

## DNA of a Christ Follower

Small Group Resources

### Lesson 8: Focused on Eternity

#### Opener:

What are the various ideas of heaven you have had over the years?

or

What are you most looking forward to in eternity?

or

Who is someone who has passed away who you look forward to seeing again?

#### Summarize your end times beliefs according to popular frameworks:

- Pre, post or mid-trib?
- Pre, post, a-millennial?
- Other convictions you have about the end times?
- Do you believe Jesus will return in your lifetime?

**How would you respond to the idea that a focus on eternity leads people to disengage from the present, care less about our stewardship of creation and basically be less responsible citizens?**

**Read: 2 Corinthians 4.16-18; Revelation 21.1-5; Revelation 22.1-5**

- What jumps out at you from these verses?

The final trait which we are looking at today is this: **A Christ Follower is Focused on Eternity.**

**How does a focus on eternity intersect with the other seven traits, or help the other traits make more sense?** (go through trait by trait, ie: How does a focus on eternity affect our love for God? Etc.)

#### Possible answers:

- When we see what God has prepared for us we **love him** more.
- When we see how much God loves his creation, and understand his desire and plan to restore it, we are motivated to **love people** more and gain a greater sense of our responsibility as stewards of creation.
- The imminent arrival of eternity stirs us to be **holy**. *“All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.”* (1 John 3.3)
- The prospect of eternity drives us to **the Word**, pushes us to be more renewed in our thinking and our priorities so that we are prepared for *“the life that is truly life.”* (1 Timothy 6.19).

- The reality of eternity, combined with the knowledge that everyone will live forever somewhere, in some state of restored or permanently broken relationship with their Creator, is a massive motivation for **evangelism**.
- When we know what's coming, both the challenges and the rewards, we are enabled to **persevere**.
- When we realize that eternity is a gift from our Creator, and that he sees the beginning from the end, it moves us back to a place of **dependence on him** for the here and now.

### **Read Matthew 6.19-21**

How do we store up treasures in heaven?

How do we/should we balance the need to prepare for our future here with the need to prepare for eternity? Example: If you receive an unexpected \$1000, how do you decide whether it goes into an eternal investment or a retirement investment?

If Jesus returns and you have millions in cash and assets, will you be in trouble? How much is too much?

### **Read 1 Timothy 6.17-19**

How does this passage describe what it means to store up treasures in heaven?

### **Read Colossians 3.1-4**

How do we set our hearts and our minds on things above?

What do you hope to do before your death or before the return of Jesus Christ as preparation for eternity?

### **The final questions:**

If your church was to

- 1) Decide to fulfill its purpose of making-disciples (which is the biblical purpose of every church, and
- 2) Use the DNA of a Christ-Follower traits as part of the framework for disciple-making (ie, seek to encourage, support and develop these traits in people) what would have to change in the way church is done?

(Consider recording your group's answers and forwarding them to your pastor!)

When you look at the eight traits, which one would you say is the primary growth area for you?

- Love of God; lover of people; holy; truth-based; evangelistic; persevering; God-dependent; focused on eternity?

Prayer for one another, for your individual growth areas, and for anything else shared.