

Life Group Lesson - Week of April 23

Aging, none of us are exempt. And death, it is on the calendar for every one who has ever lived. In Psalm 90, the only psalm attributed to Moses, he says the Lord sweeps “people away like dreams that disappear” and that people “are like grass that springs up in the morning. In the morning it blooms and flourishes, but by evening it is dry and withered” (Psalm 90:5-6). But in this psalm Moses also recognizes that from the beginning and through it all, God *is our home*—our place of safety and refuge. He alone is the ultimate Father who loves us and cares for us.

Read Psalm 90:1-12

The fact is, all people breathing on the planet right now, young or old, are aging. The only ageless One is the Lord Himself. He never changes, is forever beautiful, and is entirely faithful. But for us, we are given a span of days on this earth. When we start out as babies, we need help. We are totally dependent upon parents (or a parent-figure) to give us love and care. We mature and grow and are given productive years to fulfill our calling, our purpose. And then as we get older and more feeble most of us, at some point, will eventually need help again.

1. Perhaps you have experienced the difficulty of watching your parents age and become dependent upon others. Perhaps you are finding it harder to engage in activities that were once very easy for you. What is the Lord teaching you through this season of life?

Are you teachable? Or is anger, bitterness, or sadness tripping you up? Often we miss the beauty each moment – albeit difficult moments – because of poor attitude. What should we seek, according to Moses in Psalm 90:12?

Wisdom comes from God alone. The Lord stands apart from time and space and yet He understands our weakness. In fact, He took upon Himself our weakness when He put on flesh and walked among us through His Christ, the Lord Jesus. The fullness of God was pleased to live in Christ (Colossians 1:19) and according to the apostle Paul, it was for our benefit God made Christ to become “wisdom itself” (1 Corinthians 1:30). This is why the Lord can empathize with our struggles. “The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; He rescues those whose spirits are crushed” (Psalm 34:18).

2. The Lord will give us wisdom if we ask Him (James 1:5). But often we don’t ask Him for wisdom or to teach us through our pain. Why is this?

Pain can paralyze our faith. But so can self-medicating through the things of this world. The Lord wants to teach us this earth is not our permanent home and yet we keep getting caught in man’s trappings. No matter what we are going through – all the up’s and down’s as we move from walker to walker – there is a bigger picture to

our existence here. Will we seek Christ and His Kingdom above everything else? Will we choose to honor Him in all circumstances? Will we be looking into the face of our friend on the day of His return, or will we find ourselves standing before a stranger? Jesus says one day “everyone will see the Son of Man coming on a cloud with power and great glory. So when all these things begin to happen, stand and look up, for your salvation is near!” (Luke 21:27-28)

Read Luke 21:29-38

3. What does Jesus say about being alert and ready for His return? What stands out to you in these verses?

Life is not all about you and your problems. Sometimes you and I may find ourselves worshiping our woes above God Himself. In the space below, name at least three proactive measures you can take (by faith as a daily discipline) to commit yourself to your bigger, heaven-ordained purpose in this world. Use any Scripture that comes to mind. Craft a plan you can follow practically this week to avoid the trappings that get you off-path and self-saturated.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Disciples of Christ are not made in a day, but they are made daily. Jesus says, “Watch out! Don’t let your hearts be dulled by carousing and drunkenness, and by the worries of this life. Don’t let that day catch you unaware, like a trap. For that day will come upon everyone living on the earth. Keep alert at all times.” And then Jesus tells us what to pray: “And pray that you might be strong enough to escape these coming horrors and stand before the Son of Man” (vv34-36).

Hopefully you will begin to pray for strength to stand. We don’t have to fear. God has provided a way for us to be ready for the coming judgment upon this world and that is Christ Himself. Jesus *is* our way of escape! Have you accepted Christ into your heart? You can. Now would be a wonderful time to invite Him in. Pray:

Lord, I confess my need for you and your forgiveness. Most of my life, I have been living just for me. And now it seems my problems are taking me over. Would you please forgive me for relying upon myself and this world? I invite you into my heart. Please fill me with your grace and peace. Fill me with your love. Fill me with your Holy Spirit. Thank you, Lord. Amen.

4. As you pray, live into your prayers. Living into your prayers is how you show God (and more importantly, yourself) that you are serious about living for Christ. Are you grateful for what the Lord Jesus has done for you?

Be ready to invest in your relationship with Christ. Revisit your “plan” in question #3. Write it out on a card and put on your mirror, in your car, or on your phone so that you will truly begin to find your *more* in Christ instead of this world. Start with baby steps. The Lord is good to meet us where we are.



Text: Psalm 90:1-12, Luke 21:29-38

The Plain Truth

***Watch out, don't let your heart be _____,
for God has _____ for you.***

One Year Bible Readings

Apr. 23: Judges 1:1-2:9, Luke 21:29-22:13, Psalm 90:1-91:16, Proverbs 13:24-25

Apr. 24: Judges 2:10-3:31, Luke 22:14-34, Psalm 92:1-93:5, Proverbs 14:1-2

Apr. 25: Judges 4:1-5:31, Luke 22:35-53, Psalm 94:1-23, Proverbs 14:3-4

Apr. 26: Judges 6:1-40, Luke 22:54-23:12, Psalm 95:1-96:13, Proverbs 14:5-6

Apr. 27: Judges 7:1-8:17, Luke 23:13-43, Psalm 97:1-98:9, Proverbs 14:7-8

Apr. 28: Judges 8:18-9:21, Luke 23:44-24:12, Psalm 99:1-9, Proverbs 14:9-10

Apr. 29: Judges 9:22-10:18, Luke 24:13-53, Psalm 100:1-5, Proverbs 14:11-12