

life groups

NLC Life Group Through the Bible Study

Week of January 8, 2017

Sermon: Find Your Place—Every Day Counts



NEW LIFE
CHURCH

Life Group Schedule

15 MIN Eat, Meet & Greet

15 MIN Ice Breaker Game: **The Awards Ceremony.** **Instructions:** Give each person an opportunity to introduce themselves, stating their name, and if they were to be given an award, what would it be? For example, “most Oreos eaten in one sitting,” “most likely to burp the alphabet in a public place.” If time, let them share any story they may have that supports their award choice.

OPENING PRAYER

45–60 MIN **Every Day Counts**

Q1. What are you dreaming about for 2017, and what action steps are you taking to see those dreams come to fruition?

- The Introductory sermon in the Find Your Place series focuses on the reality that every day of your earthly life counts! Check this out:

1 PETER 4:2 “As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil (sinful desires) human desires, but rather for the will of God.”

REVIEW GEN 3:1-6 (The Original Sin)

- The original sin that affected billions of people was rooted in desire.
 - › Eve thought God could not give her what she wanted, and she was right. Her new desire couldn't be met by God; she had to leave him to get it.
 - › She thought, “God is withholding something exciting from me. He won't let me have it today. He doesn't care what I need today.”
 - › She desired fruit that day more than God, and we have all made that disastrous mistake. (Reference: Romans 5:12)

- And it continues even to this day:

READ 2 TIMOTHY 4:3-4

- It's dangerous to think, “I can have a better day, but I must get it on my own.”

READ ECCLESIASTES 11:8

- God intended for life to be enjoyed, not just endured. However, most people don't enjoy life, because we don't live it the way God intended, wasting time on wrong activities and selfish purposes

How do we live where “Every day counts”?

- It’s important to remember that your days are numbered.

REVIEW PSALM 39:4-5

- “I only live once” has destroyed many lives, because they answer it like Eve.
 - › Since you only live once....answer it like Christ.

Q2. Do you have balance in how you spend your free time? Do you think you waste time doing meaningless things, or do you maybe feel like you work too much and have no time to spare?

READ JAMES 4:13-17

Q3. What is James saying in this passage about making plans?

Q4. In light of this passage, would you realign anything you’re dreaming about for 2017?

- Moses can teach us about time. It seems he wasted a lot of it!
 - › The first third, he was raised learning in Pharaoh’s house. He had all the knowledge and the best of everything.
 - › The second third, he fled and hid in the desert.
 - › The last third, God used him as one of the top leaders in history.
 - › He wrote Psalms 90 & 91, including the idea that every day counts.
- Time is our most precious resource—far more important than money. You can get more money, but you can’t get more time.
 - › You can’t make time, borrow time, save time, or extend time. You can only use it.
 - › If you don’t learn to manage your time well, you cannot manage anything else well, because your time is your life.
 - › Satan wants to get you to drift away from God’s purpose for your life. If he can’t get you to do bad things, he just makes you busy, ultimately changing your desires from God to something else.

READ ACTS 10:2 AND 20:24

Q5. In light of the above two verses, is it clear what God has personally called you to in your life?

How to make everyday count

1. Start the year with Christ up close and personal.

READ 1 KINGS 19:11-12

- **At first, Elijah was not listening to the Lord but to everything else:**
 - › Earthquake: things shaking your world
 - › The wind: noise and feelings, pressure and stress
 - › Fire: distractions, devastations and fear
- **Many things will fight for your attention, but that doesn't mean God is in them.**
- **One discipline that quiets everything down, getting you to a place where you can hear God, is prayer and fasting.**
 - › January 15-22, we will fast together as a church.

FASTING HAS AT LEAST THREE MAJOR BENEFITS:

- **Fasting helps you compare your hunger.** When you want to eat something you are giving up, you get to ask yourself, "Does my soul want God as much as my flesh wants my favorite food?"
- **Fasting helps you compare your heart.** We really don't know what's in our heart, because we use two big things to self-medicate every day: **FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT.**
 - › When you fast Food & Entertainment, it quiets your world.
 - › When you fast these things, you begin to see how you handle frustrations, irritations, and delays without being able to turn to the usual distractions. You begin to see if you are living out of the fruit of the Spirit or not.
- **Fasting breaks what has a grip on you, so you can hear from God more clearly.**

2. Turn when into now.

READ PROV 12:24 AND 2 COR 6:2

- Q6.** How about you? Evaluate 2017 so far. Is there anything you've already been procrastinating? Are you giving God just some of your free time, or have you submitted all of your time to Him?

READ PSALM 90:12

- Moses is asking God to teach us to look at our time and prioritize what matters most.
- *Find Your Place* is the phrase being spoken over our church for

2017. This year, we want to encourage you to find your home in the presence of God—taking the next step as individuals and families to be closer to the Lord.

- Q7.** **Challenge:** Take another look at your 2017 goals. Invite the Holy Spirit to prioritize what you already have, remove something from the list, or replace any of it with what He wants for you.
- › It could be something like giving God the first part of your day—every day, tithing regularly, or consistently treating someone differently.
 - › Even though we are not going through the One Year Bible as a church this year, we will encourage you to stay in the Word every day. The daily reading plan and devotional will continue to be posted at newlifechurch.tv/bible.

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 6:2

3. Make wisdom the goal, not knowledge.

READ JAMES 1:5

- Wisdom is the ability to rightly apply knowledge.

READ JAMES 4:17

- Q8.** **Discussion:** If you need God's wisdom in any situation you're facing right now, share that with the group.
- Q9.** **Homework:** Pray this week about what God may want you to **fast FROM** (something that would be good for you put down during the week of Prayer & Fasting), as well as something you may want to **fast FOR** (maybe clarity on a direction you feel God is leading you to take, for healing for someone, etc.).

TAKE PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAY OVER NEEDS

ANNOUNCEMENTS