



Family Discussion Guide

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FEATURING

Eternal Salvation

INVESTING



Jonathan works as an investment banker – what does it mean to “invest” in something? In living life, what does Scott decide to invest his time and efforts into accomplishing? How would you contrast Scott's life “investment strategy” with Paul's?



Read Matthew 6:19-21 and Luke 6:45



How can you know the difference between earthly and heavenly treasures? What connection do the objects of your wealth and attention have with your heart? As you think about how you talk and the kinds of things you discuss, what does that tell you about your own heart condition before God?

PERSECUTION



Paul is a Christian and acts like one. What kinds of ridicule and harm does he suffer as the result of practicing his faith? Once Jonathan becomes a Christian, what backlash does he suffer? What is it about their Christian faith that makes others want to mock or harm them?



John 15:18-20 and 1 Peter 4:12-16



Why are some Christians surprised when persecution arises as a result of their faith? If we suffer for bearing the name of Jesus (as opposed to, for example, suffering for being rude) why is that a cause for happiness? Since Christians can expect suffering, how can we prepare ourselves to endure it when it comes?

OUTREACH



How does Paul go about reaching out to Jonathan both before and after Jonathan's hospitalization? How would you describe the way that Amy comes to faith in Christ? What made the difference between the way Amy and Scott responded to appeals to the Gospel?



Colossians 4:5-6 and 1 Corinthians 7:12-16



What is involved in being wise toward those who are outside the faith? What must we do in order to have answers for people's questions? When the relationship is close, as with a husband and a wife, what are some good ways that a believer can represent Jesus and the Gospel to their unbelieving spouse?

STAYING ON THE PATH



We see only highlights of Jonathan's and Paul's lives. What indications do you get that their Christian life isn't always smooth sailing? In order to keep on in the faith, what kinds of attitudes and actions were necessary? In what sense does Jonathan, indeed, get the desires of his heart?



Read Hebrews 11:32-40



What dangers come from believing that becoming a Christian means that God will remove all significant troubles from your path? What benefits can Christians derive from understanding the suffering of fellow believers? Take a look at Hebrews 12:1-2. In light of the victories and the perseverance of previous saints, how should we conduct our lives?