

ALL IN OWNERSHIP – LIFE Group Study Guide

Run to Win

Pastor Miles McPherson, Oct 23, 2016

This week, Pastor Miles began a new series about taking ownership of our faith. He started with some comments about the upcoming elections. While there have been some passionate discussions lately, no political candidate will bring us to heaven; only Jesus Christ can do that. Pastor Miles challenged us to pray for the candidates and the country. He then urged us to be consistent with our convictions with God. Jesus Christ gave His life, we have many opportunities to thank Him and glorify Him in how we live, how we talk, how we share our faith, our finances and how we serve and pray for one another. This series is about how we can take control over our lives by going All In and not just doing the minimum.

Opening Discussion:

Have everyone share: What is a purchase you made sometime in your life that you regret?

LEADER Note: After everyone has shared, ask if there will be regret about that purchase once we are in heaven. Then ask if there will be regrets in heaven for the times we could have shared our faith, or done more than just be a Christian who did give all our effort.

Opening Questions: Pastor Miles recently spoke at a funeral and concluded his remarks with an altar call. More than a dozen came forward with most saying they had never heard that before.

1. What was your reaction when you first learned the only path to salvation was surrendering your life to Christ?
2. How many people do we know who probably have not heard the Good News either? What are the reasons we give for not sharing our faith?

3. How would your life be different if you had not learned about becoming a Christian?
4. What activities do we spend more time doing that are NOT connected with taking ownership with our faith?

Going Deeper: Form up into groups of 2 or 3 for these questions:

5. READ Matthew 7:21-23. What does this passage mean to you? Does it give cause for concern? What is the difference between someone who is saved and someone who Jesus tells "I never knew you?"
6. READ Hebrews 12:1-2. With this passage in mind, if a new Christian were to follow you around to see what walking closely with the Lord looks like, what would you have to change to be a better example? What do we need to 'lay aside'?

Suggest forming up into different groups of 2 or 3 for these questions:

7. READ Phil 3:12-13. Pastor Miles talked about winner trophies for those who work very hard and participation awards for those who simply show up. In terms of our walk with God, just attending church will not grow us enough in our faith. Share in your group something you struggle with that keeps you from pressing on toward the goal of Jesus. Pray with one another to overcome this and start "running with winning in mind."
8. What do you do that at the end of the day is pleasing to the devil?
What do you do that at the end of the day is pleasing to God?