

Authentic Discipleship

#2 -The Line

Read Chapter 2 – “The Line” (pages 27-34) before meeting.

“So, we don’t look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.” **2 Corinthians 4:18 (NLT)**

“That verse contains two truths. One truth talks about things that are seen and temporal, or temporary. The other talks about things that are unseen and eternal. I simply draw a line that separates the two. Above the line is the unseen and eternal; below the line is the seen and temporal, or temporary.

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|------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Spirit | “I AM” | Ultimate Reality |
| Wholeness | ETERNAL | Changeless |
| Complete | Unseen | Timeless |
| In Process | Seen | Time-based |
| Need | TEMPORAL | Changing |
| Matter | “I am becoming” | Appearances ¹ |

Group Questions and Discussion:

1. Did God create both realms?
2. What is already true about you in the eternal realm?
3. What are the three main reasons it is important for us to understand the two realms (pp 30-31)?

Read:

- John 1:1-14

“At the appointed time, however, I AM went below the line and entered the seen and temporal realm He had created. “And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us”(John 1:14). The changeless timeless One became a seen and temporal man.

As a man, Jesus experienced all that we experience below the line. He had a past, a present, and a future. He experienced growth, both as a child (Luke 2:40) and as an adult (Hebrews 5:8). He had needs, just as any person has.

In a similar way, we as God’s children live both above the line and below the line. The verse that best illustrates this is Hebrews 10:14: “For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified” (NKJV).”²

Small Groups (max 2-3) Questions:

1. What are three examples of how you live your life below the line?
2. What is the process God uses to get us to move from below the line to above the line in a given area of your life? How can you cooperate with Him in the areas you mentioned in question #1?

Whole Group:

1. What is true of us as we are above the line? Which one is most important to you?

¹ Dan Stone and David Gregory, *The Rest of the Gospel, When the Partial Gospel Has Worn You Out* (Eugene, Harvest House Publishers, 2000), 28.

² Ibid., 29.