

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

SUMMER  
AT  
HILLSIDE

June 18, 2023

## Living for What Will Last

This Discussion Guide is designed to help you **think more deeply** about the sermon and **engage with others** through thoughtful conversation, biblical exploration and **allow God to work** in your life as you apply what you discover.

### ➤ CONVERSATION STARTER

#### What was the first car you ever owned?

### ➤ EXPLORATION

We spend a lot of our lives accumulating the things we think we “need”. This week Pastor Aaron shared the story of CT Studd who famously said, “Only what is done for Christ will last.”

We may spend our time, our energy and our talents on a multitude of things: work, hobbies, investments, etc

. But the things that last are the eternal things. This is what really matters.

CT Studd was an Englishman born in the 1800’s. At 16 years old CT was known as an expert in the sport of Cricket. He went on to be an Outstanding Cricketer at Eton College and then at Cambridge.

CT accepted Christ in 1878 at the age of 18 when a visiting preacher at their home caught CT on his way to play cricket. "Are you a Christian?" he asked. CT's answer not being convincing enough, the guest

pressed the point and CT tells what happens as he acknowledged God's gift of eternal life received through faith in Christ: "I got down on my knees and I did say 'thank you' to God. And right then and there joy and peace came into my soul. I knew then what it was to be 'born again,' and the Bible which had been so dry to me before, became everything." His two brothers were also saved that same day!

#### When and how did you first come to know Jesus?

As the story continues, CT admits that he didn't follow wholeheartedly at first. “Instead of going and telling others of the love of Christ, I was selfish and kept the knowledge to myself. The result was that gradually my love began to grow cold, and the love of the world began to come in.”

Whether we are diligently trying to do our job, or schoolwork, engaged in a hobby, or just hanging with friends and family, our lives are filled with opportunities to have a bigger vision than just what is right before our eyes.

What we do matters? Our choices matter. But also our attitudes matter and our perspective matters. We can be lost in the individual moments of our lives trying to get ahead, trying to support our families, trying to have as much fun as we possibly can, make as much money, be as successful...but what is it all for?

#### What do you spend most of your time doing?

“Some wish to live within the sound of Church or Chapel bell; I want to run a Rescue Shop within a yard of hell.”  
~CT Studd

### **1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 (From your bible, read aloud)**

Here we see three ways that a father is meant to lead his children: encouraging, comforting and urging them to live lives worthy of God.

**Encouraging** = to exhort, to strengthen, to instruct, to call near.

Encouragement is not done from a distance and it is not a one time thing. Encouragement is best done up close and personal, over time.

Look at the following verses to see what the bible says about comfort and encouragement:

- **Matthew 5:4**
- **2 Corinthians 1:4**
- **2 Corinthians 5:20**

### **Who is someone in your life that needs your encouragement?**

**Comforting** = to console, to speak to in a way of admonition, to calm

There is an important nuance when we think of the biblical idea of comforting others. Offering comfort is not just to make us feel comfortable, it is to make us useful for God's purposes.

### **Ephesians 6:4 (From your bible, read aloud)**

This kind of comfort has eternal rewards, it is the kind of instruction that has long lasting effects on us and on others as well. This kind of comfort brings eternal value.

### **1 Thessalonians 2:12 (From your bible, read aloud)**

**Urging you to live lives worthy of God** = to charge, to give a good report, bear witness, testify.

What is the message you are leaving for others to follow? What charge are you giving that helps others

aim for what truly matters? How is God asking you to make a difference in this world and the next? These are important questions to consider.

### **At the end of your life, how do you want to be remembered?**

At age 25, CT Studd inherited a large sum of money. But rather than spend it, he decided to give it all away to people who were doing God's work around the world.

### **2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (From your bible, read aloud)**

Once again we see that CT truly believed and lived out the idea that only what's done for Christ will last.

### **> TAKE AWAY**

**Only One Life, Twill Soon Be Past** by CT Studd

Only one life, the still small voice,  
Gently pleads for a better choice  
Bidding me selfish aims to leave,  
And to God's holy will to cleave;

**Only one life, 'twill soon be past,  
Only what's done for Christ will last.**

Only one life, a few brief years,  
Each with its burdens, hopes, and fears;  
Each with its clays I must fulfill.  
living for self or in His will;

**Only one life, 'twill soon be past,  
Only what's done for Christ will last.**

Give me Father, a purpose deep,  
In joy or sorrow Thy word to keep;  
Faithful and true what e'er the strife,  
Pleasing Thee in my daily life;

**Only one life, 'twill soon be past,  
Only what's done for Christ will last.**

**Take some time to consider how you want to spend your life. Pray together asking God to guide you day by day as you live for what is eternal.**