

Small Group Discussion Guide

Healthy Perspective: For the week of August 23 - 29, 2020

Physical distancing protocol for safety at Small Groups:

- No more than 5 people per group/cluster.
- Upon arrival and departure from group, please wear masks.
- Once seated and physically distanced, masks can be removed.
- Whenever physical distancing is not possible, we kindly ask that masks remain on.

Main Thought and Scriptures:

• **Crisis and persecution will come to every believer.**

Jesus warned His disciples that the crisis of persecution would come to them following His death and resurrection. In order to thrive amid, He directed them to have an eternal perspective.

"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. ¹⁹If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. ²⁰Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. ²¹They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me."

(John 15:18-21 NIV)

• **Perseverance through crisis comes as we keep an eternal perspective.**

Jesus reminded them that this life is not all that there is and that they will see Jesus again in Heaven, be filled with joy, and be rewarded.

"...Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. ²³In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name... ²⁴Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete."

(John 16:22-24 NIV)

• **Eternal rewards are promised for those who persevere.**

In Heaven, we will be rewarded and filled with complete joy in God's presence.

"The one who conquers (or is victorious) will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son." (Revelation 21:7 ESV)

Discussion Questions:

- What stands out to you from the main thoughts and scriptures above? What is the greatest crisis you are experiencing at this time?
- How can you keep an eternal perspective during the crisis you are facing? How does the promise of eternal rewards help you to persevere?

Prayer:

- Pray for God to help us to maintain an eternal perspective.
- Pray for someone who is far from God that they will come to know Jesus and have an eternal perspective in their lives.