



## The Story of Life, Forever...

Week of September 18, 2016

These discussion questions can be used the week following the message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your Connect Group discussions.

### Message Recap:

#### Read Matthew 13:47-52

There really is a God! He has revealed himself to us, and he continues to do so, though oftentimes we fail to recognize it. Some of us may deny what we see, others may outright declare non-belief. But, despite what you believe, God will judge each and every one of us when our time on Earth is up. How we are judged is based on the decisions that we make on a daily basis. God created us exactly how he wanted us to be. He molded us into perfection, though he still gives us a free will to use our gifts as we wish. And even if we've thrown away what he's given us, there's still a chance for redemption! God wants to welcome us into Heaven with open arms on the day of judgement. He wants to be our Father forever.

### Pray

Lord, prepare our hearts for your words tonight. Thank you that you know each and every one of us so intimately; that you molded us each by hand. Thank you that despite all the things we do, good and bad, you still love us more than we could ever comprehend. Be with us today as we seek to understand you better, and as we examine our own lives. Help us to use the gifts you've given us to bring further glory to your kingdom, and to win over hearts and minds so that they may live in the kingdom of heaven forever.

### Getting Started

- Have you ever had a friend or acquaintance that you considered a “bad apple”? Someone who was a bad influence on you or your family? How did you deal with them ultimately? Are you still friends?
- Do you remember when Jesus saved you? Share your story.

### Listening Deeply

1. You were created by God on purpose because he loves you. Does knowing this change your perspective on your life? How?
2. Our choice to sin means that we are deeply broken. We may not think that our sins are that bad, but according to God, sin separates us from him. Why do we choose to put our own passions and desires before God?
3. Jesus Christ is God's only provision for sin. He is the way God saves broken people. What are some verses from Scripture that prove Jesus as Savior?
4. After our lives are over we will face restoration or eternal rejection. What are some of the differences that you can glean from Scripture of a life restored to God and eternally rejected by God?
5. When considering the Story of Life, Forever...why is it important to consider creation, *and* the fall, *and* redemption, *and* restoration or rejection? Why is each element of the story incomplete without the other?
6. If you understand and accept Jesus' offer of salvation, you will integrate it into your life and begin living with the end in mind. How do you live Jesus in the context of your life? What does it mean to live with the end in mind?

### Living Wide in Jesus

Jesus is our redemption. None of us is perfect, none of us can earn our way into the kingdom. Jesus is The Way, The Truth, and The Life. There's no way to get to the Father, except through him. God gave us a free will to reject him if that's what we wish, but he has made eternal life free as well. We are all faced with a billion choices while on Earth, but it only takes one to live eternally blessed by the Father.

- Discover Jesus. This is a serious choice, and the end result is eternity... so do your research! Learn about Jesus and prepare yourself for an informed decision.
- Decide what choice you are going to make. Jesus has given you the free will and he will never force you to choose, but you can't live on the fence. Indecision *is* decision!
- If your choice is Jesus, then stand firm! God never said it will be easy, but to make the choice you are committing to walk the long journey side by side with Jesus. If your choice is not Jesus yet, know that the option will be offered to you freely until your very last breath on Earth.