

Imagine You Have One Year To Live

The problem: Many of us think we have more time than we actually do.

Something to consider:

- About 225,000 deaths occur each year in the U.S. just from accidents (vehicle accidents, falls and unintentional poisonings; most of them in younger people ages 1-44).
- Jerry Sittser in his book, "A Grace Disguised" shares how he dealt with the loss of his mother, wife and daughter in one automobile accident. It is a source of encouragement for those who have experienced this kind of loss.
- Each time I kiss my wife goodbye when she drives off to the store, I realize now more than ever before that I may never see her again in this life. I thank God every time she returns safely. One day, neither she nor I may return home.
- Remember that even if we don't die this year, a "season" in our life will.

In this lesson, we will explore ways to get in touch with the reality of how brief our lives are, how to enjoy the blessings along the way, and to be the children of God He intended in order to encourage others to know Him, especially our loved ones and friends.

The first place I suggest to start is to write down your priorities:

What things are most important to you? Imagine as you lie on your death bed, what things would be most important? Consider placing a number (of importance) in front of some of the following examples:

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| ___ Money | ___ Church | ___ Friends |
| ___ Personal pleasures | ___ Work | ___ Hobbies / projects |
| ___ Children / Family | ___ Spouse | ___ Reputation |
| ___ Hobbies | ___ God | ___ Entertainment |
| ___ Neighbors | ___ Material possessions | ___ Social media |

Common wastes of time (do you struggle with some of these?) - see 1 Corinthians 7:29-31:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment / binge watching shows | <input type="checkbox"/> Time with the latest gadgets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social media | <input type="checkbox"/> Shopping (online or in the store) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Video games | <input type="checkbox"/> Conversation and arguments that don't matter / idle chit chat (Ecclesiastes 6:11) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Working too much (Luke 12:15) | |

After determining what is really important to you, how might you now establish daily priorities to work on what really matters most? Some examples may be:

- ☐ Spend time in prayer and in God's Word daily. (Colossians 4:2)
- ☐ Spend time with the most important people in your life regularly. (Hebrews 10:24-25)
- ☐ Share the Good News with friends, family and neighbors when possible. (Romans 10:13-15)
- ☐ Make the most of every opportunity. (Colossians 4:5-6)
- ☐ With your spouse or those closest to you, determine how to best spend your time, talents and treasures. (1 Timothy 6:6-10)
- ☐ Apologize, and reconcile with loved ones and friends. (Matthew 5:24)
- ☐ Most importantly, be reconciled to God. (2 Corinthians 5:17-21)
- ☐ Be kind and generous. (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)
- ☐ Share the truth in love to everyone in your life. (Ephesians 4:15)

**"God's people should plan for a voyage of a thousand years,
but be prepared to abandon ship tonight."
(Joseph Bayly)**