



WORLDVIEW

The Next Life • Week 6: February 19



READING ASSIGNMENT

To prepare for this week's LG study and discussion, please read the following pages:

Faithfully Different – Natasha Crain

- Chapter 6, "Reexamining Beliefs When Confronted with Doubt" (pp. 111-130)
- Chapter 11, "Recommitting to Speaking Truth" (pp. 215-236)



GETTING STARTED

This weekend we continued in our new *Worldview* series. We looked at some challenging questions about *The Next Life*, and what each worldview believes about the afterlife.

As you begin the study, read this passage below:

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" **John 11:25-26**



STUDY QUESTIONS

1. As you look back over Joel's message from the weekend and the readings, what is your top take away?
2. C.S. Lewis, one of the greatest Christian thinkers, wrote in his book, *Mere Christianity*,

"If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. The Apostles themselves, who set on foot the conversion of the Roman Empire, the great men who built up the Middle Ages, the English Evangelicals who abolished the slave trade, all left their mark on earth, precisely because their minds were occupied with heaven. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in; aim at earth and you will get neither."

- a. As you look back at your life, what has been your view of *The Next Life*?
- b. Has your view of the afterlife changed? Explain.
- c. How have your beliefs about the afterlife affected the way you live?
- d. How would your daily thought life look different if your mind was "occupied by heaven"?

3. This weekend Joel looked at some different worldviews to see how they address the “next life.” briefly summarize how each worldview looks at the afterlife.

- Naturalism
- Spiritualism 1
- Spiritualism 2
- Christianity

a. What are your initial thoughts and reflections as you compare the Christian view of the afterlife with the other worldviews?

4. Read what Jesus has to say about the afterlife in John 3:1-21. What does this conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus reveal about...

- a. God’s heart for us?
- b. The reality of the consequences of our choices?
- c. Your response to Jesus’s leadership in your own life?

5. In chapter 6, pp. 123-127, of *Faithfully Different*, Natasha Crain writes about *Dealing with Doubts*. What are some questions you’ve struggled with in the past or currently struggle with regarding the truth of Christianity? Which question(s) do you feel you most need to prioritize seeking biblical answers to?

6. Joel shared in his message this weekend, “*We are not victims of a dysfunctional God, we are culprits rebelling against a good God.*” Have you ever wrestled with the uncomfortable fact that we are the problem, not God? How so?

7. Take a few moments and read this quote from the book ***Jesus Outside the Lines*** by Scott Sauls:

“For those who believe in Jesus, the Cross moves their Judgment Day from the future to the past. How? Jesus already died the death that they deserved to die. Jesus already experienced the rejection, abandonment, suffering, and sorrow due to them because of their sin debt. Jesus has already been led into the dark abyss of hell so that believers, resting in his finished work alone, may now ascend to the joys of heaven. In Jesus our worst crimes of thought, word, and deed have already been punished.”

- a. Summarize this quote in your own words.
- b. How does this deepen your understanding and appreciation for Jesus and how you are called to live your life?