in this life, by repenting of our sin, then we will have His presence with us as long as we live on earth, and then enter into His presence for eternity as well.

Question 2: If we serve God, will we receive rewards in this life as well as eternity?

Answer: The way we live our lives on this earth has an impact on our life in eternity. We will receive rewards both in this life and in eternity, but the rewards in this life might not be the kind of things the world is looking for. The world values money and health, but these are never really enough, and they are not the things that God values. People always have some and then want more.

The rewards God gives are peace and contentment, and these are always enough. Not only that, but when we get to heaven then we'll see that the more we loved God and served others on earth, the greater the riches stored up for us will be!

Question 3: What examples can we think of in our lives that we would change, or do more of, in order to prepare for eternity?

Answer: Lead the preteens to think of practical examples of things in their lives that they spend large amounts of time or money on, but that they won't be able to take with them into the next life. Then think of practical examples of things that can be taken into the next life. (Hint: people are the only things that can go with us into the next life, not possessions.)

Word of the Day

Treasure

Verse of the Day

"...but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" - Matthew 6: 20 – 21 (ESV)

