

## Community Group Discussion Questions for 11/1/20

**Opening Question:** *What was the best part about being a kid that was specific to your generation?*

**Tell them:** This week we heard from Ms. Teresa Snyder. She talked to us about the temporary versus the eternal. It's a sober reminder that we often forget that everything comes to an end, both the good and the bad. That means that these difficult times are temporary and so are the good things that we bank our hope on, unless it's the hope we have in Christ.

Let's take a look at 2 Corinthians 4:17–18: *"For our momentary, light suffering is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison because we are not looking at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen. For what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal."*

**Ask them:** *What does this passage tell us about humanity in general and believers specifically? (All humans suffer, and everything we see and experience on earth is temporary. Believers look at what cannot be seen, the eternal.)*

*Why do you think the Apostle Paul calls our suffering momentary and light?*

**Tell them:** In Romans 8:19, Paul explains why our suffering is light, *"For I consider that our present sufferings cannot even be compared to the glory that will be revealed to us."* (Romans 8:18)

**Tell them:** So, we are looking at two categories of life: Things that are eternal and things that are temporary. **Ask them:** *Can you give me some things that are temporary but that may feel eternal?*

**Ask them:** *What temporary things are you tempted to choose over the eternal?*

**Ask them:** *What things then, are eternal?*

**Tell them:** Next Ms. Teresa listed for us the things are Eternal?

1. **God is eternal** – God live outside of time. He is not bound by time, He created time for humanity. God Himself has no beginning and no end.. Psalm 90:2 says, *"Even before the mountains came into existence, or you brought the world into being, you were the eternal God."* **Ask them:** *How*

*does the eternal nature of God affect your thoughts on the trials of your life?*

2. **His Word is eternal – Tell them:** Ms. Teresa pointed out that the Word of God is eternal. It never goes out of style and there are no expiration dates on His promises or commands. The word of God stands forever (see 1 Peter 1:25), so we need daily time in the Bible to renew our minds to the eternal and to get them off of the temporary. When we are exposed to so much of the world, we start to think like the world, temporally, not eternally. This shift in thinking most often makes us discontent. **Ask them:** *What things in the world do you look at that make you discontent?*
3. **Heaven is eternal – Tell them:** John 14:2 says, *“There are many dwelling places in my Father’s house. Otherwise, I would have told you, because I am going away to make ready a place for you.”* (John 14:2) That means that Jesus prepares a place for us. Ms. Teresa said, “We don’t long for heaven because we are so comfortable on earth.” **Ask them:** *What do you think of that idea? Any experience with that?*

**Tell them:** Teresa pointed out that we are to live as ambassadors to earth because our citizenship is in heaven.

**Ask them:** *How does thinking like an ambassador of heaven rather than a citizen of your town or country affect the way you behave?*

**Ask them:** *Have any of you ever song the hymn Teresa told us about? It’s is called “This world is not my home” and the lyrics would be good to remember:*

*“This world is not my home I'm just a passing through.  
My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue  
The angels beckon me from heaven's open door  
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore  
Oh lord you know I have no friend like you  
If heaven's not my home then lord what will I do  
The angels beckon me from heaven's open door  
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore.”*

**Tell them:** Teresa ended with a great analogy. She said to imagine a Twizzler rope that never ends and to recognize that the inch which is in your hand represents your life on earth. She said that what you do in that inch (that time) determines how you spend eternity. The world will tell you it’s all about the inch, but the Bible says that the inch is only a brief time within all of our eternity. Pastor Michael pointed out the futility of really

understanding something that is infinite, like this imagined Twizzler, or the only truly infinite thing, our God, but though we cannot begin to imagine infinity we can surely see that our concerns, fears and worries about the present or the future are a mere bleep on the radar of time, and nothing to compare to the weight of glory upon entering heaven.

Col. 3:2 says to: *“Keep thinking about things above, not things on the earth.”* Over the next few weeks and even months, we will surely get the opportunity to keep our eyes on the eternal, as the temporary rears its ugly head in the form of pandemic, fear, election stress and much more, but thank God today that He is eternal and that He is infinite in all that He is; in love, in mercy, in power and in presence. And remember that in His infinite sovereignty He has everything under His loving control.