

Connect Group questions

For the week of 19th May 2019



We for you Part 4 – ‘For eternity’

ICE BREAKER (5-8 min):

- Was there ever a moment that time seemed to stand still for you? Maybe a dream where you felt that time had stopped? Or a situation that felt like it went on for hours even though it only lasted a short while? Describe that moment to the group.

DIGGING DEEPER (45 min):

READ LUKE 12:13-21

1. What would it take for you to be seen as “wise” rather than as a “fool” when it comes to how you focus and conduct your life?
2. If you were to undertake a “kingdom assignment” to show that you love God and love others – the two great commandments, what would it look like?
3. When a group of octogenarians (80+ years old) were asked the simple question “If you had your life to live over again what would be different?” the three actions most prevalent were:
 - a. I would reflect more
 - b. I would risk more
 - c. I would invest more of my life into things that would continue on after I died.How could these actions be incorporated front and centre into your present life, and what could be the possible outcome in the lives of others and for eternity?
4. **Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-15**
Paul makes it clear that those aspects of a Christian’s life that are built of “gold, silver and costly stones” – those directed, controlled and empowered by the Holy Spirit, will receive an eternal reward in addition to salvation. Paul also makes it clear that those aspects of a Christian’s life that are built of “wood, hay or straw” – those directed, controlled and empowered by self, will receive no reward even though they will still be saved. Do you want your life to be the recipient of eternal reward? If so, what would be required of you?

MAKE IT HAPPEN

5. Spend time in prayer for each other.
6. Use the extra material overleaf in your devotions this week.

Prayer to pray this week:

Father God, we thank You for Your incredible benevolence toward us in that You provide all we need in life to live it to the full. Today we dedicate ourselves to be faithful stewards of all You have given us. We also want to be actively involved in extending Your Kingdom, and as citizens of that Kingdom we want to determine what You want us to do, and then in obedience and faith step out and do it. We commit ourselves to be always seeking Your Kingdom Assignments in our lives, and we thank You for allowing us to be co-workers with You and recipients of Your blessing as a result. We thank You for all You have done in our lives personally and in our church corporately through Kingdom Assignments, and we dedicate ourselves and our church to be truly Christ-followers not only in word but also in deed so that You might be glorified and Your Kingdom extended. In Jesus precious name we pray. Amen.

For further study:

Jesus – the Rabbi/teacher is about to speak to a large crowd of people curious as to who He is and what he will say. The disciples, apparently excited by the opportunity to be part of His team, became enamoured with the occasion.

Jesus pulls them aside to remind them that His kingdom was not of this world and His followers were to avoid the hypocrisy of the Pharisees. They were to be fully **committed** followers not just **curious** people like the crowd, or simply **convinced** people that He was from God.

Then a man in the crowd calls on Jesus to address the issue of an inheritance he received which he felt was unfairly distributed demonstrating that he believed riches would be the pathway to a life of comfort and ease. Jesus doesn't respond to his request, but launches into a parable about a foolish rich farmer, who in his time of prosperity and abundant crops decides to pull down his barns and build bigger ones to accommodate his increasing wealth.

His plan would have been seen as the wise preparation for later life (similar to today) yet Jesus calls him a fool. The man, according to Jesus, had a totally wrong perspective toward kingdom life. God takes this man's life, preventing him from realizing his plan and enjoying his wealth.

There are many reasons why this rich farmer was foolish. Despite his careful planning for this life, he missed planning for life after death. He missed the reality that how he lived in the present, would in large part, determine how he lived after death.

Jesus condemned the Pharisees for their hypocrisy for knowing the truth but not obeying it, living a self-serving life rather than a life serving others, reducing faith to rigid rules and outward conformity without inner reality. Such condemnation would also be forthcoming toward those who profess Christian faith yet who do not live it out. We are to be fully committed, not just curious or convinced.

Why is the rich farmer called a fool?

1. The rich man was foolish in failing to recognize where his wealth had come from.
2. The rich man erred in his understanding of the purpose of wealth.
3. The rich man was foolish in that he saw his possessions as his security, and as the basis for his ceasing to be productive.
4. The rich man was foolish in his presumptions.
5. The rich man was foolish in holding a view of the future which was short-sighted and which excluded the kingdom of God.
6. The rich man was a fool both in the way he defined life and in the way he thought life was to be obtained.
7. The rich man was foolish in thinking that his future direction and success all depended on himself.
8. The rich man was foolish in that he concentrated on being rich in life rather than *being rich toward God (Luke 12:21)*

Being rich toward God

Being rich in God involves being sure that you really have a genuine committed relationship with Jesus Christ. This always begins with:

- *Admitting to God that you are a sinner, (Romans 3:10;23);*
- *Believing that Jesus died for your sins, (1 Peter 3:18);*
- *Trusting in God to make you His own (1 John 1:9)*