

30 DAYS TO LIVE

LIVE PASSIONATELY – SESSION ONE

LOVE

What gets you most excited in life? Is it a relationship? Your kids? A hobby? A beautiful day outside? How often do you experience this level of excitement?

Death is a certainty; life is an option. Just like a roller coaster, the ride of life is full of ups and downs, twists and turns. It moves at a fast pace; and before we know it, it's over. Our lives on this earth are temporal and finite. This face can be discouraging, causing us to miss out on all this life has to offer or it can be liberating, allowing us to take advantage of every moment and every opportunity and reminding us to be all that we were made to be. The question is not will we die one day, but rather are we truly living today?

Each day we have to choose to live. Rather than put life off until “*someday*”, we have to decide that today is the day we will fully pursue our dreams or take that risk that we have been afraid to take. *Someday is today!* Not tomorrow, not the next day, but today we have to choose to be the person God has designed us to be and determine to become the person He wants us to become. Our time on this earth is a precious resource that God wants us to live passionately through His power.

WATCH SESSION ONE ON DVD

Discussion Questions

1. In what ways are roller coasters an illustration of life?
2. What impact could your life have on the world around you if you truly began to live passionately, take risks and trust God completely?
3. What are areas of your life that you can break the mold and become more ridiculous (in a good way)?

LEARN

As a group consider what the following verses reveal about living out our time on this earth passionately and purposefully.

Read Ephesians 5:15-17

What connection does this passage make between wisdom, understanding “*the Lord's will*” and time management?

In verse 16 we are instructed to make “*the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.*” What does the nature of the times we live in (evil) have to do with capitalizing on every opportunity we are given?

Exploring Deeper: Read James 4:13-16 What perspective does this passage want us to have on planning for the future? How should this perspective on planning for the future affect the way we spend our time today?

This passage states that to *“boast and brag... is evil”*. How does verse 15 suggest that we maintain a godly perspective in order to avoid this type of boasting?

LIVE

Personal Application:

What dream has God placed in your heart? Why do you think He gave you that dream? Are you actively pursuing that dream in your day-to-day life? If you knew you had 30 days to live, how would it change the way you pursued that dream?

LEAVE

Time Inventory Project:

Take a sheet of paper and write out your top 10 values (examples include family, hobbies, church, exercise, God). Then cross out 5, leaving your top 5 values. Then cross out 3, leaving your top 2 values.

Next, draw a circle on a sheet of paper. Divide the circle into a pie chart, with each section of the chart representing how you spend the majority of your time each day.

Finally, compare your top 2 values with your pie chart. Do you find that you are spending most of your time on those things you value most? Or do you find that most of your time is spent elsewhere?

Review your results and determine how you can best align your life to be lived in accordance with those things you value most.

LOVE COMPLETELY – SESSION TWO

LOVE

Who is your favorite married couple from a television show or movie? What do you like about their relationship?

We are relational beings. We are created to be in relationship—with God and with others. Whether it's a spouse, a family member or a close friend, God created us to connect with one another. Anyone who has ever been in love knows that relationships are beautiful and messy—they bring great joy and great heartache, great satisfaction and great frustration. Yet, when it is all said and done and our lives near their end, the stuff we accumulated and the amount of money we made will not be a concern. It is the people we loved and the relationships we had that will matter most.

In light of the brevity of our time here on earth, *we have to choose each day to love completely* those whom God has brought into our lives. We have to learn to love enough to forgive those who have hurt us and humbly ask for forgiveness from those we have hurt, because life is too short to harbor bitterness or anger. We have to learn to resolve conflict effectively, in a healthy way, because life is too short to be divided and at odds. We have to know we are loved by God completely and learn to love Him the same in return, because life is too short to miss out on all that He has for us.

WATCH SESSION TWO ON DVD

Discussion Questions

1. *"Relationships are our most rewarding thing in life and they are also our most painful thing in life."*
Discuss this idea as a group. How have you seen this to be true in your own relationships?
2. In what ways does God show His love for you? How do you show your love for God?
3. How can we love others completely?

LEARN

As a group consider what the following verses reveal about being loved by God and in return loving others completely.

Read John 4:7-11

How do both of these passages define and explain what love is?

According to this passage what is the connection between the love God has for us and the love we have for others? Where does the motivation for our love for others come from?

Is it fair to say that if we do not accurately understand God's love for us then we cannot properly love others?

Exploring Deeper: Read John 13:34-35

What does verse 34 reveal about the connection that followers of Christ should have with one another?

By what standard is Jesus characterizing His true disciples in verse 35?

In terms of your personal relationships, what would change about them if you began to love each other the way Christ has first loved you?

LIVE

How do you handle conflict? Do you avoid it? Do you escalate it? Are you always trying to “win” the fight? If you knew you had one month to live, how would that change the way you handled relational conflict? Identify some steps you need to take to handle conflict in a more healthy way and commit to implementing them before your next group meeting. Ask your spouse or close friend to help you put these things into practice in your life.

LEAVE

What relationships would you need to be reconciled if you knew you only had one month to live? Who needs to know that you truly love them? Who needs to know that you forgive them? Who do you need to ask for forgiveness from?

Before your next group meeting, spend some time writing a letter to someone that you would like to express your heart to before it's too late. Ask them to forgive you for the ways in which you might have hurt them. Extend your forgiveness to them for any pain they may have caused you. Most importantly, communicate your love to them and share with them how much they mean to you. After you have written the letter, set it aside for a couple of days and re-read it later, adding some things or rewording some things in order to best communicate what you are trying to say. Then mail the letter and pray that God will use it to heal your relationship.

LEARN HUMBLY – SESSION THREE

LOVE

Have you ever experienced pain or difficulty in life that ended up leading to a great, positive outcome? Share your experience with rest of the group.

Life can be difficult. The question is not “*will we experience tough times and difficult circumstances?*”, but rather “*when will we experience them?*” They are inevitable, and yet extremely beneficial. At no other point in life is the substance of our character refined more than when we are facing what appears to be insurmountable odds or overwhelming situations. God uses the struggles in our lives to mold and shape us into the people He wants us to be. How we respond to and learn from the difficulties, struggles, pains and heartaches of life will in the end define us.

When we understand that struggles and difficulties represent opportunities for growth in our lives, then we will respond to them with an entirely new motivation. No longer will we seek to minimize the pain or avoid the discomfort, but rather we will humbly embrace our circumstances and seek to gain out of them that which God desires. As we seek to learn humbly, God produces within us a deep sense of purpose and a clear understanding of who we are and what is important in life. He strengthens us and fills us with hope as we turn to Him and submit to His purposes and plans for our lives.

WATCH SESSION THREE ON DVD

Discussion Questions

1. The developmental process of a butterfly struggles to change from a chrysalis to a caterpillar before becoming a fully developed beautiful butterfly. This process of struggling is necessary in order for it to become the butterfly it was intended to be. How does the metaphor of the development of a butterfly relate to our struggles in life and how God uses them to change us?
2. Why do problems and pain have such a transformational effect on our lives?

LEARN

As a group consider what the following verses reveal about how God works powerfully in our lives as we persevere through the hard times.

Read James 1:2-4

What perspective allows us to find joy in the midst of our trials?

In verse 2 it says we should consider it joy “*whenever*” we face trials, not “*if*” we face trials. What does this say about the probability that we will at some point in life face hard times?

According to verse 4, what benefit do we reap when we persevere through our trials?

Exploring deeper: Read Romans 5:3-5

What some ways we can rejoice in our sufferings when we're going through difficult times?
How have you seen God use trials in your life to produce perseverance, character and hope?

Why does verse 5 give us assurance that when we hope for something, we will not be disappointed?

LIVE

What things in your life are preventing you from being molded and shaped into the person God wants you to be? Is it a relationship you are in? Material possessions you own? A schedule that is too demanding? A job that requires you to make unethical decisions? Identify those things in your life and create a plan to get rid of them. Share them with someone close to you, and ask them to help you in this process.

LEAVE

Think of someone in your life who is going through an especially difficult time. Maybe it's a friend, a co-worker or a family member. Spend some time this week encouraging and comforting them. Write them a letter, take them lunch or just spend time listening to them and being a friend. God wants to use you to bring comfort to others. You will find that not only are they blessed by you, but you will in turn be blessed by them as well.

LEAVE BOLDLY – SESSION FOUR

LOVE

What do you want to be remembered for? In what area of your life do you hope to make the most impact?

We are leaving a legacy whether we realize it or not. The question is what type of legacy are we leaving? Are we building our lives today on a foundation that will last for all eternity or are we investing our time here on earth in temporary things that will die when we do? Our homes will fall apart, our cars will break down, our influence will fade and our names will be forgotten. So why not begin today investing our lives in things that we endure?

Our lives are temporary, but they can make an eternal impact. A good legacy is not determined by how successful or famous we were in life but by how influential and inspirational we were in the lives of others. *People are our legacy.* One day our friends and family will all gather together at our funeral, and that room will be filled with people whose lives were forever changed by ours. Who will be there, and how will their lives forever bear the legacy of ours?

WATCH SESSION FIVE ON DVD

Discussion Questions

1. In what areas of your life do you most sense the desire to leave a lasting legacy behind?
2. What can we learn from sand castles about building our lives on a foundation that lasts?

LEARN

As a group, consider what the following verses reveal about how each and everyday God gives us opportunities to invest in the eternal and leave a legacy that will outlive us.

Read Psalm 112:1-6

According to verse 2, what impact does a man who “*fears the Lord*” and “*finds great delight in his commands*” have on the generations to come?

What type of person does verse 6 say will be remembered forever?

In what way is this counter-cultural to our world’s way of thinking?

What does this mean for us if we truly want to leave a lasting impact on people’s lives after we leave this earth?

Exploring deeper: Read 1 John 2:17

In what ways do you see the world passing away? What do you think are the desires of this world?

If the man who does the will of God lives forever and the world and its desires are passing away, then where should we be investing our lives? How should we be spending our time here on earth? What should we be pursuing?

What does this look like for us? What does the life of someone who pursues the will of God look like versus the life of someone who pursues the desires of this world?

LIVE

What people in your life are you leaving a legacy behind for? What legacy would you like to leave them?

LEARN

In this project, you will write out what you would like to your obituary to say. Spend some personal time alone this week carefully considering what accomplishments you want to have listed, what character traits you want to have highlighted and what people you were closest with you would like to have mentioned. Centuries from now if someone were to find an old copy of your obituary and read it, what type of person would you want them to know you were?

After you complete the project, share it with a spouse or close friend or family member. Ask them to help hold you accountable to becoming the man or woman you hope to be and achieving some of the goals that you hope to accomplish.