

## PART 3

### INTRODUCTION

We all move in the direction of the promises we believe. The Bible says God has promises for you and me. If we believe that's true, it's in our best interest to move in his direction—to draw near to God.

But if God has promises for us, why is it that life can be so difficult? Why do we face tragedy and suffering? How do we trust in God's promises when faith meets despair and joy meets loss?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about someone who invested his or her time and energy in your life. How has that person influenced who you are?
2. Why is it easier for us to pretend we have all the time in the world than to live as though our lives will someday end in death?
3. Read Ecclesiastes 7:3. In the message, Jeff said, "*Sadness has a refining influence in our lives.*" Do you agree? If so, what experiences of sadness have refined you?
4. If you're a Christian, does the future hope of heaven affect your present reality or do you tend to get mired in the mundane details of daily life?
5. In which area—financial or relational—do you need to begin to invest in eternity? Explain.
6. What is one step you can take to invest more in eternity? How can this group support you?

### MOVING FORWARD

Those who follow Jesus grieve, but they don't grieve as others do because they have hope and faith in Jesus. Death is a reality for all of us, but God has made us promise: eternal life.

The bad news is that everyone is going to die. The good news is that Jesus has conquered the grave. For those who have placed their faith in him, death isn't a defeat; death is a release. Have you allowed Jesus to conquer your grave?

### CHANGING YOUR MIND

*What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!*

**Romans 7:24–25**