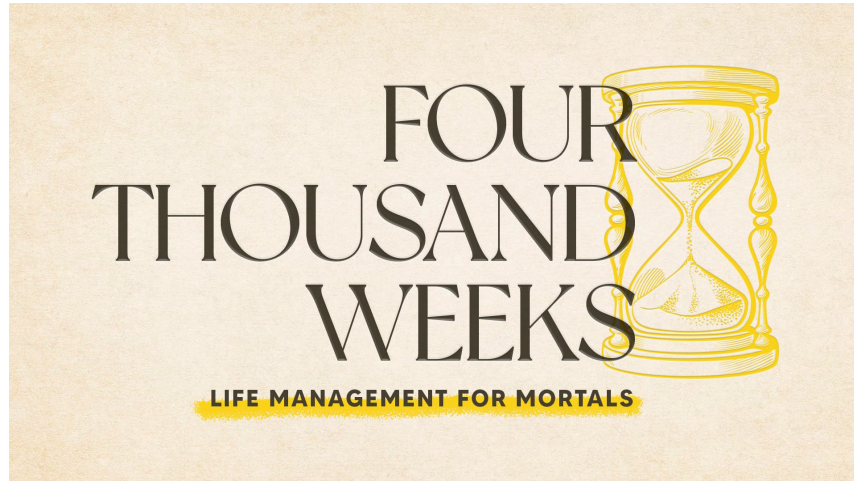


SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

FEBRUARY 05, 2023



LEADER

Have everyone introduce themselves and share why they decided to join a small group. Go over the Small Group Covenant. Explain the purpose of the group – to make friends and grow in our faith.

ICEBREAKER

Briefly share one thing you are most looking forward to this spring. If you could shop for free at any store, what store would you choose and why?

LEADER

We are in a Sermon Series called Four Thousand Weeks exploring this idea of how limited our time is and what it looks like to have a meaningful life – how to do the right thing at the right time.

QUESTION

- If we are not intentional about our time we will get swept away by busyness. If we are not intentional about how we look at material and monetary things we will get swept away by their appeal. Patrick says, "What is important is making sure you get to the important things." How do you relate to these statements?

- How does focusing on material and monetary things impact your relationships, goals, or perspective in life?

READ

Luke 12:13-15

QUESTIONS

- What does Jesus mean when He says "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed?" (Watch out is a warning from Jesus. It means to be on guard because when you least suspect it and when you don't even realize it – something takes you captive)
- What are some common ways we struggle with greed?
- Patrick mentions four types of greed: hoarding, overspending, comparison, and entitlement. Read the descriptions below, which one do you most identify with?
 - Hoarding: finds a home in the heart of the conscientious, disciplined, or organized person who is insecure about the future.
 - Overspending: confuses needs with wants and, as a result, spends more than income allows, thus leading to debt.
 - Comparison: keeping up with people who drive you to spend and keep on spending to show you measure up or are equal
 - Entitlement: someone else owes you something or you have a heightened sense of deserving that displays a lack of gratitude and often reveals anger.
- How can greed lead us into unhealthy relationships, goals, or perspectives in life? (Greed influences our decisions and shifts the focus from living a meaningful life to self-focused living. Greed deceives us to believe "when I have X that's when I'll be happy." There are times when we get all we want only to realize it didn't satisfy or do for us what we believed.)

READ

Luke 12:16-23

QUESTIONS

- What point in this passage is the most impactful to you?
- How does Jesus connect the idea of greed and anxiety in this passage? (Jesus connects greed to our daily needs. To be rich toward God we have to be generous towards others. Fight against the natural instinct of "me first." God is going to take care of you.)
- How does your faith in Jesus allow you to move away from greed? (Jesus tells us life does not consist in an abundance of possessions. To remedy greed Jesus says "give it away" to shift the focus from self to others. Seeing the eternal value of using the temporary things we have to benefit others.)
- How will you put into practice what you've learned today?

LEADERS: This is the first of six Sermon Discussion Guides. Every week encourage someone to share a little bit of their story. A great format is to take 3 positive and 3 negative things that have had an impact on who you are today. Leader – start by sharing your story in this format.

Who would like to do this next week?

PRAYER: God, thank you for teaching us that our value does not depend on what we own. Create in us a generous heart that we may give so others will have enough. Give us the wisdom to have God's perspective on how to have a meaningful life. Thank you for all those who came tonight for the first time. In Jesus' Name – Amen.

SMALL GROUP COVENANT

Be there and be on time if at all possible.

Respect each other's religious backgrounds, denominations, and political views (try to avoid), should they happen to come up.

Keep prayer requests and sharing confidential within your group.

Condense your personal sharing so as to give time for everyone to participate. Extroverts manage yourselves. Introverts we want to hear from you.

Resist fixing and advising unless the other person requests input.

Focus on your own individual thoughts and feelings as you share with the group. Respect spouses or other family members by not saying anything that will embarrass them.

Be as vulnerable as you are comfortable; no one is required to share. Vulnerability begets vulnerability.

Appreciate and respect each person's contribution. So be mindful of allowing others to finish their thought by not interrupting or hijacking their story.

Please put your cell phone on silent and only reference it for emergencies.

Pray for the group members as they come to mind during the week.

Help bring snacks/food when it is your week.

