



WEEK FOUR

Dot & Line

September 13



BIG IDEA

An eternal perspective gives us courage to practice present faithfulness.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

2 Corinthians 4:16–18

So much of life pulls our attention toward what is right in front of us: the needs, pressures, decisions, bills, schedules, and uncertainties of today. Those things are real, and Scripture does not ask us to ignore them. But Paul reminds us that what we can see is not the whole story. There is a greater reality, an eternal one, that gives strength, perspective, and purpose to the way we live right now.

That kind of perspective matters greatly when we talk about generosity. Giving often asks us to make decisions in the present that are shaped by what we believe about the future. If this life is all there is, then comfort, security, and control will naturally become our highest priorities.

But if eternity is real, and it is, then present faithfulness carries lasting significance. Generosity becomes one way we say, “Lord, I trust that what lasts forever matters more than what I can see right now.”

PRAYER FOR YOURSELF

Lord, help me see my life in light of eternity. When the present feels urgent or uncertain, teach me to trust what You are doing beyond what I can see. Give me courage for faithful decisions, wisdom in how I steward what You have entrusted to me, and a heart that values what will last for eternity. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH

Lord, give our church eternal perspective. Help us not be shaped only by what is immediate, visible, or comfortable. Teach us to invest in what lasts, to trust You with the fruit we cannot yet see, and to take faithful steps together for the good of others and for Your glory. Amen.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1. **Eternal Perspective:** What does this passage teach us about the kind of perspective Christians need when making decisions about life, faith, and generosity?
2. **Present Pressures:** The needs and pressures right in front of us can easily become the loudest voice in the room. What tends to pull your focus most strongly toward the present, and how does that shape the way you think about generosity?
3. **Greater Purpose:** Eternal perspective does not make present life less important; it helps us live the present with greater purpose. How might that change the way we think about our money, time, comfort, and future?
4. **Unseen Fruit:** Generosity often asks us to trust God with outcomes we may not fully see. Where have you seen a faithful investment, financial or otherwise, bear fruit over time?
5. **Lasting Impact:** Sacrifice can feel difficult in the moment, even when it is connected to something meaningful. What helps you remember that faithfulness can matter beyond what you can immediately measure?
6. **Future Generations:** A campaign season invites us to think not only about what is needed now, but also about what God may do through this church in the years ahead. How does thinking about future ministry, future disciples, and future generations shape the way you view generosity?
7. **Guided Faithfulness:** The goal is not to be driven by pressure, but to be guided by eternal perspective. What might God be inviting you to see, strengthen, or reframe as you consider what faithfulness looks like in this season?
8. **One Step:** Living for what lasts often begins with one faithful decision in the present. What is one step you could take this week that reflects trust in God's eternal purposes more than confidence in what you can see right now?