



groups | DISCUSSION GUIDE

When Death is Near

WARM UP

What is the weirdest thing you have ever eaten on a vacation?

SET IT UP

When we come to the end of our lives, we want to know that we made a difference. We want to know that our lives counted for something. As he was nearing the end of his life, Paul wrote a letter to a young pastor named Timothy. In his closing words, Paul summarizes his life by saying, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” What would we have to do today for us to be able to say those words at the end of our lives?

CHAT IT UP

- 1. Do you think about death often? Why or why not?**
- 2. Read Psalm 90:12. What was Moses’ prayer? Why do you think he would ask something like this?**
- 3. Mark said, “We live wisely when we live with the end in mind.” Let’s take some time to work through the worksheet below and set ourselves up to live with the end in mind.***
 - Take some time on your Six Word Memoir (#1) then ask for some volunteers to share.**
 - Have someone read the excerpt from 7 Habits and then give people time to brainstorm some answers (#2). Then ask for some volunteers to share.**
- 4. Based on your reflection time... what needs to change?**

WRAP IT UP

My death is not final. My life is not futile. My faithfulness will not be forgotten. We live wisely when we live with the end in mind.

LEADER TIPS

* Print the worksheet below for your group members.

You'll Be Glad You Did

“Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” (Psalm 90:12)

“We live wisely when we live with the end in mind.” (Mark Stuenzi)

1. Think about your life. Then write your Six Word Memoir. Try to tell your life story in just six words. (Examples: “Painful nerd kid, happy nerd adult.” “Cursed with cancer. Blessed with friends.” “Car totaled. Lives Spared. Forever grateful.”)

2. Read the excerpt from *7 Habits of Highly Effective People* by Stephen R. Covey then complete the exercise below.

Imagine visiting your own funeral.

As you take a seat and wait for the services to begin, you look at the program in your hand. There are to be four speakers. The first one is from your family, the second speaker is one of your friends, the third speaker is from your workplace, and the fourth is from your church.

Now think deeply. What would you like each of these speakers to say about you and your life? What kind of husband, wife, father, or mother would you like their words to reflect? What kind of son or daughter? What kind of friend? What kind of co-worker?

What character would you like them to have seen in you? What contributions, what achievements would you want them to remember? What difference would you like to have made in their lives?

What would you want these people to say about you?

Family _____

Friend _____

Workplace _____

Church _____
