LIFE TEAM NOTES: Heaven sake! – week of 11/3/19

To prepare for this week’s meeting, take some time to focus on the questions below and be prepared to share your answers with the group; connect and encourage one another to grow and to see God change your lives from the inside out!

Leaders use notes from Sunday to answer any questions if needed.

**Get to know you**:

* What is the farthest you’ve traveled from home? Where did you go?
* How did you prepare for the trip? Did you research hotels, food, & things to do?
* We put a lot of thought into our trips, should we prepare the same for going to heaven? Yes / no – why?

**Get to the heart:**

* When was the last time you thought about heaven?
* How would you describe heaven based on the message from Sunday?
* Did your perspective of heaven change any after Sunday?
* Have you ever had any misconceptions about heaven growing up?

**Big Reminders**

Revelation 21:1-7,15-21, 24, Isaiah 65:21-22

* When you read that what things stand out to you?

1. **Heaven will not be boring – but an active beautiful place filled with people and meaningful relationships.**

1 Corinthians 2:9-10

* Given the facts from Sunday that there will be work to do in heaven (Gen 2:15 & John 5:17) and that heaven will be a place of paradise (Luke 23:43), if you could pick any work to do in heaven that would be ultimately fulfilling, what would it be?

1. **If you are Christian - this world is not your home**

Philippians 3:17-21

* What is the warning of this passage? Forgetting where our real home is. Seeking this earth instead of the kingdom of heaven.
* What do you think it looks like to live believing your citizenship is in heaven if you are a Christian?

1. **We should, be ready at all times to leave the earth**

Matthew 24:44, 1 John 2:28, Romans 13:11-14

* How do those verses address being ready for heaven, and how might that challenge the idea of heaven being far off?
* What might being ready for heaven look like for you?

**2 Kingdom of Heaven Parables**

Matthew 13:44

* What does this parable say about heaven?
* How would you respond if you found hidden treasure?
* In the parable the man found it and secured it from thieves - How does that apply to us?

Matthew 13:45-46

* What does this parable say about heaven?
* First story is someone not looking but discovers it – the second is someone looking and discovers it. Is there a difference?
* In the parable the man found it while seeking for value – that something out there is worth looking for. Notice he is wealthy merchant – but still searching. How does that relate to us?

1. **The kingdom of God is worth losing everything for**

This is not about buying salvation – but the value of the kingdom

Mark 9:47 – what is Jesus talking about?

* Are you willing to trade this life for the kingdom of heaven? This is key: Jesus is better than the best things this world has to offer: Greater than money, health, strength, friends, boy/ girlfriend, husband, wife, children… He is better than all of them put together.

1. **We seek the kingdom of God - because Jesus is the greater reward**

Jesus is the priceless treasure – the great and beautiful pearl

He’s better than all the best things of this world put together

**Heaven will be beautiful but it’s all about being with Jesus. Jesus is worth letting go of all things in order to take hold of Him as the one thing**

With salvation come benefits (like heaven) and we are to remember and be thankful, but the real reward is this – Jesus! Is He enough for you?

\* Would you want to go to heaven if everything you ever wanted was there, but Jesus was not? Would you still want to go to heaven if being with Jesus was all you got?

Isaiah 43:18,19

**These two parables also in many ways also tell us how Jesus - sees you as a treasure - so much that he gave all he had (his life) for you to be hidden in him - Jesus purchased us and bought you with His blood**

* How does someone get to heaven?

John 1:12, 3:3,16-18, 14:6

* Have you ever felt unsure about going to heaven? You can know right now.

For further exploration, consider reading:

Heaven – By Randy Alcorn

Afterlife – by Hank Hanigraff

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