

Sermon Based Small Group Questions

This is Us: Aging and Dying... With Awareness

4. Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-12. How do you see yourself as a clay pot or earthen vessel? What is the treasure inside?

5. What does retirement tied to a vision of God's call on your life look like? How does culture picture retirement? Why is this picture inadequate?

6. Read Psalm 103:14-16, Psalm 144:3-4, Psalm 90:12. What do these passages have in common? How can they help us live better? Should we be talking more directly about death? Explain.

7. Read James 4:13-17. What practical advice does this passage give us about living and dying? Why is this so important?

8. Read Hebrews 11:23-28. What is essential in this passage? How can this be applied to our day to day living?

9. Sid shared this quote: *"It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."* — C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory, and Other Addresses*. How do you react to this quote? What implications does it have on the way we live? What is the 'infinite joy'?

10. Read 2 Corinthians 6:18. How do we tend to define our identities in this life? What problems does this create? What do these passages say about our true identity? How is this a comfort as we age and die?

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BLESS Rhythms

BLESS: This is the practice of blessing another person. It can be big or small (buying coffee, encouraging text/email, etc.). *Who have you blessed this week?*

LISTEN: This is the practice of listening, both to God and to others. *How did you set time aside this week to be a listener?*

EAT: This is the practice of sharing food with people. This can happen in a home or in a coffee shop. *Who are you eating with/ inviting into your home?*

SPEAK: This is the practice of speaking our faith. It can happen through encouragement, story sharing, and evangelism. *How have you spoken your faith this week?*

SABBATH: This is the practice of resting from work and taking time to rest and enjoy creation. *How are you practicing Sabbath this week?*