



Life Groups 2018

NLC Life Group Sermon Study

Week of March 18, 2018
Sermon: SPENT III

Life Group Schedule

15 MIN Eat, Meet & Greet

15 MIN Ice Breaker Game: **Sentence Starters**. Before the group meets, write sentence starters on slips of paper. Have each person pull a slip from a bowl and write their name, read the sentence starter, and then complete it. They should also provide several additional sentences of information that coincide with their sentence starter. Read the completed slips when everyone has arrived to help everyone get to know each other. **Variation:** Have the group sit in a circle. Pull one slip at a time from a basket, read the sentence starter, then have each person take turns completing them. The following is a sample list of sentence starters:

Although most people don't find...	I am...
I have never...	I love it when...
I love to...	I think I have the best...
I would never...	My idea of beauty is...
The best thing I ever did for my child is...	The best way for me to relax is...
The most important decision I ever made was...	The biggest and best...
The funniest thing that ever happened to me was...	The best way to save...
The greatest thing my child ever did was...	The lowest...
The thing that makes me laugh is...	The most unbelievable thing...
There is nothing I enjoy more than...	When I think of prunes...

NOTE: Feel free to use as much or as little of the study as you like, in whatever way flows most naturally for your group.

OPENING PRAYER

45-60 MIN "SPENT III"

- The most valuable currency you have on earth is **time**.
PSALM 39:4-5 "LORD, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered, and that my life is fleeing away. My life is no longer than the width of my hand. An entire lifetime is just a moment to you; human existence is but a breath."
- Check out the perspective on time in the Book of Job:
- Job 7:6-7 "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and they come to an end without hope. Remember, O God, that my life is but a breath; my eyes will never see happiness again." (That one hasn't made a Hallmark Card yet)
- Job 9:25 "My days are swifter than a runner; they fly away without a glimpse of joy."
- At some point, time flips on us. When you were a kid, time moved

by so slowly, but now it's like life starts speeding up.

- › At some point you stop thinking about how old you are and you start thinking about how much time you have left on earth.

1. MAKE GOD THE PRIORITY IN MY SCHEDULE.

MARK 1:35 “Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.”

- The word “Selah” is used 71 times in the Bible and means “to pause.”
- The key to a fruitful life is to pause: retreat annually, withdraw weekly, divert daily.
- When people say “I don’t have time for God,” it’s a real problem, because time is how we connect with God. Pausing frequently lets your spirit and God’s spirit catch up to one another again.
 - › You need a Sabbath in your week and a Selah in your day.
- Almost every miracle in the Bible was an interruption.
 - › My availability gives God the opportunity to do a miracle through me.
- It’s amazing how much room people can create after they crash.
 - › Time with God is like humility: you can be humble or you can be humbled. Both end up in the same place but the first one is self-initiated.
 - › If you don’t give Him time, you’ll hit a wall.

REVELATION 3:20 “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.”

- God is not like the big bad wolf who stands at the door and says, “I’ll huff and I’ll puff and I’ll blow your house down.”
 - › His spirit is a gentleman, saying, “if you’ll hear, if you’ll turn the noise down and open the door, if you make room, I’ll come in.”
- Your Savior is willing.
- Would you allow God to interrupt your schedule today?

Q1. Is there room for God in your daily schedule? Do you make room to spend time with Him one day a week? What about an annual time away *with* Him, (not *from* Him)?

2. LEARN TO SAY “NO” SO I CAN SAY “YES” TO WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT.

- When I say “no,” it allows me to say “yes” to what is most important

in my life.

- Gardeners prune trees and plants for greater productivity and health of the plant. If there is no pruning, there is no fruitfulness in the next season.
 - It's dangerous to keep adding and adding.
 - People add stuff to their schedules out of fear of missing out, or fear of not having enough:
 - › FOMO: Our kids are in T-ball, ballet, soccer, art, and tutoring—because we fear they are falling behind all the other well-rounded kids.
 - › Fear of not having enough: money, stuff.
 - When you prune, you don't just cut off deadwood, but you cut off living branches that are still productive, still fruitful.
- 1 CORINTHIANS 6:12** "Everything is permissible for me but not everything is beneficial."
- God has given you a free will. You're permitted to do anything, and most of what we do is good, but it's not beneficial.
 - You may accomplish more by doing less.

Q2. What in your life needs to be carved out, reduced, or minimized?

3. GET THE PROPER CONTEXT OF MY LIFE.

- **The time you spend is not your own; it has been given to us as a gift from God.**
- If anyone can teach us about time, it's Moses.
 - › Moses wasted the entire middle of his life. He didn't get on track until the last third of his life. The first third, he was raised learning in Pharaoh's house, with all the knowledge and the best of everything. The second third, he fled and hid in the desert. The last third, God used him as one of the top leaders ever in history.
 - › Most people don't realize that Moses wrote 2 Psalms: Psalm 90 & 91. Interestingly enough, he wrote about how every day counts,

TAKE TURNS READING PSALM 90:1-10

- This context is everything. You'll never manage this currency right until you get this picture
 - › From everlasting to everlasting --- You are God. Before I can ever pray for God to help me with my time on earth --- I've got to have Perspective.
 - › History is HIS STORY. My time on Earth—my 70-80 years here I'm playing a part in God's story, not my own.
 - › You will waste your life when you think life is all about you.

- When you're young, it's common for life to be ALL ABOUT ME, but when you meet people who are 40-50-60 years old and they are still like that, they are miserable to be around, work for, or be married to!

- But Moses says:

PSALM 90:12 "Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

- › Teach us to number – to look at our time and prioritize what matters most!
- › God I want to get everything done that I'm called to do. I won't make wise decisions until I see my life in your context.
- › **Time is given to us in the view of eternity.**

Q3. Do you view your own life—and live your life—from your perspective or God's perspective? How do you know, and how do you measure that?

PRAY TOGETHER THROUGH ANY NEED THAT HAS SURFACED.

ANNOUNCEMENTS