

## LOOKING TO ETERNITY

The title 'LOOKING TO ETERNITY' is written in a white, hand-drawn, brush-stroke style font. The words are stacked vertically: 'LOOKING' on the top line, 'TO' in the middle, and 'ETERNITY' on the bottom line. The background is a dark, starry space.

### AIM

To watch the amazing film made by North Breckland YFC called 'looking to eternity'.

To consider how life is only temporary but there are things unseen that last forever.

To think about how the knowledge that this life won't last forever changes your priorities and outlook.

### DESCRIPTION

'Looking to Eternity' is an exceptional brand new film produced by North Breckland Youth for Christ. It follows the story of John, a young adult whose journey through life is suddenly rocked by the news that he has cancer. Whilst in hospital he meets a young girl called Hollie whose outlook on life and eternity seriously challenges his own.

'Looking to Eternity' was written and directed by Dan Lawrence who himself had been battling cancer. What's even more inspirational than the film itself, is the knowledge that his life is delicate and temporary. This drove Dan to communicate the truth of God through the medium of film. Dan passed away in November 2016, a few days after the film premier event.

We encourage you as youth leaders to approach this session sensitively and prayerfully, especially if there are young people for whom cancer is very real. We also encourage you to make the watching of the film the main priority and add in the other modules only if time permits.

In order to get a copy of the film, please head to <http://northbrecklandyfc.org.uk/news/order-your-looking-to-eternity-film-dvd>

## PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus,

Thinking about death and cancer and the frailty of life is really difficult and uncomfortable. But we thank you for the truth that whilst what's seen is only temporary, what's unseen is eternal. Please help us through this session to tackle the frailty of life with care, please bless the young people for whom this is a very real and current issue.

Amen



### **Cinema style**

**Time:15 min**

**Materials:**

- popcorn
- Snacks
- Drinks
- cinema style popcorn tubs if available
- large screen
- projector
- speakers
- comfy chairs

**Preparation and starter activity:**

Set up the room to be look like a cinema. Have popcorn and snacks available for your young people. Give your young people some time to settle in, and spend time hanging out with their mates, then start the session with the following game:



### **Trailers and adverts**

**Time:10 min**

**Materials:**

- random objects

**Say**

Later on, we are going to be watching a film. But when you go to the cinema, there are trailers that are run before the film starts!

Now we do not have any trailers to show you, so we thought that you could show us some, in the next game!

### **Game**

Ask for a volunteer to start with.

Explain to them, that they should think of a film that they love, and begin to act out what they would put in the film trailer for it, whilst trying not to give away the film title too easily!

The rest of the group should try to guess what film trailer is being acted out!

Examples could be: Finding Nemo, Lord of the Rings, How to train a dragon, Pirates of the Caribbean.

OR

### **Game**

Split your young people into groups of 4-5 people. Give each group a random object such as a shampoo bottle or a mug.

Explain to the groups that they should try to come up with a cinema style advert to show to the rest of the group.

Explain that it is a chance to be a bit silly and show off their acting skills!



### **Looking to eternity**

**Time:1 hour 15 min**

#### **Materials:**

- **large screen**
- **projector**
- **speakers**
- **film**

### **Say**

Tonight we are going to be spending some time watching a film called 'Looking to Eternity'. God inspired a guy called Dan Lawrence to create this film. Dan was a Christian, and when he found out that he had cancer, he knew that he could use his story to impact others, and to tell them about his strength in life-Jesus.

This is his story:

## Film

Play the film to your young people.



### moments that stuck

**Time:15 min**

**Materials:**

- **Bibles**

### Discuss

- What spoke to you about this film?
- What moments stick with you?

### Bible

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

### Discuss

- Is life after death something you have ever thought about-should it be?
- How had this film changed the way you think about life?
- Is it easy to live like John did at the end of film, knowing that this life isn't it, and that we are living for eternity?
- What would you change about the way that you live, now that you know you are living for eternity?



### Prayer and reflection

**Time:8 min**

**Materials:**

### Prayer Response:

In the film, Hollie taught John that if he rubbed his eyes, that the colours and patterns that he would see would be a metaphor for the joy and love that he would receive from God. Everytime she felt sad, she would rub her eyes to remind her of God's love, and that she was living for more than this life.

Why not find a space around the room now, to spend time talking to God about how you feel and ask him to reveal more to you about the eternity that he has in store for you. As you pray, why not rub your eyes, like John and Hollie did, to remind you that God has so much more in store for us.



### **Share it round**

**Time:3 min**

**Materials:**

### **Challenge**

Why not share this film with a friend who is not a Christian? Have a chat to them about what they think about life after death.

OR

Why not organise another event with your youth group, in order for them to bring along a non-Christian mate that they want to share the film with?