



WIDE AWAKE

small group guide

WIDE AWAKE

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WIDE AWAKE

Week 1: One Life to Live, August 1

INTRODUCTION

Like it or not, we have a limited number of days on this planet. To live life to the fullest that realization needs to be understood so that we do not slip into mediocrity and stagnation. Sunday morning, we looked at three turning points to focus on:

1. Ask God to turn 'when' into 'now.'
2. Ask God to turn our intentions into actions.
3. Ask God to turn our whole heart toward Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would your life be different if you only had a month to live?
2. What does it mean to "live in the moment"?
3. What, if anything, keeps you from being fully engaged in living life to the fullest and getting the most out of it?

Read [James 4:13-17](#)

4. How do you feel when you think about your life being a mist that is vanishing away?
5. What good intentions do you have that God wants to turn into good actions? Share specifically what you need to do and when you will do it.
6. What priorities do you need to change in order to live for what is truly important? How would making these changes now impact those around you?

Read [Ephesians 5:15-20](#) and [Colossians 3:1-4; 12-17](#)

Week 1 continued

7. List the things mentioned in the verses above that would describe living in the moment for those things that really matter.

8. 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? ([Colossians 3:2](#))

APPLICATION

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.

Click below to add personal notes.

WIDE AWAKE

Week 2: Leaving a Legacy, August 8

INTRODUCTION

Leaving a godly legacy does not happen by accident; we must intentionally:

1. Say the words God wants us to say
2. Do what God wants us to do.
3. Live how God wants us to live.

We need to live our lives as if they were brief, because they are, and we need to live our lives in such a way that they impact generations to come.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What character qualities do you find most appealing in other people?
2. What convictions or knowledge do you most want to pass on to your family?
3. If you only had one month to live, what would you say, and to whom would you say it?
4. If you have a loved one who has passed away, if you are comfortable, share something you regret not saying to them while they were alive.
5. What are some important things we need to say to others during our time on earth? Why do you think we put off saying the things that are most important?

Read [Ephesians 2:10](#)

6. What are some good works that you're fairly certain God has prepared for you to do? What hinders you from accomplishing these works?

Week 2 continued

Read [James 1:22](#) and [1 John 2:17](#)

7. Would you say you're living primarily for what will truly last, or for the things of this world? In what ways is your life producing good fruit that will be a legacy to those you love?

8. What would your family say are your strongest convictions? What godly convictions do you need to develop? How will you go about this?

Read [Proverbs 18:20-21](#), [Ephesians 4:29](#) and [1 Thessalonians 5:11](#)

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

Read [Colossians 3:5-17](#) and [1 Thessalonians 4:1-12](#)

10. 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?

APPLICATION

1. Take a moment to list 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.

2. Ask the Lord to show you any areas where you're not currently living as He has called you to live. Surrender these areas to Him and invite the Holy Spirit to live through you.

Click below to add personal notes.

WIDE AWAKE

Week 3: Healing Relationships, August 15

INTRODUCTION

Time and again those who are on their death bed will tell you that what matters most in this life is not the tangible things we bought or sold; what matters most is the relationships we enjoyed and are leaving behind. God has created us for relationships and one of the best things we can do to seize this moment is seek peace in all our relationships.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What usually causes you to lose your temper: bad drivers, slow lines, bickering children, messy family members, tardiness, or something else?
2. Were you more of a troublemaker or a peacemaker as a child? In what way?
3. Which do you fear more: intimacy, rejection, or conflict? How can trusting Christ help us overcome these fears?
4. Pastor Kris talked about the fact that we need to confront others humbly. See [Matthew 5:23-24](#) 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"?

Read [1 Peter 4:8](#)

5. What does it mean to love earnestly/deeply? Who is God calling you to express His love to? What is the major difference between God's love and natural human affection?

Read [John 13:34-35](#)

Week 3 continued

6. 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? Discuss how this might look within your Life Group?
7. A final point made was to forgive irrationally, see [Colossians 3:12-13](#). What is irrational about God's forgiveness? On what basis does God forgive us?
8. Aside from Christ, what is the greatest act of forgiveness you've witnessed?
9. What does it mean to forgive as God has forgiven us?
10. Who do you need to forgive? From whom do you need to ask forgiveness?

APPLICATION

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. If appropriate, set a time to talk to each person and ask for their forgiveness. Remember, you're pursuing peace and unity for Christ's sake.
2. 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.

Click below to add personal notes.

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Week 4: Regret Proof, August 22

INTRODUCTION

In order to "seize the day" we want to live a life of no regrets. However, we have all done things that we regret. In some cases, it was a night, for some of us it was a weekend, for others it was whole years. At times we follow our heart, our emotions, or our impulses in a certain direction and that is not the wisest thing to do.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What leads people to make poor choices?
2. If you could go back in time and change one of your decisions, what would you change?
3. Why do you think people do not listen when they are receiving advice about poor choices?

Read Ephesians 5:15

4. With every choice we have in front of us God wants us to ask, "What is the wise thing to do?" If appropriate, can you give an example where you need to apply this question to your life right now?

Read Ephesians 5:16

5. Evaluating the predominant behaviors in our culture – what regrets will many people have in the future?
6. From your perspective how do many people in our culture handle their marriages? How do they handle their finances?

Week 4 continued

Read Ephesians 5:17

7. How can we know what the Lord's will is? [See Romans 12:2, see also Ephesians 5:18-21]

8. What is it that leads people who know God's will, to rebel against what they know to be right?

Read Proverbs 28:26

9. What are some dilemmas you are facing in your life right now? What is the wise thing to do? How can your Life Group best pray for you?

APPLICATION

We must make plans **not** to fail, because failing is our default mode. The way to plan not to fail is by living a wise life and asking at every juncture, "In light of my past experiences, my current circumstances, and my future hopes and dreams, what is the wise thing to do?" Allow this question to be on the front of your mind as you encounter decisions this week.

Click below to add personal notes.

WIDE AWAKE

Week 5: What is Wise?, August 29

INTRODUCTION

The decisions you've made that were wrong morally were preceded by a series of smaller wrong decisions. The way that you blew it big time was the result of passing by all the red flags. Every moral failure is preceded by several unwise decisions.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. On a scale of 1-10 (1 = comfortable 10= rather be poked in the eye with a fork) how comfortable are you talking to your kids about sex?

Read [2 Samuel 11:1-5](#)

2. Every moral failure is preceded by a series of unwise decisions. What was the series of unwise decisions that David made?

3. What are some of the things that are at stake when a husband or wife fails morally?

Take a moment to review some of the verses in the New Testament regarding sexual immorality: [Mark 7:20-22](#); [Romans 13:13](#); [1 Corinthians 5:1-3](#); [6:13](#); [10:7-9](#); [Galatians 5:19](#); [Colossians 3:5](#); [1 Thessalonians 4:3](#); [Jude 1:7](#)

4. Why do you think God take such a strong stance against sexual immorality?

5. **Read [1 Corinthians 6:18](#)** – notice the emphasis upon the uniqueness of sexual sin. **Now read [1 Corinthians 6:13-17](#)** – what is it then that makes sexual sin unique?

Week 5 continued

6. The way to flee sexual immorality is to set your standards so far from the edge that if you were to violate your standard there would be no consequence. What boundaries would be wise to set up far from the ledge of sexual immorality? (i.e. no meals with members of opposite sex, no texting or emailing former boyfriends/girlfriends, never riding alone in a car with member of opposite sex, etc.)

8. How far do you want your spouse to go in protecting themselves morally?

9. If you have children how far do you want them to go in protecting themselves against sexual immorality?

APPLICATION

To what degree are you willing to go in order to protect what is most important to you? You don't protect it on the line, you protect it way back. Not because it's right, but because it's wise. Make some extreme "narrow" decisions now. That is how you live a life of no regrets.

Click below to add personal notes.

WIDE AWAKE

Week 6: Time Warped, September 5

INTRODUCTION

There is something more important than knowing what time it is. It is more important to know how you are spending your time. We rarely check how we are spending our time. In order to remain wide awake and alert we need to ask, "What is the wisest way to invest and spend our time?"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you look back over your life what was the most enjoyable "season"?
2. If you look at how most people live their life, what would you say is most important to them?
3. What would you say are the most important things in your life that you should focus on?
4. What 2-3 things do you spend the most time doing in your average week?
5. What kind of things end up stealing your time?
6. What important things in your life have you been neglecting?

Read [Ephesians 5:15-17](#)

7. What does God say here about our time?

Read [Ecclesiastes 3:1-14](#)

8. What insights on the use of time does Solomon give in this passage?

Week 6 continued

9. Repeatedly in the book of Ecclesiastes Solomon writes that "everything is meaningless", and life is filled with toil and pain etc., after talking about all of this he concludes by writing [Ecclesiastes 12:13-14](#). How would Solomon suggest that we spend our time?

APPLICATION

Take a few moments to write down your personal response to the following question. Considering your past experiences, present circumstances, and future hopes and dreams; what are you going to do with your time; physically, relationally, professionally, and spiritually?

Click below to add personal notes.

WIDE AWAKE

Week 7: Seeking Wise Counsel, September 12

INTRODUCTION

Every wise person knows this little secret; wise people know when they don't know, and they're not afraid to go to those who do know. They don't pretend, and they don't act like they know it all.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who is the wisest person you have ever met?
2. What was one of the dumbest decisions you ever made?

Read [Proverbs 1:5](#) & [Proverbs 12:15](#)

3. What does the wise individual do?
4. Here were some of the points Kris made in the sermon:
 - A) The decisions that you make privately will eventually become public knowledge.
 - B) Many of the decisions that you make are judged by the people around you.
 - C) The decisions that we make affect other people.
 - D) Why not get people involved in the decision before it is made?
5. Why don't we ask the advice of others more often?
6. Have you applied the principle of seeking out advice from others?
What was the result?

Read [Genesis 41:33-40](#)

Week 7 continued

7. What can we learn from Pharaoh here?
8. Does it bother you when someone else tries to give you advice about your job, kids, relationships, etc.? How do you normally respond?
9. What decisions are you facing right now that your Life Group may be able to give you some advice?

APPLICATION

Be open to the advice of others. Purposely seek out and involve others in some of your decisions this week and be open to listen and perhaps apply wise counsel. Also be prepared to give wise counsel when invited by others.

Click below to add personal notes.
