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SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

FROM WALKER TO WALKER | MAY 26, 2019

From Walker to Walker

Ice Breaker: Assign each group member a phase of life or pass around slips of paper with age ranges on them to randomly assign phases. Give group members 1 minute to share a funny story from their assigned life stage.

Landing Point: God's Word tells us that life is short, but God is faithful.

You will read 8 short passages as a group during your gathering. Consider having groups members take turns reading passages to the group.

Read: James 4:13-14, Psalm 90:12, Ecclesiastes 12:1-5

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"— yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. (James 4:13–14 ESV)

So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. (Psalm 90:12 ESV)

Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, "I have no pleasure in them"; [2] before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain, [3] in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed, [4] and the doors on the street are shut—when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low—[5] they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and desire fails, because man is going to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets— (Ecclesiastes 12:1–5 ESV)



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Life is Short

God's Word tells us that life is short. It is like a mist, or the morning fog. We are called to honor this reality by paying attention to how we spend our days. Solomon says it best in Ecc. 12, "Remember also your creator in the days of your youth..." In other words, today is the best time to start putting God in the center of your life.

Q: What is a time in your life that went by much faster than you expected? What lessons did that teach you about how you should live now?

Q: What are some ways you are currently living out the truth that life is short? What is God calling you towards as you think about this truth?

Q: What season are you in right now? How can you uniquely "remember your creator in the days" of your current season?

Read: Hebrews 13:8, Isaiah 54:10, Psalm 136:1-9&26

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8 ESV)

*"For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed,
but my steadfast love shall not depart from you,
and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,"
says the LORD, who has compassion on you. (Isaiah 54:10 ESV)*

*Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.
Give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever.
Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever;
to him who alone does great wonders, for his steadfast love endures forever;
to him who by understanding made the heavens, for his steadfast love endures forever;
to him who spread out the earth above the waters, for his steadfast love endures forever;
to him who made the great lights, for his steadfast love endures forever;
the sun to rule over the day, for his steadfast love endures forever;
the moon and stars to rule over the night, for his steadfast love endures forever;
Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever. (Ps. 136:1-9 & 26 ESV)*



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God is Faithful

Through all the seasons of life, one thing stays the same: Our God. He is faithful to love, guide, protect, restore, and simply *be* with His people. As Sally Loyd-Jones says in *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, “...no matter what, in spite of everything, God [loves] His children—with a Never Stopping, Never Giving Up, Unbreaking, Always and Forever Love.” Seasons change. People change. Life has mountain top experiences and dark valleys. But God is always faithful.

Q: Share how God has shown His faithfulness in past seasons. This could be in your marriage, parenting, education, career, inner/emotional life, overcoming sin, etc.

Q: The Bible tells us that God is near to the broken hearted. Share about a season in your life that was hard, but that God used to show His faithfulness and love.

Read:

*Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!
Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.
All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies. (Psalm 25:7–10 ESV)*

*...one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, [14] I
press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians
3:13b–14 ESV)*

Future Seasons

Reflecting on seasons of life reminds us of God’s faithfulness, but it can also remind us of our regrets. Some of us have seasons of wasted time, mistakes made, and harms received. It is good to remember the past and repent of past mistakes, but that’s not where we want to stay. God’s grace makes the way for us to press on to what lies ahead. CS Lewis says it like this: “I think that if God forgives us we must forgive ourselves. Otherwise, it is almost like setting up ourselves as a higher tribunal than Him.” Trust God to do His life changing work. If the past seasons are messy, own it, receive forgiveness from God, then “press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus!”



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Q: Do past regrets leave you feeling stuck sometimes? Do you ever feel disqualified from serving God because of your mistakes? How does Jesus' death and resurrection impact how you should feel about your future?

Q: If there was no shame from the past or fear of failure in the future, what are your God given hopes and dreams for the seasons ahead? What are you asking God to do in and through your life in the next 5-10 years? How does knowing that God is merciful and faithful help you as you look towards the seasons to come?

Q: How has God used past seasons to uniquely prepare you to help others experience life change in the seasons ahead?

PRAYER

Spend time as a group in prayer. Praise God for His faithfulness in the past season. Confess the ways you have forgotten God in past seasons. Thank Him that you know He will continue to be faithful. Ask Him to continue to change lives and hearts within your group as He prepares each of you for the next season of life.