

God's View for Your Life

Topic: Vision Part One

Purpose of this study: To help your students understand what God values as important and how they can begin to think and live accordingly.

Motivation for teaching this study:

This is part one of motivating your students to continue in a lifetime of walking with God. As your students begin to grasp the vision and big plans God has for them, they will hopefully be motivated to continue to seek and follow the Lord. While we can't make them grow, that's God's job alone, we can help create the environment that encourages and spurs on growth. By now your students should have seen or caught a little bit of your vision through your teaching, modeling and praying for them. These two studies are an attempt at helping them see and realize for themselves how God wants to use them in the future.

Introducing the Lesson:

I would begin with a true story like this: Once a wealthy Christian plantation owner invited John Wesley (A famous American preacher in the 1700's) to his home. The two rode their horses all day, seeing just a small part of all the man owned. At the end of the day the plantation owner asked, "Well Mr. Wesley, what do you think?" After a moment of silence, Wesley replied, "I think you're going to have a hard time leaving all of this." Many of us become attached to what we own or who we are (our title or position). Yet God views life differently than we do. Today we want to look at how God views life and how that affects His plans for our lives.

Teaching the Lesson:

Eternal is what will last forever according to God, while temporal includes everything else. As believers we live differently because we SEE differently. Though we may see the same facts, witness the same current events, eat the same food, and go to the same school, we interpret them in radically different ways and purposes.

Luke 9:23-25 – saving your life is living it for yourself; losing your life is giving it up to Christ and His kingdom. This passage does not refer to losing eternal life but to losing a quality of life that is available to Christians through Christ.

Heb. 11:24-26 – Moses had a decision to refuse the temporal in order that he might choose the eternal.

Only time spent in eternal things (God, Word of God, and people) will produce eternal rewards.

An old saying: Only one life twill soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last.

God values the spiritual over the material

The rich man faired poorly before God since he stored up treasures for Himself and was not rich toward God. Financial counselors will tell you, "You can't go back at age sixty-five and snap your fingers to compensate for forty years of poor planning." Yet what is even more important is that you can't reach the end of the your life, snap your fingers and compensate for a lifetime of poor planning to meet God.

It is not wrong for a Christian to have material wealth on earth as long as he or she is willing to surrender it to the Lord for kingdom purposes (Luke 14:33). To "give up everything" as mentioned in Luke 14:33 does not necessarily mean giving it all away, but to give everything up to kingdom purposes to further God's cause.

God values availability over ability

In these verses, God's attitude toward the worldly-wise is that they are foolish since they do not consult Him and since in their wisdom they go away from God and not toward Him. God even deliberately chooses the weak things of the world to shame the wise such as using an ancient religious book written over 4000 years ago (Genesis) to shame a world renowned scientist who firmly adheres to evolution.

Closing the Lesson:

In order to have vision for our lives, we must understand what is important to God. Once we understand God's important things, we can realign our life and live accordingly.

Evaluation:

1. If God were to send you a divine email listing things on earth that needed fixing, what do you think would be on the list?
2. How is your life becoming more eternal and spiritual in what you do?
3. How can God use anybody who is available to Him even though they are not necessarily gifted or educated?
4. How could you tell if someone was putting the eternal over the temporal or the spiritual over the material in their life?

* Many concepts in this study are from *Personal Disciplemaking* by Chris Adsit. Visit www.ccci.org/disciplemakers or call 888-342-2235.