



Searching: TIME

Break into groups of 2-3 and try write down a definition of TIME. How would you explain TIME to an alien who just arrived on earth?

Life under the Sun

Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-22

What's the point of the poem in vv 1-8? How does the fact that you're not in control make you feel? How does it change the way you see life?

Re-read verse 11. What does this mean for us?

List everything this passage tells us about God.

What does this passage tell us about life "under the sun" and the judgement to come?

Life under the Son

Read Colossians 1:15-20

List everything this passage tells us about Jesus.

How does that fact that Jesus controls time affect your life now?

How would you answer the following:

"I've got plenty of time to think about God later in my life"

"I don't really feel like eternity is something I want"

List some ways we waste our time in things "under the sun".

List some ways we can use our time wisely and for the praise of God's glory.

Communion notes for Growth Group leaders

Read Matthew 26:26-29 and 1 Corinthians 11:23-28

The Bible doesn't prescribe how we are to enjoy communion. Throughout the centuries Christians have practiced it differently. However, the main idea has always remained the same. So, using the words below, or your own paraphrase, remind God's people of what communion is all about:

"Jesus Christ has left us a visible and tangible reminder of what He has achieved for us in His death on the cross. But the Lord's supper is more than a reminder. As we partake of the bread and wine we are communing with Him and with each other. It is an expression of faith in His death and a small foretaste of what the Great Feast with Him in heaven will be like.

So, as we take the bread and wine, look in these four directions.

1. Look into your own heart. By taking the bread and wine *in* to ourselves we are acknowledging that need take Jesus Christ to live. Search your own heart and make sure that you are trusting in Him alone and in His finished work on the cross. If you do not understand what Jesus did for you on the cross, you ought not to take communion. Acknowledge the sin in your heart and trust that His death cleanses those who trust in it from all sin.
2. Look back to the cross. See Jesus Christ crucified in your place and instead of you. He took the wrath of God for you. He was punished in our place. He died so that we don't have to. And He rose again so that we can live a new life glorifying God in everything.
3. Look around you. Jesus said, 'take this *all* of you'. Communion is a corporate event. We are part of the body of Christ, the church, and when we have communion we ought to be in peace and fellowship with our brothers and sisters.
4. Look forward. Jesus said that whenever we do this, we proclaim His death until He comes. Communion is a foretaste (a hors oeuvre) of the Great Banquet when we feast with Him forever. So keep looking forward to the great day when we will eat with Him and enjoy Him forever."

Then, practically, let each person eat the bread, and then someone pray and give thanks for Christ's death. Then, let each person drink the wine (or grape juice or whatever) and someone give thanks for Jesus' blood (His violent death) that was shed for us.