

# Talk About It

Small Group Discussion Guide

## The Value & Danger of Looking Ahead

May 18 & 21, 2023

### Start Talking

Pastor Ken gave us “homework”—to plan an activity next week or month 1) to enjoy one another, and 2) to serve another. What are some things you could do or are considering?

### Main Idea

This week the teaching was on the value and danger of looking ahead. The value of looking ahead only makes sense when we look ahead in light of eternity. Jesus said He was going away to prepare a place for us so that we may be with Him one day. Our purpose in this life is to lay up treasure for the next and to bring as many people along with us as possible. The danger of looking ahead is that you can become so consumed with your future tomorrow that you forget to live and to love and serve today.

### Personalize It

1. When it comes to the future, are you the planner or the spontaneous one?
2. Do you often pray, consult Scripture and Godly counsel when making big decisions? Why or why not?
3. Have you ever truly desired something? How did that desire manifest itself in your life?
4. What does the Bible say about the future for believers? How does or can that knowledge affect you today?

### Commit to a Step

1. Does your immediate response, when thinking about the future, lean positive or negative? If negative, what will you do to conquer that fear? If positive, share with others why you see it positively.
2. Identify something you are willing to change (or invite God to change) within you so you can better pursue your relationship with Christ.
3. Commit to follow through on the homework—plan an activity 1) to enjoy one another and 2) to serve another. Afterwards, share with your group what you did and how it went.

### Pray

Lord, we confess that thoughts of the future often bring us anxiety and stress. It represents unknowns and things that are not within our control. Help us to see that You are Lord of the past, present, AND future. In Isaiah 46:9-10, you tell us that You know “the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come.” You are not just Lord over THE future, but of OUR futures as well. Help us to trust You fully, for You are trustworthy. But please also help us to grow in wisdom and seek Your Word and Your will when we are faced with uncertainty. Help us to rest in the peace that comes from knowing that You are in control, and we don't have to be. Problems and worries are better solved in Your mighty hands than in ours. Teach us to seek You in prayer and listen for Your voice, and then for strength to follow obediently. You are faithful, loving, and sovereign. Into your mighty hands, God, we give You our future. Be glorified in it. We trust You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### Key Scriptures

Proverbs 22:2-5 (NLT)

The rich and poor have this in common: The LORD made them both. A prudent person foresees danger and takes precautions. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences. True humility and fear of the LORD lead to riches, honor, and long life. Corrupt people walk a thorny, treacherous road; whoever values life will avoid it.

Proverbs 15:22 (NIV)

Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

Ecclesiastes 11:4 (NLT)

Farmers who wait for perfect weather never plant. If they watch every cloud, they never harvest.

Ephesians 5:15-20 (NLT)

So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 14:27-30 (NLT)

And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple. But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. They would say, 'There's the person who started that building and couldn't afford to finish it!

John 14:1-6 (NLT)

"Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. And you know the way to where I am going." "No, we don't know, Lord," Thomas said. "We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."