

# Life Group Homework

## JOHN 5:18-29 – JESUS THE POWER OF ETERNAL LIFE

### Getting Started:

This passage is filled with deep truths that are often difficult to fully understand. The following questions are to prepare our hearts for a study of these deeper things. They are personal questions to help each of you understand your own heart while also understanding one another. Please be very gracious and understanding while others are sharing their hearts.

1. When deep theological topics come up in a conversation does your heart wish that the topic would stay on simpler matters or do you delight in diving into the minutia of theology and philosophy?
2. For those who do not prefer the heady conversations of deep topics, if you are willing, share with the group why you prefer staying away from those deep subjects.
3. For those who enjoy deep, theological discussions, if you are willing, share why those discussions bring you joy.

### Digging In:

Now, as you discuss the deep things in this passage, let the knowledge of one another that you just gained lovingly influence how you go about answering the following questions.

1. In verse 18 the Jews are seeking to kill Jesus because He is claiming to be equal with God by

referring to God as His own Father. The first thing Jesus says in response to this action by the Jews is “*the Son can do nothing of his own accord.*” Jesus affirms that whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise; making it clear that what the Father does, the Son is capable of doing. What does this tell us about the relationship between the Father and the Son?

2. Verse 20 Jesus says that the Father’s love results in Him “showing” the Son *all* of what He is doing. In what way does the Father “show” the Son what He is doing, and how is this an act of love towards the Son?

3. In verse 24 the verbs “hears”, “believes” and “does not come” are in the present tense. Later in the verse the verb “passed” is in the past tense. Is there any significance to the fact that being made alive (passing from death to life) comes before the hearing, believing, and escaping judgment? (Look back up to verse 21 to inform your discussion.)

4. Jesus says in verse 25 that those who hear will live. Many of the Jews that were there ‘hearing’ these words of Jesus did not believe and live. So when Jesus uses the word “hear” in this verse, what is He referring to? Is this different than the way He uses “hear” in verse 28?

5. If the ability to “hear” the words of Christ and “belief” in those words indicates that the Son has given us life, how might this become a source of encouragement to us? (Look up *Philippians 1:6* and *Ephesians 1:13-14* to fill out your discussion.)

6. From this passage we understand that the life Jesus gives us is what allows us to hear and believe. How might this explain how “*those who have done good*” receive the resurrection of life (vs. 29), and yet they did not earn it by their good works?

### **Living It Out:**

1. If the ability to hear and understand the words of Christ becomes a sign to our own hearts that we are alive in Christ, how might that stir in us a desire to go deeper in our studies of God’s word?

2. If the Father’s love for the Son results in the Son knowing what the Father is doing, how confident can we be that when we hunger and seek to know and understand God more, He will give us the ability to understand Him? (Look up *James 1:5-8* to add to your discussion.)