

# Forever

Why you can't live without it

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Leader's Guide to be used with the conference on DVD  
(10 – 25 minute sessions)  
for Church-wide Events, Classes,  
Small Groups, or Personal Study

*This is a resource of:*

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# forever

## LEADERS' GUIDE

**Opening Discussion Questions:** These questions are designed to create discussion and stimulate initial thoughts that will help participants connect the ideas of each session to their own lives. They are designed to be discussed before viewing the material of each session. If you are leading a small group, you should consider how much time is available and limit the opening discussion based on amount of time you have. You may need to select only one opening question that you think would be most “discussable” by your group. As Leader of the group it is essential you personally watch all ten video sessions before you begin session 1 with your group. You need to know where Paul Tripp is headed in the video to handle questions as you go along.

**Scripture:** These passages are ones that are referred to in the session.

**Notes:** The notes section provides a place for notes to be written down and referred back to.

**Review/Discussion Questions:** These questions are intended to help the participant review the content presented in each session. Possible answers for each question are placed in brackets.

**Application Questions:** These questions are designed to help participants apply the principles and key ideas to their own lives. As leader, you may want to allow time for each participant to answer questions on their own and then select a question(s) that you think your group will be willing to share their answers with one another. If you have a large group you can have participants break into smaller groups of 2-4 to share their answers.

**Further Study:** **Even though this video and leader’s guide/discussion guide is a stand-alone resource, you may want to expand the study by using the Forever book.** This brief section includes chapters from the book *Forever* and verses from the Bible that connect to and support the principles and key ideas presented in each session. There is a significant difference between the content in the book and the content in the DVDs.

<p><b>NOTE:</b> Encourage yourself and/or your group to write down answers as much as possible. Writing it down helps stimulate thinking and strengthens commitments.</p>
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## *SESSION 1*

### **REVIEW QUESTIONS:**

1. What does it mean to believe? [Belief is more than just intellectual consent; true belief according to the Bible spills over into how we live]
2. What is the danger of not living with Forever in mind? [We will place our hopes and dreams on the here-and-now and place too great of expectations on people--neither of which can provide or satisfy our true needs]
3. According to Romans 8:18-25, what are some of the elements that define the here-and-now? [Futility, decay, and pain]

## *SESSION 2*

### **Opening Discussion:**

What are things or events you are unwilling to wait for? [Sometimes we refuse to wait in a long line; sometimes we are willing to pay more instead of having to wait; we may hang up when placed on hold, etc.]

What are you willing to wait for, even if you don't want to? [People who wait overnight, outside for Christmas sales; willing to order something online instead of buying it immediately because it will be cheaper, sometimes we are willing to wait a long time on the phone to get help we need]

### **REVIEW QUESTIONS**

1. In Romans 8:18-25, what elements of Forever are present and how are they contrasted with the here-and-now? [The suffering we face is contrasted with the glory to be revealed; the creation's waiting in the here-and-now is contrasted with creation's eager longing for a future time; the creation groaning as in childbirth is contrasted with its hope for freedom; we groan as we wait is contrasted with hoping expectantly for our adoption and redemption]
2. Why does God's include futility, decay, and pain in his plan? [It makes us long for God himself and not be satisfied with his creation]

## *SESSION 3*

### **REVIEW/DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. According to Colossians 4:2, there are two overarching mindsets. What are the two mindsets and how does each influence how life is lived? ["On earth mindset" = it leads us to attach our hopes and dreams to earthly things; we'll seek identity through things; we can be envious of others possessions. "Above mindset" = leads us to attach our hopes and dreams to a future promise, to seek our identity in Christ; to not place a priority on material possessions because they are not eternal]
2. What helps you to restore or maintain an "above" mindset? [Some ideas may include: Scripture passages or promises, certain events or experiences, people in your life, memories]

## SESSION 4

### REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How is our sin a symptom of living with a “here-and-now” mindset? [Sin is often the result of selfish desires and wanting to achieve our own plan and agenda instead of God’s; we live primarily for ourselves in the here-and-now]
2. How are unrealistic expectations and a need for control symptoms of living with a “here-and-now” mindset? [Unrealistic expectations and a need for a control are the result of transferring our desires for perfection into the here-and-now; both result from attaching our hopes and dreams to the here-and-now or to other people]

## SESSION 5

### REVIEW/DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is God doing with us in this moment between the already and the not yet? [Preparing us for our final destination]  
How does this perspective help us in the challenges of life? [We know that there is a purpose in our trials and difficulties; we can assess and alter our trials if they are the result of us expecting this life to be struggle-free]
2. Explain biblical waiting. [Waiting is not just about what you get at the end, it is also about what you become as you’re waiting; waiting is active, requiring work, discipline, and commitment]
3. How is God’s plan for us in the middle of the already and the not yet illustrated in Mark 6:45-52? [God is in control and orchestrates each moment including the trials]

## SESSION 6

### REVIEW/DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How are God’s plan and grace for us living in the middle of the already and the not yet illustrated in Mark 6:45-52? [1. God is in control and orchestrates each moment including the trials; 2. God wants to *use* the trials in our lives not just remove them; 3. God is present with us in the midst of our trials]
2. Explain the difference between faith and amazement. [Amazement is the result of applying logic and not being able to explain or understand something, and faith is the result of making a heart commitment to something you do understand]

## SESSION 7

### REVIEW/DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In what ways are you able to relate to the ideas and illustrations presented in this session? [Ideas and illustrations in the session included: making things too important such as clothes; our appearance; our plans; being agreed with; our homes and lawns; our car; food; making good things ruling things; being in debt]
2. Why do you think it can be so easy and tempting to make non-important things so important? [We’re constantly faced with such temptations; our culture/advertisers]

persuade us to place such things as important; we want to achieve our own dreams and desires; we convince ourselves that God would want us to have good things and be happy; they provide immediate pleasure]

## *SESSION 8*

1. Why is it important to keep God as important? [God defines life for us. He makes sense out of everything in life and creation; we were created and designed to know and love God; God is the very purpose and meaning of our existence]
2. Why is it important to make God's reign important? [Otherwise we will make our own "reign" important; rest and peace are found in knowing God reigns]
3. Why is it important to make God's glory important? [Every other good thing is a sign pointing to God's glory; only God's ultimate glory will truly satisfy what God designed you for]
4. Why is it important to make redemption important? [It helps us to properly appreciate what God has done for us and the blessings we have in Christ]

## *SESSION 9*

### **REVIEW QUESTIONS**

1. What were the lies Adam and Eve believed in the garden and that we also often accept? [That we are autonomous beings with the right to do whatever we want; that we are self-sufficient with the ability to do and be whatever we want through our own power]
2. How does understanding God's holiness help us to understand the presence of Hell? [It helps us to understand God's hatred of sin; to understand God's justice and purity]
3. How does an accurate understanding of sin help us to understand the presence of Hell? [We see sin for what it really is—destructive, deceptive, and impure]

## *SESSION 10*

### **Opening Discussion:**

Review Session 9:

How can the reality of Hell impact our lives as Christians? [It reminds us that there are consequences to our behavior when we break God's moral laws; it reveals the sinfulness of sin and the holiness of God]

### **REVIEW/DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Why should we be both extremely sad and enormously celebrant? [We are sad because of the fall of creation; the place of sin and evil; the presence of Hell; we should be celebrant because of the grace of God in Christ; that we have forgiveness and atonement]
2. With all 10 sessions of Forever in mind, what do you think God wants to change in you?