



Thirty Days to Live —1
Living in the Moment

TURNING POINTS:

- Turn when into now
- Turn intentions into actions
- Turn my whole heart towards Jesus

LAUNCHING:

- Would you rather die unexpectedly or see it coming? Explain your answer.
- Share what you thought and/or felt as you listened to Stacy's story.

CONNECTING:

- 1. What is your biggest "When—Then?" Be honest and identify how you are missing the moment by hoping for some future event.** What does it mean to live in the moment? How can we be *fully* present to others? What are the external pressures or distractions that keep you from being fully engaged with others? How can we truly get the most out of life?
- 2. Read James 4:17.** What is wrong with planning out our lives? What sinful attitudes was James addressing? How do you feel when you think about your life being a *mist that is vanishing away*? If you only had 30 days to live, what is one thing you would be sure to do? Why are you waiting? **What is the good intention you have that God wants to turn into a good action? Share specifically what you need to do and when you will do it.**
- 3. Knowing that life is brief, what spiritual changes do you need to make?** Are you living for the pleasures of this world or for the kingdom of God? If you were on your death bed, what regrets would you have about your life? What priorities do you need to change in order to live for what is truly important? How would making these changes now, change your life and impact those around you?
- 4. What does it mean to turn our whole heart towards Jesus? Why do we tend to focus on *doing* for the Lord, instead of *being* present to the Lord (relating)? (i.e. Martha and Mary) Do you love Jesus with your whole heart? Is He truly your number one relationship? What or whom have you made a higher priority than the Lord? What would it look like for you to live every day simply to know and love Jesus with all your heart?**

TAKE IT HOME:

1. What changes will you make in order to *live in the moment* and make the most of your days on earth? How do your priorities need to change? What do you need to do differently? What future goals or plans do you need to surrender?
2. What has God put on your heart to do that you haven't done? What action steps will you take this week? Be sure to surrender the results to God and trust Him to work through you. When making daily decisions, ask yourself this question: "If I only had thirty days to live, what would I do?"
3. What will you do this week to turn your heart more toward Jesus? What relationships or activities have robbed you of living to know and follow Christ? Start each day with the Lord, surrendering your life, your plans, your will to Him. Make it your goal to rejoice in the Lord throughout your day and give Him thanks in every situation.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

Read Ephesians 5:15-20 and Colossians 3:1-4, 12-17 and list the things mentioned that would describe living in the moment for what really matters.

- How can we make the most of our days on earth? (Eph 5:18) What is God's will? (5:18) What does it mean to be *filled* with the Spirit? Why is prayer, rejoicing and giving thanks important? (Eph 5:19-20)
- Where are we to focus our thoughts? (Col 3:2) What are some of the things *above* we are to think on? How does focusing on the eternal reality of heaven and being *in* Christ transform us? What earthly things tend to get most of *your* attention? What will you do to change your focus?
- How do you need to become more like Christ in your relationships? What qualities mention in Col 3:12-14, do you need to put on? Who do you need to forgive? For what do you need to be thankful? How can you live each day to simply become more like Christ and make Him known to others?

VERSES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Psalm 16:5-11, 118:24, 144:4; Proverbs 3:27, 27:1; Ecclesiastes 7:1-2; Matthew 6:28-34, 7:24-26; Mark 12:28-34; Luke 10:38-42; 2 Corinthians 5:6-9, 15; Philippians 2:21-24, 3:8-11; James 1:22-25, 4:17; 1 John 2:15-17, 3:16-18



Thirty Days to Live —2
Eternal Perspectives

IN ORDER TO SEEK FIRST WHAT WILL LAST FOREVER:

1. I will guard against **materialism**
2. I will be **generous**
3. I will focus on what **matters**

LAUNCHING:

- What was your ambition in life when you were 18 years old? What is it today?
- How would you most like to be remembered?

CONNECTING:

1. **Where is your treasure?:** Besides your family, what earthly blessings do you most treasure? What happens when we place a higher value on earthly blessings than on knowing Christ and becoming like Him? How would having more of an eternal perspective change your priorities? **If you realize your treasure is on earth, what do you need to do to shift your treasure toward heaven?** How does one invest in eternal treasure?
2. **I will guard against materialism:** In what ways does the world daily tempt us to pursue happiness through external means? Complete the thought, “I would be happier if” What does your answer reveal about where your treasure is? **What kind of greed or materialism do you need to guard against? Be specific (You might say “I care too much about money,” “I focus too much on my yard,” or “I’m too into my appearance.”) How will you allow God to change you?**
3. **I will be generous:** In what ways has God demonstrated his generosity toward you? How does seeing God as generous help us to be more generous? Besides giving money, what are some other ways we can be generous? **Where does God want you to become more generous?**
4. **I will focus on what matters:** What does it mean to “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness”? Gives some examples. **What are you currently focusing on that doesn’t really matter? What are you neglecting that does matter? What are you going to do to let God change you?**

TAKE IT HOME:

1. Spend time with God, acknowledging the earthly treasures you have valued more than knowing Him. Ask Him to show you what it looks like to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness. Surrender each of your earthly treasures to God. What changes will you make in order to focus on what really matters?
2. Surrender your finances and material possessions to God. Ask Him to show you the changes to make regarding your spending and giving. Take steps this week to invest in God’s kingdom by being more generous with your time and money.
3. Filter your decisions this week through the questions, “Will this matter 100 years from now?” and “Would I do this if I only had 30 days to live?” Make a list of those things that matter most and make this your “to do” list for the next 30 days.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

Read Luke 12:13-23, 29-34.

- What did Jesus discern about this man’s heart? How do you feel about His response? What warning does Jesus give? How does your lifestyle line up with Jesus’ statement, “a man’s life does not consist in his possessions” ? What signs of greed do you see in your own life?
- What was the main point of Jesus’ story? (v16-21) How can we be rich towards God? In what ways was the rich man foolish? What was his treasure? What is wrong with the attitude “eat, drink and be merry”? In what ways are you acting as though you will live many more years? How will you build a rich relationship with God?
- How do verses 22-34 relate to the parable? What does Jesus tell us not to do? (v 22, 32, 33) How would your life be different if you were fully obeying Jesus’ teaching in this passage? What is the kingdom that the Father is eager to give us? How can you transfer your treasures on earth to treasures in heaven?

VERSES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Matt 6:19-34, 19:16-26, 25:34-40; Luke 10:38-42, 18:2-27; 1Tim 6:6-11; Heb 13:5-6; James 5:1-6; 2Cor 9:6-11; Phil 3:7-8; 1John 2:15-17, 3:16-18, 4:7-12, 19-21



Thirty Days to Live —3
 Leave A Legacy

Leaving a godly legacy:

- 1) **Say** the words God wants **us** to **say**
- 2) **Do** what God sent us to **do**
- 3) **Live** how God wants us to **live**

Convictions are unchanging beliefs on the inside that always show up on the outside.

LAUNCHING:

- What character qualities do you find most attractive in other people?
- What convictions do you most want to pass on to your family?

CONNECTING:

1. **Say the words God wants us to say:** If you only had 30 days to live, what would you say and to whom would you say it? If you have lost a loved one, share something you regret not saying to them while they were alive. What are some important things we need to say to others during our time on earth? Why do we put off saying the things that are most important?
2. **Do what God sent us to do:** Read Eph 2:10. What are some good works that you're fairly certain God has prepared for you to do? Who or what hinders you from accomplishing these works? **What is your unfinished assignment?** A healthy goal is something you can accomplish without the help or cooperation of others. If you had only 30 days to live, what is one goal you would work towards that would impact others in a meaningful way? How will you start working towards your goal this week?
3. **Live how God wants us to live:** If an alien were to observe your life up close for one month, what conclusions might he come to about your convictions (beliefs)? Would you say you are living primarily for what will truly last or for the things of this world? How is your life producing good fruit that will be a legacy to those you love? **If you could instantly change one thing about how you are living, what would it be?**
4. Craig said that the key to leaving a legacy is to live by the convictions God gives us, *not* by our preferences. Are you living by your preferences or your convictions? What would your family say are your strongest convictions? What godly convictions do you need to develop? How will you go about this?

TAKE IT HOME:

1. Make a list of people whom you most desire to impact with your life. Beside each name, write out what you want to say by completing the thought: *Above all else, here's what I want you to know.* Set a deadline for sharing this with them. You may also want to write a letter to your spouse and/or keep a journal for your kids.
2. Complete the thought: *I consider my life worth nothing to me if only I may _____.* Write down three things you know God wants you to do with your life. Start praying regularly about how God will accomplish this through you. What steps will you take to follow through and turn your intentions into actions?
3. Ask the Lord to show you any areas where you are not currently living as He has called you to live. Surrender these areas to Him and invite the Holy Spirit to live through you. Do a Bible study on the Holy Spirit to learn how you can live a supernatural life that impacts others. (If you are struggling with a life-controlling problem, seek help from your LifeGroup, mentor, counselor or trusted friend).

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

Read Prov 18:20-21, Eph 4:29 and 1 Thess 5:11.

- According to these verses, describe the effect of life giving words. What type of words bring death? Which type most describes your communication with the significant people in your life? What is God wanting you to say that you haven't yet said to them?

Read Eph 2:10, Matt 5:16 and James 2:26.

- What role does good works have in leaving a godly legacy? How are our works evidence of our convictions? What impact does your choices have on others?

Read Col 3:5-17 and 1 Thess 4:1-12 .

- What instructions does Paul give about how we are to live? What does he admonish us not to do? What impact does sin have on our legacy to others? What characteristics are we to put on that will positively impact others?

VERSES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Matt 5:16; Acts 20:24; Gal 5:13-14, 6:7; Eph 2:10, 4:29, 5:1-5, 17-18, 6:1-4; Col 4:5-6; 2 Tim 1:5-6,12, 4:6-8; Titus 2:11-14; James 1:21-22, 2:26; 1 John 2:17



Thirty Days to Live —4
Fighting for Peace

God is calling you to fight for peace:

- 1) **Confront** humbly
- 2) **Love** deeply
- 3) **Forgive** irrationally

Barriers to fighting for Peace:

- Fear of intimacy
- Fear of rejection
- Fear of conflict

LAUNCHING:

- Were you more of a troublemaker or a peacemaker as a child? In what way?
- What usually causes you to lose your temper: bad drivers, slow lines, bickering children, messy family members, tardiness, or something else?

CONNECTING:

1. **Barriers to fighting for peace:** Which do you fear more: intimacy, rejection, or conflict? How can trusting Christ help us overcome these fears? What do we need to believe to become a peacemaker? Discuss the importance of peace and unity within the body of Christ. What does this look like in your LifeGroup?
2. **Confront humbly:** Who or what is God asking you to confront? What usually happens when we confront others when we have the wrong attitude? What does it look like to “confront humbly”? How can we confront sin without judging the person? What attitudes or fears do you need to overcome to confront humbly?
3. **Love deeply:** What does it mean to love deeply? Who is God calling you to express His love to? What is the major difference between God’s love and natural human affection? From whom are you withholding God’s love? How can loving deeply bring peace to our strained relationships? Above everything else, Jesus instructs us to love others as He loves us. What would it look like for you to make this your highest goal in your relationships? (John 13:34-35) Discuss how this might look within your LifeGroup?
4. **Forgive irrationally:** What is irrational about God’s forgiveness? On what basis does God forgive us? Aside from Christ, what is the greatest act of forgiveness have you witnessed? How does our forgiving others give witness to the reality of Christ in us? What does it mean to forgive as God has forgiven us? Who do *you* need to forgive? From whom do you need to ask forgiveness?

TAKE IT HOME:

1. Spend time praying about your relationships. List anyone who may have a grievance against you. Ask the Lord to show you what you need to ask forgiveness for. Set a time to talk to each person and ask their forgiveness. Remember, you are pursuing peace and unity for Christ’s sake.
2. Make a list of your sins (ways you’ve failed to love God and others). Ponder how much you have been forgiven and how much mercy God has shown you. Write across your list “paid in full.” Make another list, this time of those you need to forgive. Below each name write the sins *against you*. Since Christ also died for these sins, write “paid in full” across this list. Tell God your decision to forgive as He has forgiven you. Destroy both lists. If you struggle with forgiving others, you may want to read David Ausburger’s book, “The New Freedom of Forgiveness”.
3. Christ has called us to be peacemakers. Where there is conflict, loving confrontation is usually needed. To learn more about healthy ways of confronting, read David Ausburger’s book, “Caring Enough to Confront.”

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

Read Colossians 3:10-17.

- What are we to put on? (v 10) What are the characteristics of our new nature? (v12) Which of these are you lacking? How does this affect the way you relate to others? How would depending on Christ affect the way you treat others?
- How well do you get along with others? What does it mean to clothe yourself with love? How does this promote unity? What role does thankfulness play in experiencing the peace of Christ and harmony with others? Why is unity important to Christ and His kingdom? How important is it to you?
- How does filling our minds with God’s Word and our hearts with worship impact how we relate to others? (v 16) What one principle should govern our relationships with others? (v 17)

VERSES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Matt 5:23-24, 7:1-5, 18:15; Mark 12:30-31; Luke 23:24; John 13:34-35, 15:12-13; Rom 12:16-21, 13:8; Eph 4:1-3, 30-32; Gal 5:13-15, 6:1-2; 1 Thess 5:13b-15; 1 Peter 4:8; 1 John 3:14-19, 4:7-8, 18-21