

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

2nd Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 12

Everlasting Life

Everlasting Life

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The “Main passage” is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

These are the books of the Bible we will be memorizing. New books for this month are in bold. If a student can memorize all the books up to this month’s books, you may give them a prize from the “reward box” found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God’s Word.

Objective This lesson will use the story of the criminal on the cross to teach the kids that everlasting life means living with Jesus in perfect life forever in heaven.

Key Verses

John 3:16; John 11:25; Luke 23:39-43—Main Teaching Passages
Revelation 21:4

Books to Memorize

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans, **1&2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians**

Hook

Ask the class, “If you could, would you want to live forever on this earth?” Make a list on the board of all the good things about living forever (never worrying about death, having time to do whatever you want to do, etc.) Then make a list of the bad things (experiencing pain and suffering forever, never escaping the bad things in this world, never seeing dead friends and family again.)

Today, we are going to see that Jesus promises everlasting life. Everlasting life is not living forever on this earth. It’s much better.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

In John 3:16, Jesus said that whoever believes in Him will not die, but have everlasting life. In John 11:25, Jesus told Martha that He is the Resurrection and the Life, and that those who believe in Him, though they may die, yet they will live. What that means and what it looks like can be seen in the story of Jesus' conversation with the criminal next to him on the cross.

When Jesus was crucified, there were two criminals who died with him, one on each side on their own cross. Both of them had done horrible things and were facing certain death as punishment. One of the criminals was mocking Jesus, telling Him that if He was the Christ, He should save the three of them. But the other criminal rebuked him, saying that they both deserved to be punished for their crimes, but Jesus had done nothing wrong. Then He turned to Jesus and said, "Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him by saying, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

As we know, Jesus later died, and the two criminals beside Him died some time after. We don't know exactly when that happened, but no doubt later that day, the criminal who believed breathed his final breath on this earth and then entered into eternity with God. Just as Jesus said, that day He was with God in Paradise.

LOOK

In our studies on the gospel, we have gone over why we need to be saved, what Jesus did to save us, and how we respond to Jesus and receive salvation. The rest of the year, we will look at what it means to be saved, what the benefits of salvation are, and how we should live as believers. Today, we will see that believing in Jesus leads to everlasting life.

Now when you first hear the phrase, "everlasting life," you might think that it means living forever on this earth and never dying. But in our story today, we see that this is not the case. The criminal who was next to Jesus believed, but that didn't mean he is still alive on that cross today, or that he got down and now is living a life of following the Lord. He still died, and according to what Jesus said to him, it must have been some time later that day. Ever since that day, millions of Christians have also died and left this earth.

When Jesus promised everlasting life, He was talking about life in heaven, after we leave this earth. Being saved doesn't just mean escaping hell and eternal separation from God. Because we know Jesus as our Lord

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK (Continued)

and Savior, we get to spend all of eternity living with Him in heaven. There, we will never have to worry about death ever again. We are free from the power of sin and death and will live with God forever.

Jesus didn't say to the criminal on the cross, "After you die, you will live forever." Everlasting life is more than just escaping hell or living for a really, really long time. It's better than just existing forever. Some people want to live forever, but if we lived forever on this earth, that would mean experiencing all the bad things in the world forever—pain, fear, sadness, loss, disappointment, tragedy. No, Jesus told the criminal that he would be with Him in Paradise. Everlasting life is not just endless life, but Paradise, with full, perfect life. In Revelation 21:4, we learn that in eternity, there will be no death, sorrow, crying, or pain. Every bad thing we have to go through in this life will be gone. Instead, eternal life means living forever with God, knowing Him more and more, and getting to enjoy all of His wonderful blessings. Everlasting life is an incredible blessing that everyone who believes in Jesus will get to enjoy, and as we will learn in our upcoming lessons, it gets even better.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

As a class, review the books of the Bible Matthew-Colossians.

Review the lesson by asking the class what the thief on the cross asked Jesus and what Jesus promised him. Ask them what everlasting life means.

Pray: Thank Jesus for promising everlasting life to all of us who believe in Him. Praise Him for the opportunity to spend eternity getting to know Him more.

Parent Question: What is everlasting life? Is it more than just living forever?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Luke 23:39-43 by David Guzik

5. ([Luk 23:39-43](#)) A criminal on a cross finds salvation.

Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us." But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

a. **One of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him:** One of the criminals crucified with Jesus joined in the mockery and scorn. He reasoned that if Jesus *were* the Messiah, He should save those who are being crucified with Him (**save Yourself and us**).

b. **But the other, answering, rebuked him:** Both Matthew ([Matthew 27:44](#)) and Mark ([Mark 15:32](#)) indicate that *both* criminals mocked Jesus. Though at first they both mocked Jesus, in the hours spent on the cross, one of the criminals came to see things differently, and to actually put his trust in Jesus.

- This second criminal respected God (**Do you not even fear God**).
- He knew his own sin (**under the same condemnation... we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds**).
- He knew Jesus (**this Man has done nothing wrong**).
- He called out to Jesus (**he said to Jesus**).
- He called out to Jesus as Lord (**he said to Jesus, "Lord..."**).
- He believed Jesus was who Jesus said He was (**remember me when You come into Your kingdom**).
- He believed the promise of everlasting life from Jesus.

i. "It is worthy of remark, that this man appears to have been the first who believed in the *intercession* of Christ." (Clarke)

c. **Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise:** Jesus answered the trust of the second criminal, assuring him that his life after death would be **with** Jesus, and be in **Paradise**, not torment.

i. Here is something truly remarkable: a deathbed conversion, and may fairly be said to be the only Biblical example of a last-minute salvation. There *is* one deathbed conversion in the Bible, so that no one would despair; but *only one*, so that no one would presume.

ii. Significantly, this thief who trusted in Jesus at the last moment goes to the same heaven anyone else does. This may not seem fair, but in the larger picture it gives glory to the grace of God, not to human merit in salvation. In heaven, we will all be filled to the full with joy and reward; but the degree of our faithfulness now determines how big our container for joy and reward will be in heaven, though all will be filled to the fullest they can hold.

iii. **In Paradise:** "Paradise (*paradeisos*), a Persian word meaning 'garden, park,' was used in the Septuagint for the Garden of Eden ([Genesis 2:8](#)). It then became a type of the future bliss for God's people in [Isaiah](#)

[51:3](#)...In the present passage it represents the state of bliss which Jesus promised to the criminal directly after death." (Pate)

iv. This assurance was so important to Jesus that it cost Him something. It *hurt* Jesus to even say these words. "Since speech occurs during exhalation, these short, terse utterances must have been particularly difficult and painful." (Edwards)

v. Jesus answered the second criminal far beyond his expectation.

- The thief on the cross had some distant time in mind; Jesus told him **today**.
- The thief on the cross asked only to be remembered; Jesus said "**you will be with Me**."
- The thief on the cross looked only for a kingdom; Jesus promised him **Paradise**.