

# Lesson #6

## ***The Kingdom-First Life, Forever***

Putting our lives into action for Christ is one of the most exciting, adventurous, and fruitful things we can do! During the Life Action event at our church, we were challenged in this regard, first to humble ourselves before God, and then to stand up in bold obedience.

As we have discussed over the past five sessions, a Matthew 6:33, kingdom-first life can be filled with love, prayer, mission, and faith. In this session, we'll look at the final characteristic necessary to put the kingdom of God first in our lives—an *eternal* mindset.

### CURIOSITY QUESTIONS

What is one thing you are hoping you'll never forget about what you've learned during the Life Action event and this follow-up study?

How often would you say you think about eternity, or life after death? What usually triggers those thoughts for you?

### MOVING INTO GOD'S WORD

**Hebrews 11:32-40** – This text calls our attention to the many heroes of faith in the Old Testament era—people who put it all on the line because they believed in God, and because their real sense of destiny wasn't tied to this earth. It is impossible to live a kingdom-first life and maintain earth-first thinking! As you look at the sacrifices many of God's faithful followers have made over the years (like those listed in Hebrews 11), what do you think motivated them to keep going in the hard times?

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Verses 10, 16, and 26 of this chapter give us some specific glimpses into the thinking of those who lived by faith. Note the three motivators mentioned:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Colossians 3:1-4** – Paul calls the Colossian church to intentionally change focus, to set their minds on things above rather than on the earthly things. What are some practical ways to set eternity in mind today, when it is so tempting to give our best focus to the here-and-now?

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**Revelation 21:1-8** – This text calls us to consider the conclusion of the story we are living in now—the day *after* Judgment Day, when all wrongs are made right, when we can celebrate eternal victory in Christ. What emotions come into your heart as you read this text?

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What unfinished business do you believe you should pursue before this prophecy leaps out of the pages of the Bible and into living color in front of you?

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This text describes the culmination of the kingdom we are called to seek first in Matthew 6:33. If we were to set our sights on this coming day (the most important day in any of our lives!), what types of things might we do differently in our family relationships, careers, or church engagement?

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## MAKING IT PERSONAL

Hebrews 11 reminds us that faith heroes long ago put everything on the line because they had an eternal mindset. How could I tip my focus more toward eternity on a daily basis?

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Over the past year, what “earthly things” have captured too much of my attention? How could I reduce my focus on these, or turn them into reminders to keep living a kingdom-first life?

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Today, with eternity in my heart, I’m ready to put my life into action for Christ, and I want to keep this fire burning bright in my soul. Is there someone in my group, or close to my life, who shares this heart commitment, and who I could talk with about these things in the months to come?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## PRAYER TIME

Ask God to fill your heart with faith and heavenly perspective, and ask Him for daily help in maintaining your eternal mindset.

Pray for each other, that each member of the group would understand the faith calling God has on his or her life, and for them never to settle for less than the pursuit of God’s eternal purposes.

Pray for your church family, that together as a body you would all keep Matthew 6:33 in your hearts—a *kingdom-first church*.