

**Above All Names | Week 4 - Who is our Everlasting Father?****Big Idea**

As Everlasting Father, Jesus invites us to live with an eternal purpose.

**Scripture**

Ecclesiastes 3:11, 1 John 1:1-2, 2 Corinthians 4:18, and John 6:68

**Points to Keep In Mind**

1. Eternity isn't merely spoken to us, taught to us, or presented to us - it's planted in us according to Ecclesiastes 3:11. Forever is such a deeply divine idea. If it weren't for God planting it in us, eternity wouldn't even be on our radar. God has planted and designed in each of us a longing for something that lasts, a longing for the eternal.
2. The Apostle John opens his first letter to the churches in 1 John 1:1-2 in a manner similar to the way he began his Gospel, emphasizing that Christ is the eternal Word of life. The phrase "the Word of life" in Greek indicates that the Word is life. The person of Jesus, to whom John was an eyewitness, is the divine life, the eternal life, who gives us eternal life. What a gift he is! Eternal life is not something those who believe in Jesus might have, but it is a promise of God. Whoever truly believes in Jesus has eternal life (John 3:15-16, John 3:36, and John 4:14).
3. 2 Corinthians 4:18 highlights our ultimate hope that there is life after death and that this life's pain, strife, and difficulties are only temporal. Our life after death will be forever, for all eternity, and we will be with God in a place without sin, sorrow, and suffering (Isaiah 35:10 and Revelation 21:1-4).
4. Jesus' closest friends acknowledged that his very words carried the weight and gravity of eternity. John 6:68 is one example of that. Peter's eyes were opened to the reality that Jesus, God himself, was calling them to what had been planted deep in their hearts before they knew it. When Jesus calls us to the eternal, he calls us to the fullest form of ourselves. Jesus looked at everything through eternal eyes and never allowed himself to be shackled by circumstances or opinions of the time. When we're inclined to settle for cheap substitutes or instant gratification, we must remember Jesus came to give eternal purpose and power to our everyday lives. Instead of wasting or even merely spending our lives, Jesus invites each of us to live a life of investing - investing in eternal things!

**Additional Questions and Resources**

1. Where do you see God at work in your life right now?
2. What next steps do you feel called to take in your faith journey?
3. Have you considered getting baptized?
4. What have you been learning from the Community Daily?
5. If someone is seeking professional counseling, you can always refer them to our resource page: [communitychristian.org/mentalhealth/](http://communitychristian.org/mentalhealth/)
6. Find out more about having a YOU+ Discipleship Conversation by visiting: [youplus.info](http://youplus.info)

***For these resources and more, visit [communitychristian.org/nextsteps](http://communitychristian.org/nextsteps)***