



The group member will acknowledge and understand the decisions they make towards the under-resourced on earth will have consequences in eternity by ranking themselves in a variety of areas of life that reflects their current situation.

1-2
minutes



SAY THIS:

In the message this week its clear that the Rush Creek is focused on being Jesus to the under-resourced. Engaging in generosity to the under-resourced should be an outflow of our hearts in response to how God has richly blessed us.

3-5
minutes



ASK THIS:

Share with the group one way God has blessed your life and specifically mention *why* it blesses you.

40-45
minutes



Divide your group in groups of 3

HAVE SOMEONE READ FOR THE ENTIRE GROUP:

1 Cor. 5:9-10

SAY THIS:

In order for us to have a good idea of what is going on in these verses we need to read the surrounding verses. Can someone read chapter 4 aloud and then keep reading until 5:8. Don't forget, anytime you see the word "therefore" it is connecting a thought.

Leader Tip: You might divide up chapter 4 and have several people read different sections. When all are looking up move to the questions below. Keep everyone in their group.

ASK THIS:

- Discuss in your groups what is Paul's main point in chapter 4?
- How does he connect chapter 4 to chapter 5?

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- Knowing what we know from chapter 4, when looking at 5:9-10 what can we conclude?

Leader Tip: The answer you are looking for is there will be a point in time where each person must give an account and will be compensated for what they have done whether good or bad. Make sure to cut off any hint that Christians will be punished based on bad deeds (Rom. 8:1; 1 Thess 5:9; punishment was absorbed by Jesus) Also, be attentive to those in the group who might get emotional when thinking about the end of time. It's a sensitive subject, so proceed carefully.

Paul uses the phrase "judgment seat." Spend 2-3 minutes answering this question:

- What images come to mind when you read "judgment seat?" Why?

ASK THIS TO THE ENTIRE GROUP:

- Have you ever spent time thinking deeply on what Jesus will say about your life?

SAY THIS:

These can be difficult or exciting thoughts, let's read some additional Scripture to get a clearer understanding of what the judgment seat will contain.

HAVE SOMEONE READ TO ENTIRE GROUP:

Revelation 20:11-15

1 Cor. 3:13

Leader Tip:

Do not let the discussion get into end times prophecy. We will never avoid the full counsel of God but in this session we are focusing what the Bible teaches about the judgment seat of Christ.

SAY THIS:

So we can see the passage in Revelation depicts a scene at the end of time where all will be compensated for their works whether good or bad. But how does that work exactly? In the Corinthian passage we see that our works will be tested by fire and works that burn up will result in no reward and works that survive will be rewarded. Did you notice the context of 1 Cor. 3:13? Paul is discussing teaching and the purity of what his teaching coming for God's word. So, from Paul's teaching we can conclude: Works that are of eternal Kingdom significance will withstand divine judgment, works that do not will burn up and no reward will be given.

ASK THIS:

In your groups, discuss what emotions this scene of testing conjures up in you?

SAY THIS TO THE ENTIRE GROUP:

Before we get started with our last activity let's take a look at one more Scripture.

HAVE SOMEONE READ TO ENTIRE GROUP:

Revelation 21:1-7

SAY THIS TO ENTIRE GROUP:

Is this not the greatest news you have ever heard? Because of God's great love for us, he sent Jesus, to pay the penalty of our sin. For those who accept Jesus' offer of forgiveness this is our ultimate future! Look at v. 3 again. It says God will dwell once again with His people...that's us! We should be thinking back to Genesis and the garden where it all went wrong. Man broke the relationship but God, through Jesus, remade it and in the end we will dwell with him again.

ASK THIS TO ENTIRE GROUP:

In your groups discuss what emotions this scene of dwelling with God conjures up in you?

ASK THIS TO ENTIRE GROUP:

- In light of the sermon this week what connections can you make to why the Church should care about the under-resourced?

- If someone were to ask you “Why should a Christ-follower care about the under-resourced?” What would be your response?

Leader Tip: Move around to multiple groups and make sure to press people on the scenario question. Don't let them get away with saying “because the Bible says we should.” Point them back to the Scriptures you have examined.

DO THIS:

- Stay in groups of 3.
- Spend 2-3 minutes thinking through what Jesus would say to YOU at your judgment. Remember, *there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:1)*. The judgment seat for Christ-followers is not punitive, but to test your deeds for Kingdom significance.
- Using a blank sheet of paper draw a series of lines to create 6 boxes. Divide the 6 boxes in half to create 12 small boxes (see below for example). In top 6 boxes name them:

Faith: I have a vibrant faith on a daily basis
 Heart: I am focused on righteousness on a daily basis
 Family: Next to Jesus, my family gets the best of me.
 Work: I work in a way that Jesus would be proud, be glorified and made famous.
 Thought life: I win the battle over my flesh regularly and set my mind on things above
 Alone Time: I spend my alone time thinking and doing things that will help me run to Jesus

- In the bottom 6 boxes, based on how you believe Jesus would score you, assign each category a score of:

Red: I need a lot of work
 Yellow: I am moving forward in this area but still have a long way to go
 Green: I'm not there yet but I'm doing really well

FAITH	HEART	FAMILY	WORK	THOUGHT LIFE	ALONE TIME

Share your results with your subgroup and then spend 5-10 minutes praying specifically for each of the boxes.

CLOSE YOUR TIME BY SAYING THIS:

We've spent a lot of time looking at what is in our future with Jesus. Our great reward to dwell with God for eternity is a blessing we don't deserve. It's out of this joy and gratitude that we are generous and desire to bless those who struggle. The message this week was clear. Rush Creek cares about the under-resourced. Why? Because God cares and in the overflow of joy and gratitude in our hearts we bless others. What a privilege!



When a man becomes a Christian, he becomes industrious, trustworthy and prosperous. Now, if that man when he gets all he can and saves all he can does not give all he can, I have more hope for Judas Iscariot than for that man! – John Wesley

A lack of generosity refuses to acknowledge that your assets are not really yours, but God's. – Tim Keller

The measure of a life, after all, is not its duration, but its donation. – Corrie Ten Boom