

*With Our Eyes  
on Eternity*



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# Dedication

*In memory of Joanne Bowker Daley,  
who is already enjoying eternity.*

*With Our Eyes on Eternity*

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# Preface

**V**iewpoint makes a difference! Just visit Niagara Falls. You can observe this phenomenon at multiple vantage points: from the Canadian or the American side, overlooking the edge, behind the falls, in front of them, or above them. Each perspective offers a new experience to the viewer.

Life may be viewed in many different ways too. We divide it into minutes, hours, days, months, and years. Or we may think of our lives as consisting of childhood, adolescence, young adulthood, middle age, and retirement. Then there is past, present, and future. A completely different approach is to view life as a series of interconnected personal experiences—physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual.

How can we live the most productive lives while we spend our moments here? Viewpoint is the key. You may dwell on the past and become stale. You may live only for the present and become self-centered and unwise in your choices. But as a Christian woman, you should live with an eternal viewpoint, seeing your life, and all of life, from God's perspective. Living this way leads to the most stable, productive, fulfilling life possible. God's Word, the Bible, directs us how to be women who are focused on God's bigger plan. Together let's learn about His perspective so we can live with our eyes on eternity.

# How to Use This Study

Each lesson in this study is divided into six sections. Follow these suggestions as you prepare each lesson.



## **I. A LOOK INSIDE**

These questions will prepare your heart to study God's Word. They will not be discussed in class.



## **II. GOD'S VIEWPOINT**

The questions in this section concentrate on the text of God's Word and will help you understand what God's Word says.



## **III. ADJUSTING YOUR FOCUS**

As you answer the questions in this section, you will see how the truths of God's Word apply to your life.



## **IV. FOR FURTHER STUDY**

This section suggests additional Scripture to study on your own.



## **V. WHAT HAVE YOU SEEN?**

This section is designed to help you put God's truth into practice.



## **VI. WITH OUR EYES ON ETERNITY**

These final words will help seal firmly in your mind what you have learned from the Scriptures.





## Determine Your Destination

*“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him” (John 3:36).*

**A**im for nothing, and you’re sure to hit it.” You’d think people would learn, but that’s the way some people live—with no thought for tomorrow or for eternity. In fact, many people don’t want to think about life after death because it’s an unknown and they have no answers to its questions.

The Bible strongly asserts that from the moment of conception, each human being is an eternal soul (John 5:28, 29; Acts 24:15; 1 Corinthians 15:53). Physical death is just a door that ushers us into eternity. But to where? God tells us that there are only two eternal destinations: Heaven and Hell, both very real.

The most important decision you will make while on earth is in which of these two places you will spend your eternity. Therefore, our first lesson is foundational; we must face the reality of forever. We must choose our destination now.



## **I. A LOOK INSIDE**

Do you know for certain that you will spend eternity in Heaven with Jesus Christ?

If so, upon what are you basing this assurance?



## **II. GOD'S VIEWPOINT**

“Time. I’ve got plenty of time.” Perhaps you haven’t considered eternity because you’re putting it off until another time. From God’s viewpoint, our lives are exceedingly short.

1. To what is life compared in these verses of God’s Word?

Psalm 102:11

Psalm 103:15, 16

James 4:14

God reminds us in Scripture about the reality of death. Dying is part of living, and we must prepare for it. To ignore death is to be unprepared for the infinite life that follows.

2. Look up these verses and explain what they tell you about death.

Psalm 89:48

Ecclesiastes 8:8

Hebrews 9:27

Hebrews 9:27 tells us that all people must face death and the judgment of God. Though many fear physical death, *spiritual death* is to be feared more. The Bible explains that spiritual death is separation from God forever. He created Hell for Satan and his demons, who rebelled against God (Matthew 25:41). But human beings who have sinned against Him in any way are destined to go there also, for no sin can enter Heaven.

3. What is the eternal condition of those who reject God and His Word?

Matthew 13:36–43

2 Thessalonians 1:7–9

Revelation 20:12–14

What, then, can we do to escape this eternal punishment? Is it possible for a person to live life *knowing* she will go to Heaven and not to Hell? The answer is yes! God loved the human beings He created so much that He prepared a way for them to enter into His Heaven upon death. The first step is to acknowledge our sinful condition before God.

All of us have disobeyed God's holy standards in some way. In other words, if we have fallen short of perfection in any thought, attitude, word, or action, we have sinned!

4. What do these verses declare?

Proverbs 20:9

Romans 3:23

1 John 1:8

Yes, we have all sinned and are due for God's wrath and judgment because of it. Yet God had a plan. He sent to this earth His own Son, Jesus Christ, Who is both fully God and fully man. He was put to death on a cross. While Jesus was dying, God poured out His wrath and judgment for our sins upon His very own sinless Son. Jesus Christ took *our* place of punishment. After death, He was resurrected and ascended to Heaven, where He waits to return someday.

5. What reasons do these verses give for Christ's death?

Romans 5:8, 9

1 Corinthians 15:3, 4

1 Peter 2:24

6. Although Christ died for the sins of the whole world, every person does not automatically go to Heaven. Each individual must *choose* to receive God's offer of salvation through Christ. How does a person do this?

John 1:12

John 6:47 (Jesus speaking)

Acts 13:38, 39

7. Some people know that Christ died for sins, but they think, or have been taught, that good works or religious ceremonies are necessary to receive God's salvation (deliverance from eternal death). What does God say?

Ephesians 2:8, 9

Titus 3:5, 6

8. How does God now see those of us who have received Jesus Christ as our Savior from sin?

Romans 8:1

Ephesians 1:5, 6

9. When a woman becomes a true Christian by putting her faith in Christ and His death on the cross for her sins, she can live the rest of her life with the assurance that she will go to Heaven, not because she is earning it, but because Jesus is her eternal life. According to John 10:27–29, how does Jesus assure us of our “keeping?”

10. While the Lord Jesus was upon this earth, He declared that the decision to receive and follow Him is the most critical choice any person must make. How did He warn about this choice, as recorded in each of the following passages?

Matthew 10:28–33

Matthew 16:24–26

11. Read John 3:16–18 and verse 36 (this lesson's key verse).

(a) What motivated God to send His Son to give His life for us?

(b) What is the benefit for those who believe?

(c) What is the state of those who will not believe?

12. But, you might say, "Surely there are other ways, other religions that are just as good." What does God's Word declare?

John 14:6

Acts 4:12



### **III. ADJUSTING YOUR FOCUS**

1. People avoid thoughts of death for many reasons. For example, they may fear it as unknown territory. The world has concocted its own ways of dealing with death and the afterlife. But these are not God's ways. Based on the verses you have read in this lesson or others you can find, explain why the following methods of dealing with death are unwise.

Ignoring it

Denying an afterlife (live for today)

Trusting in religious ceremonies

Trusting your own goodness

Trusting your church affiliation or parents' religion

2. The subject of Hell is unpopular in our culture. Satan has had success in causing people to disregard it. Can you think of ways that society's attitudes and ideas downplay the reality of Hell?
3. What are some reasons a person might use for refusing to receive Jesus Christ as her Savior, even if this refusal means eternal punishment?

4. How do you think it would change a woman's life if she put her faith in Christ and knew for certain she would go to Heaven when she died?



#### IV. FOR FURTHER STUDY

*Read Luke 16:19–31.*

Jesus spoke a parable about the reality of Hell.

1. What do you learn about Hell in this parable?
2. By what means will a person be persuaded to receive eternal life (vv. 29, 31)?



#### V. WHAT HAVE YOU SEEN?

In Section I you were asked if you know for certain that you will spend eternity in Heaven with Jesus Christ. This is the most important question in all of life.

If you answered yes, then you must be sure you are basing your response on Biblical truth. The only way to “be saved” from God’s wrath and eternal punishment in Hell is to place one’s *faith* in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior from sin. Each woman must recognize that she has sinned against God’s holiness but that Jesus took the punishment for her sins when He died on the cross. If you have turned from your life of sin and received this “gift” of eternal life, then truly you can be sure of Heaven (Romans 6:23).

If, however, you are putting your trust in your own goodness, your faith for its own sake, religious ceremonies, or church affiliation, you are



trusting in things that God says will not save you. (If you doubt this, read Isaiah 64:6 and Romans 3:9–12.) It is grace alone through faith that saves us from God's wrath (Ephesians 2:8, 9).

If you replied no to the question in Section I, what have you seen in this lesson? Eternity is real; you must decide your destination now. What excuses are worth eternal damnation? Jesus Christ is more than just a “fire escape” from Hell; He is abundant life right now (John 10:9–11). Why not make sure that you are ready for eternity? Pray to Him and receive Him, by faith, into your life today.



## **VI. WITH OUR EYES ON ETERNITY**

Eternity is only a step away. Life is short. For both believers and unbelievers, every breath draws us closer to forever. Are you ready to meet God?