

ETERNAL LIVING

What Jesus Really Meant
About Eternal Life

IceBreaker (Pick one):

- 1. What is something you learned by watching or being around someone else?*
- 2. What is one area of life where a good coach, teacher, or mentor makes a major difference?*
- 3. If someone asked, “What is one thing Jesus has taught you about how to live?” what would you say?*

Introduction *(Read aloud before discussion.)*

Jesus didn’t simply announce that abundant life was available. He showed people how to enter it. His strategy was discipleship: ordinary people becoming apprentices and learning from him how to live. If the deepest problems in our world are spiritual, perhaps our families, churches, schools, workplaces, and communities most need a revolution of Christlike character.

Sermon Discussion *(Use as a guide for dialogue; let God lead, and read the verses aloud.)*

Matthew 5:14–16

1. Jesus tells his followers, “*You are the light of the world.*” What did he expect their lives to contribute to the people and places around them?

2. If Jesus intends for his life to shine through us, what part do we play in becoming people who carry that light?

Matthew 11:28–30

3. Jesus says, “*Take my yoke upon you and learn from me.*” What did it mean in Jesus’ world to take someone’s yoke, and what does that reveal about his invitation?

4. How might seeing yourself as an apprentice of Jesus change the way you think about being a Christian? Can one be a Christian and not be a disciple?

Matthew 7:13–14

5. Jesus describes a narrow road that “*leads to life.*” Why might the way to life be harder to find or less commonly chosen?

6. Has Christianity sometimes become more about believing ideas than learning a way of life? If so, why?

Matthew 7:24–27

7. According to Jesus, what is the difference between hearing his words and building your life on them?

8. What teaching of Jesus, if practiced, could save us from unnecessary pain?

9. Not all suffering is avoidable. How could living Jesus’ way help us with both the pain we create and the pain we cannot control?

Matthew 9:17

10. If the new wine represents the new life he brings, what could we do specifically to become new wineskins that can receive it?

FURTHER STUDY — READ ROMANS 12:1–2

Paul says we are “*transformed by the renewing of your mind.*”

- What do you notice about Paul’s description of transformation? What part does God play, and what part do we play?
- How does this passage add to Jesus’ teaching about becoming his disciple and learning a new way to live?