

## PERSONAL STORY

Can we live with a concern for eternity amidst the distractions of today? As you will read below from the perspective of a CPCC member, perhaps you can.

“What do you do when God calls you while you are sitting in prison?

It was His second attempt to get my attention and I was not about to see what would happen the third time. He spoke to me through an Orthodox Jew who was serving a prison sentence, and accepted Christ the day before.

God’s call sent me on a five year journey of returning to school and then raising support to become a full-time missionary, leaving behind a lucrative career. It has not been an easy road, yet I would not trade it for anything. God has blessed, humbled and matured me in preparation for giving it all to Him. My only regret is not doing it sooner.

## CONCERN FOR ETERNITY

AUGUST 1 & 2, 2015

### STUDY GUIDE LAYOUT

*We’ve updated the study guide for this series. In the study guide you’ll find:*

**Personal Story:** Stories of Connection Pointe members who are living out the theme of the study guide. Read this before you discuss the study questions.

**Study Questions:** Discuss these with your small group

**Resources:** If you are desiring more information we’ve provided a supplemental resource list.

**Personal Devotion:** For you to do on your own after your small group time.

### STUDY QUESTIONS

*2 Peter 3:9*

What does this verse say about the character of God?

*James 4:14*

We may not know exactly when Christ will return, but we do know that our time on earth is limited. How can spending time in prayer and in God’s Word impact how you “practice the presence of God” throughout the rest of your day?

*1 Peter 4:10*

God has given each one of us gifts to use for His glory by serving others. Sometimes it can be awkward or difficult for us to verbalize to others what our gifts are, but acknowledging our gifts can help us move in a direction to use them. What are some of the gifts God has given you to serve others? Is there a gift that you think God wants you to start using to serve Him and others?

*2 Corinthians 4:18*

Why is it easy for us to get distracted by the temporary things of earth? What “temporary” things pull your focus away from Christ? What is one step you can take this week to focus on eternity?

*1 Peter 4:8*

How can you do the most for God’s glory with the relationships He has given you? Is there a way you can be more intentional in a relationship with a co-worker, family member, friend, enemy, etc.? Is there a relationship that you need to reconcile?

*Is the Bible True...Really?*

by Josh McDowell & Dave Sterrett.

*With this series we've chosen to provide what we believe to be valuable resources that can facilitate the spiritual growth and development of our people. By recommending these resources, Connection Pointe is not necessarily endorsing or agreeing with every aspect or teaching associated with them. If you have questions, please contact Brandon Faust, [Brandon.Faust@connectionpointe.org](mailto:Brandon.Faust@connectionpointe.org).*

AUGUST 1 & 2, 2015

### PERSONAL DEVOTION

There are 24 hours, 1,440 minutes, 86,400 seconds in a day. Doesn't it always seem like time is just flying by? Vacation never seems long enough, the kids grow up, the school year is starting and we ask ourselves, "Where did the time go?" Time has value. It is a currency we all spend, and always wish we had more of. How we use our time matters to us, but it certainly matters to God too.

Jesus taught His disciples in the Sermon on the Mount that the desires of our heart are found in what we treasure and value. "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be." (Matthew 6:19-21, NLT)

If time is a currency that we all value and have a limited amount to spend, how should we spend it?

What five things consume most of your time? What does your list of five things tell you about what you value the most?

Paul encourages us, "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." (2 Corinthians 4:18, NIV)

If I'm focused on eternal things, I will be more concerned about my next-door neighbor who does not know Christ as Lord, than I am concerned with the score of my favorite team. If I'm focused on eternal things, I will be more concerned about praying for my friend's failing marriage than binge-watching Netflix. Most of us fall short in this more often than not. What if we took one step toward being more concerned with eternal matters this week?

In light of the call to fix our eyes on eternal matters, what are things you should stop doing with your time? What are the things you could start doing with your time?

Who is one person you can be more intentional with in order to show them the love, grace and kindness of Jesus? Why is that important? What could be at stake?

How can you involve Christ in the ways that you already spend your time?

Time flies. It is valuable. Let's spend our time this week in a way that is concerned with eternity, brings the most glory to God and impacts others along the way.