

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of December 3-9, 2023

“MAKE YOUR LIFE COUNT”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

What's the greatest surprise (positive or negative) that happened to you this year?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Ephesians 5:15-17.

1. What does it mean to walk wisely in the context of your daily life? What are some challenges that believers face in making wise choices? How might walking in wisdom impact your decision-making and interactions with others?
2. What applications come to mind as you consider verse 16? How can believers be intentional about using their time wisely and being alert with the opportunities that come? Why does Paul mention “evil days” as a reason?
3. In what ways can our daily choices and actions reveal our understanding of God's will? Do you prioritize God's will above your own desires and plans? What habits or disciplines can help you cultivate a mindset that continually seeks God's will?
4. How can wisdom help a Christian avoid being deceived by worldly ideologies and values? Does being filled with the Spirit relate to walking wisely (cf Ephesians 5:18)? What are the potential consequences of not walking wisely?
5. Discuss the process of evaluating and setting priorities in light of Ephesians 5:15-17. How can believers ensure that their priorities align with God's purposes?
6. Share a personal experience where you sought the will of God and he led you. How did you do it? What biblical criteria did you use that gave you confidence that you were doing the will of God?
7. Are you investing your life for eternity? In what way?

NEXT STEPS

“No one who really wants to count for God can afford to play at Christianity.” - Henry Ironside

- ☐ I will live carefully and wisely with a view of what matters to God.
- ☐ I will avoid wasting time and energy on meaningless activities that do not honor God.
- ☐ I will be alert to seize the opportunities that God opens up in my life.
- ☐ I will be sensitive to follow the Holy Spirit's leading in view of the “evil days.”
- ☐ I will seek to understand God's will through Bible study, prayer and counsel from godly Christians.
- ☐ I will obey the will of God.

- ☐ *Don't forget to:*
- ☐ Go through the devotionals every day this week.
- ☐ Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.

CLOSING THE SESSION

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for personal revival to make your life count for Jesus.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING GUIDE

December 4	Ephesians 5:1-7
December 5	Ephesians 5:8-14
December 6	Ephesians 5:15-21
December 7	James 3:13-17
December 8	Ephesians 5:22-33
December 9	Matthew 25:1-13
December 10	Psalms 16