

Sermon Discussion Guide:

What is Life?

Sunday, February 5, 2023

Scripture: **James 4:13–17**

Series: **Q&A: The Bible's Heaviest Questions**

OVERVIEW

To ponder the meaning of life and our purpose in it is a signature activity demonstrating our humanity. Some move through the days barely acknowledging life's existential questions while others get lost down the rabbit hole of endless contemplation. Regardless of where one is on the spectrum, we all come to the realization that **life is shorter than you expect, and more meaningful than you can imagine.**

CORROBORATING TEXTS

Genesis 1:27; Exodus 20:13; Matthew 5:21-22; Job 7:7; Psalm 78:39, 39:4-5; Ecclesiastes 2:22-26, 12:13; Colossians 1:15-18

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Before this week, how would you have completed, "Life is ____" and "My life is ____"?
2. How can the belief that "life is what one makes of it" often lead to frustration, bitterness, and apathy? What is missing in this line of thinking?
3. Life is sacred: Don't dishonor it. Most everyone would agree that life is sacred, or at least important. As a believer in Christ, how might your view on life's sacredness differ from that of an unbeliever? What evidence can be offered to support your viewpoint?
4. **Life is fragile—be careful with it.** Have you been careless with your life? If so, in what ways? Do you live life with the awareness that it can be taken at any moment? How would you move differently through life if you maintained the awareness of life's fragility?
5. **Life is short—don't waste it.** We've all heard of people lamenting toward the end of life how they misspent so much time and energy on worthless pursuits. On the whole, do you feel that your life has been lived in full acknowledgement of God and his plans or has the busyness of life taken over? What can you do now to avoid a "sad deathbed confession"?
6. **Life is full of meaning—don't miss it.** All of life has meaning. Who or what gives your life its meaning? Can you remember a time when life felt like "chasing after the wind"? During those times, how preeminent was Christ in your everyday life? What are helpful and proper responses when feeling discouraged with life and the way it is going?
7. Now that you have discussed the sermon message and meditated on James 4:13-17, revisit question 1 above. How have your answers changed?