

Eternity Part I: Thinking Matters

SMALL GROUP NOTES

Tom Shaw

Theme

This week Tom Shaw began a new teaching series looking at how we can look forward to all that God has ahead for us in eternity. Even knowing some of what is to come and live our lives in response to that.

The point was made that rather than being as excited as a child before her birthday, most Christians exhibit very little enthusiasm about eternity. The reason? Most Christians fail to think accurately about it. There are therefore two questions to think through:

- Why we don't
- Why we must

Scriptures

1 Corinthians 2:5, Deuteronomy 29:29, 2 Corinthians 12

Activity

This activity should help your group to think about heaven whilst testing their biblical knowledge and putting their imaginations into practice.

Using three pieces of paper entitled In, Out and Not Sure, try to fill each of them with things that may or may not be in heaven! If you're struggling to get started here are some ideas: food, music, children, pets, joy, Christmas, sunrise, wheels, grass, water, grace, eyes, flying, marriage, sex, fire, names, forgiveness, days, houses, competitions. Be as wacky as you like!!!

I think this will work best with groups of about 6, so if it's a huge group maybe split in two. Go creative with the three bits of paper - you could use post it notes and walls, screwed up paper and bins, or a post box for ideas to sort and discuss together. Include biblical references where possible but don't get too side-tracked trying to understand every verse!

This activity is not about right and wrong but about starting to think and talk about heaven. Have fun!

Questions

Can you recall the seven aspects of the Christian life that were mentioned that were only possible when we set our "minds on the things above" Colossians 3:1

Answers – Joy, Giving, forgiving, mission, singleness, marriage and worship.

How does having an accurate view of eternity empower us in each of these areas of our life here in the present?