

2026 Q2 L13 - Into Eternity - Discussion Leader Notes

Opening Introduction What if the greatest day of your life hasn't even happened yet? This week, our journey culminates with a look at our glorious future: stepping into eternity. We will explore the incredible reward of heaven, what it will be like to live without pain, and the ultimate joy of finally being with the One who created and redeemed us. The end of this world is just the beginning of your real life!

Opening Poll

When you think about eternity in heaven, what are you looking forward to the most?

- A. A new body with no more sickness or pain.
- B. Reuniting with loved ones who have passed away.
- C. Seeing Jesus face-to-face.
- D. The opportunity to explore the universe and learn without limits.
- E. Experiencing perfect peace with no fear or anxiety.

Opening Engagement Story Have you ever been on a long, exhausting, miserable journey—perhaps a flight with endless delays, bad weather, and lost luggage? In the middle of the trip, you probably felt completely drained. But the moment you finally walked through your front door, dropped your bags, and embraced your family, the misery of the journey immediately faded away. Earth is a difficult, heaving, and groaning journey, but the moment we step through the gates of our eternal home, the pain of the trip will fade in the light of the Father's welcome.

Day 1 Afternoon – Living Today

Day Theme The world is heaving and groaning, but our present sufferings are not worth comparing to the glory that is coming.

Poll

When you are going through a difficult season, what helps you endure it the most?

- A. Knowing it will eventually end.
- B. Having someone walk through it with me.
- C. Focusing on a positive goal ahead.
- D. Finding a distraction to take my mind off it.

Opening Engagement If a doctor told you that a painful, one-hour medical procedure would guarantee you perfect health for the next fifty years, would you endure the hour? How does keeping our eyes on the ultimate outcome change how we experience present pain?

Read the Text “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” Romans 8:18 (NKJV). *(Ask someone to read)*

What Do You Notice? (Observation Only)

- The contrast of time: "this present time" vs. "shall be revealed."
- The contrast of experience: "sufferings" vs. "glory."
- The conclusion drawn: "not worthy to be compared."

Guided Discussion

- Why is it sometimes so hard to focus on the "glory which shall be revealed" when the "sufferings of this present time" are so loud and painful? (*Allow discussion*)
- What does the Apostle Paul mean when he says the sufferings are "not worthy to be compared" to the glory? (*Ask follow-up*)
- How can focusing heavily on our eternal future actually make us *more* effective and compassionate in our present lives, rather than just "escapist"?
- How do we practice "living today with tomorrow in mind" when we face a sudden setback? (*Invite multiple responses*)

Discovery Insight The pain of this broken world is real and heavy, but it is temporary. When we measure our present struggles against the weight of eternal joy, the coming glory entirely overshadows the temporary pain.

Christ Connection Jesus endured the ultimate suffering of the cross "for the joy that was set before Him" (Hebrews 12:2). His focus on the future glory of saving us carried Him through His darkest present agony.

Life Response When a moment of frustration or pain arises today, actively speak Romans 8:18 out loud to shift your perspective to the horizon.

Encouragement Bridge Why does life have to hurt so much right now? The world is groaning, but Paul promises that our present sufferings are not worth comparing to the glory that is coming. Keep your eyes on the horizon!

Day 2 – Finally, Face-to-Face

Day Theme The ultimate climax of our spiritual journey is not just living forever, but having an unbroken, face-to-face relationship with our Creator.

Poll

If you could ask Jesus one question face-to-face the moment you meet Him, what would it be about?

- A. The mysteries of how the universe was created.
- B. Why certain painful events happened in my life.
- C. What my specific purpose in eternity will be.
- D. How He endured the cross for me.

Opening Engagement Have you ever maintained a long-distance relationship through letters or video calls for a very long time? What was the difference between communicating through a screen versus finally sitting in the same room, face-to-face?

Read the Text “Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.” 1 John 3:2 (NKJV). *(Ask someone to read)*

What Do You Notice? (Observation Only)

- Our current status: "now we are children of God."
- The unknown element: "it has not yet been revealed what we shall be."
- The absolute certainty: "we know."
- The cause of our transformation: "we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."

Guided Discussion

- Why do you think God has kept some of the details of our future bodies and life in heaven a mystery ("it has not yet been revealed")? *(Allow discussion)*
- Notice the phrase "we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him." How does beholding someone intimately change us into their likeness? *(Ask follow-up)*
- Why is seeing Jesus "as He is" the ultimate reward of heaven, far beyond mansions or streets of gold?
- How can we begin to "behold" Jesus today so that the transformation into His likeness begins now? *(Invite multiple responses)*

Discovery Insight The greatest joy of eternity isn't the physical environment; it is the restored relationship. Beholding Jesus face-to-face without the barrier of sin will instantly and permanently transform us into His glorious likeness.

Christ Connection Jesus prayed in John 17 that we might be with Him where He is, to behold His glory. His deepest desire is to close the distance sin created and dwell with us intimately and eternally.

Life Response Take 10 minutes of complete silence today to close your eyes, put away distractions, and simply "behold" Jesus in your imagination through prayer.

Encouragement Bridge What will it be like to finally see God face-to-face? We don't know exactly what we will be, but we know we will be like Him. The ultimate reward of heaven is seeing the face of our Savior!

Day 3 – The Lamb's Book of Life

Day Theme God's grace is vast enough to include unlikely characters in the most important book in the universe.

Poll

When you think about the concept of a heavenly "Book of Life," how does it make you feel?

- A. Anxious about whether I am truly "good enough" to be in it.
- B. Curious about how God keeps records.
- C. Relieved because I trust in God's grace.
- D. Motivated to live a better life.

Opening Engagement Imagine arriving at the most exclusive, beautiful wedding banquet in history. You walk up to the door, dressed poorly and feeling completely unworthy. The guard looks at the guest list. What is the only thing that matters in that exact moment?

Read the Text "But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life." Revelation 21:27 (NKJV). *(Ask someone to read)*

What Do You Notice? (Observation Only)

- The strict exclusion: "by no means enter it anything that defiles."
- The specific items kept out: "abomination," "lie."
- The single condition for entry: "only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life."

Guided Discussion

- If "nothing that defiles" can enter heaven, and we all have sinned, how is it possible for any human being to get through the gates? *(Allow discussion)*
- Why is it called the *Lamb's Book of Life* instead of the *Judge's Book of Life*? What does the title imply? *(Ask follow-up)*
- Unlikely characters like the thief on the cross or Mary Magdalene will be in heaven. What does this teach us about how names get into that book?
- How does resting completely in the grace of the Lamb change our anxiety about our eternal future? *(Invite multiple responses)*

Discovery Insight Entry into eternity is not based on a perfect record of human achievements; it is based entirely on whether we have accepted the perfect, sacrificial grace of Jesus, the Lamb of God.

Christ Connection Jesus was slain as the Lamb so that our names could be permanently written in His book. He took our defilement upon Himself so we could be presented as pure and spotless at the gates of the City.

Life Response If you have been holding onto anxiety about your salvation, explicitly thank Jesus in prayer today for writing your name in His book by His grace.

Encouragement Bridge Is your name written in the most important book in the universe? It's not about being perfect; it's about accepting Jesus as your personal Savior today!

Day 4 – Follow the Lamb

Day Theme Heaven is not an eternity of sitting on clouds; it is an eternity of exploration, beauty, learning, and endless joy without fear or suffering.

Poll

If you could pick one activity to do for the first thousand years in heaven, what would it be?

- A. Exploring the far reaches of the universe.
- B. Sitting with biblical heroes and hearing their stories.
- C. Learning how animals, nature, and physics perfectly operate.
- D. Singing and creating brand-new music.

Opening Engagement Have you ever felt deeply homesick for a place you've never actually been? God has "set eternity in our hearts" (Eccl. 3:11). Why do humans intrinsically feel that we were made for something more than a 80-year lifespan of work and eventual death?

Read the Text “But as it is written: ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’” 1 Corinthians 2:9 (NKJV). *(Ask someone to read)*

What Do You Notice? (Observation Only)

- The limits of human senses: "Eye has not seen," "ear heard."
- The limits of human imagination: "Nor have entered into the heart of man."
- The author of the preparations: "God has prepared."
- The intended recipients: "those who love Him."

Guided Discussion

- Why do so many people have a boring, unappealing picture of what heaven will be like? (*Allow discussion*)
- If human imagination cannot even conceive of the things God has prepared, how should that affect our daily anticipation of eternity? (*Ask follow-up*)
- Revelation 7:17 says the Lamb will lead us to "living fountains of waters" and wipe away all tears. What does an eternity of following the Lamb look like practically?
- How can we cultivate a healthy "homesickness for Eden" in our daily lives without neglecting our present responsibilities? (*Invite multiple responses*)

Discovery Insight God is a Creator of infinite variety, beauty, and intellect. Eternity will be a dynamic, ever-expanding adventure of learning, exploring, and rejoicing, far beyond our wildest imaginations.

Christ Connection Jesus said, "I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2). The Master Carpenter has spent millennia crafting a home perfectly designed for our ultimate joy and His eternal glory.

Life Response Spend time in nature this week, looking at the intricate details of a leaf or a bug, and remind yourself that this is just a tiny, broken glimpse of the beauty God is preparing for you.

Encouragement Bridge Will heaven just be sitting on clouds playing harps? No eye has seen nor ear heard what God has prepared! It is an eternity of exploration, learning, and endless joy.

Day 5 – The Great Invitation

Day Theme God is pleading with humanity to accept His gift of eternal life; it is never too late to say yes to His invitation.

Poll

What do you think is the main reason people reject God's invitation to eternal life?

- A. They don't believe it's actually real.
- B. They feel they are too sinful to be accepted.
- C. They don't want to give up their current lifestyle.
- D. They misunderstand God's character.

Opening Engagement If you received an exclusive, VIP invitation to the most incredible royal banquet, but the invitation said "Cost: Free. Just come as you are," would you hesitate because you thought there was a hidden catch?

Read the Text “And the Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’ And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.” Revelation 22:17 (NKJV). *(Ask someone to read)*

What Do You Notice? (Observation Only)

- The repeated command/invitation: "Come!"
- The speakers of the invitation: "the Spirit," "the bride," "him who hears."
- The target audience: "him who thirsts," "Whoever desires."
- The cost of the gift: "take the water of life freely."

Guided Discussion

- Why does the invitation specifically target those who "thirst"? What kind of thirst is this referring to? *(Allow discussion)*
- Notice that the invitation says "Whoever desires." What does this tell us about God's willingness to save *anyone* regardless of their past? *(Ask follow-up)*
- Why is it so hard for human beings to accept a gift that is completely "free"?
- If we have heard the invitation and accepted it, the text says we must also say, "Come!" Who is someone in your life who desperately needs to hear this invitation today? *(Invite multiple responses)*

Discovery Insight The gates of eternity are thrown wide open. God does not demand that we clean ourselves up before we arrive; He simply asks us to recognize our profound thirst and accept the water of life as a free gift.

Christ Connection On the cross, Jesus cried out, "I thirst!" (John 19:28). He experienced the ultimate, agonizing thirst of separation from God so that the free, living waters of eternal life could flow unhindered to us.

Life Response Think of someone you know who feels too broken for God, and share the simple message with them this week that the water of life is totally free.

Encouragement Bridge You have been given an exclusive, VIP invitation. The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!" It is never too late to say yes to spending eternity with Him.

Day 6 – Blessed Are the Pure in Heart

Day Theme God initiated the relationship with us, and as we prepare for the City of God, He faithfully transforms our hearts to make them pure.

Poll

When you hear the phrase "pure in heart," what comes to mind first?

- A. Someone who never makes a mistake.
- B. Someone with innocent, childlike trust.
- C. Someone who has completely selfless motives.
- D. Someone who avoids all worldly corruption.

Opening Engagement If you pour a glass of muddy water through a high-quality filter, the water that comes out the other side is clear and pure. What acts as the spiritual filter for the muddy motives of the human heart?

Read the Text "...being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ..." Philippians 1:6 (NKJV). *(Ask someone to read)*

What Do You Notice? (Observation Only)

- The level of assurance: "being confident of this very thing."
- The initiator of the work: "He who has begun a good work."
- The promise of completion: "will complete it."
- The timeline: "until the day of Jesus Christ."

Guided Discussion

- How does knowing that *God* is the one who began the work in us relieve the pressure of trying to make ourselves "pure in heart"? *(Allow discussion)*
- Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Matt. 5:8). How does God take a selfish heart and complete the "good work" of purifying it? *(Ask follow-up)*
- What does it mean to be pure in the *hidden motives* of our souls, rather than just having good outward behavior?
- When we feel discouraged by our own slow spiritual growth, how does Philippians 1:6 give us hope for eternity? *(Invite multiple responses)*

Discovery Insight We do not have to clean ourselves up to be ready for eternity. God initiated our salvation, and we can be absolutely confident that He will faithfully complete the work of purifying our hearts as we rest in Him.

Christ Connection Jesus possessed the only truly pure heart to ever beat on this earth. By abiding in Him, His perfect purity is credited to our account, and His Spirit actively filters away our selfish motives.

Life Response When you look in the mirror tomorrow morning, say out loud: "God began a good work in me, and He promises to finish it."

Encouragement Bridge The end of this world is just the beginning of your real life! God initiated this relationship with you, and He promises to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. Keep holding on!

Day 7 Summary

Main Theme The ultimate goal of growing in a relationship with God is that it never has to end; we are invited to an eternity of face-to-face joy, beauty, and exploration with our Creator.

Poll

Which truth about eternity gives you the most peace today?

- A. My present sufferings don't compare to the coming glory.
- B. My name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life.
- C. I will finally see Jesus face-to-face.
- D. The water of life is completely free.
- E. God promises to complete the good work He started in me.

5 Weekly Takeaways

- **Living Today with Tomorrow in Mind:** Our world is groaning, but our present sufferings are not worth comparing to the glory that will soon be revealed in us.
- **Finally, Face-to-Face:** The ultimate reward of heaven isn't streets of gold; it's seeing the face of our Savior. Beholding Him will transform us perfectly into His likeness.
- **The Lamb's Book of Life:** Entry into eternity isn't based on our perfect performance; it is based on accepting Jesus' grace, which writes our names in the Book of Life.
- **Follow the Lamb:** Eternity will be an endless adventure of exploration, learning, and joy, far beyond what any eye has seen or mind has imagined.
- **The Great Invitation:** The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!" God is actively pleading with every thirsty soul to take the water of life freely.

Final Reflection Question If you truly believed that the greatest day of your life is still ahead of you in eternity, how would it change the way you handle today's biggest stress? (*Pause for responses*)

Closing Appeal Our quarter of study on "Growing in a Relationship with God" brings us to this beautiful conclusion: a relationship with God is designed to last forever. You have been given an exclusive, VIP invitation to a world where goodbyes, tears, and pain no longer exist. God initiated this relationship with you, and He promises to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. Stop trying to earn it, and simply accept the free water of life. Keep holding on, keep growing, and keep resting in His righteousness. The best is yet to come!

Closing Prayer Heavenly Father, thank You for setting eternity in our hearts. When the sufferings of this present time feel overwhelming, lift our eyes to the horizon. Thank You for writing our names in the Lamb's Book of Life by Your grace. Complete the good work You have started in us, and keep us faithful until that glorious day when we see You face-to-face. In Jesus' name, Amen.