

## SCRIPTURES FOR 6/4/06 LIFEGROUP LESSON

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### **James 4:14**

Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

### **Psalm 103:15-16**

As for man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.

### **Psalm 90:10**

The length of our days is seventy years— or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.

### **Proverbs 21:29**

A wicked man puts up a bold front, but an upright man gives thought to his ways.

### **Proverbs 28:1**

The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.

### **Hebrews 9:27**

Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,

### **Psalm 89:48**

What man can live and not see death, or save himself from the power of the grave?

### **Romans 5:12**

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned

### **Romans 6:23**

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **2 Peter 3:9**

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

### **1 Corinthians 15:21-22 & 54**

For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

### **Acts 4:12**

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.

### **Romans 8:1-2**

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

### **Hebrews 12:1-3**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

NOTE TO LEADER: There is a lot of material here. Familiarize yourself with it so you know which stuff you are most comfortable with and what you will cut if you get short on time. Try to keep the lesson/discussion 20-30 minutes in length. Good luck and let me know if you have any questions. - Ed

**NOTE TO LEADERS: All items in *italics* are for your information and not designed to be read aloud.**

#### INTRODUCTION:

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Jon shared with us four undeniable facts that give us perspective and help us navigate this life, which he called, appropriately, The Facts of Life.

#### LIFE IS SHORT

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*Have someone read James 4:14 & Psalm 103:15-16 & Psalm 90:10.*

Life indeed is short, but what should we do about it? Live like the young, fearless and invincible, or like the old, careful and fragile?

Should we live boldly and take risks – for Christ and in general? Why or why not?

Should we live carefully, planning every step? Why or why not?

*Have someone read Proverbs 21:29 & 28:1.*

Is it possible to reach a balance between risk and responsibility? How?

Balance is possible, but the answer is not mastering ourselves and our surroundings; the answer is Jesus.

#### DEATH IS SURE

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*Have someone read Hebrews 9:27 & Psalm 89:48.*

No matter how obsessed we are with longevity, no matter how far medicine advances our understanding of life and the workings of the human body, as Jon quipped, man's mortality rate is still 100%. No one's getting out of here alive. With that in mind, it seems odd that we are often so ill-prepared. Jon reminded us, "Death is a part of life; live accordingly."

Why do you think this is so difficult for us?

Since death can come at any age, often without warning, how important is our pursuit of health?

In Ecclesiastes (7:2b), Solomon tells us, "death is the destiny of every man; the living should take this to heart," but Matthew (6:27) asks, "Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?" so how should we live? Jon suggested, "Live prepared to die so you can die prepared to live," but we do not do that by trusting science and medicine but by trusting Jesus. Even though death is sure, Jesus tells us

through John's gospel, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full," (10:10b). The answer is Jesus.

#### SIN IS THE CAUSE

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*Have someone read Romans 5:12 & 6:23.*

Since sin has only been present since the fall, it was not part of God's original vision when He created us. He hoped we would choose obedience, even as He knew we would not.

If He knew we would fail, why do you think he even gave us a way to do so? Is this an act of cruelty or love?

*Have someone read 2 Peter 3:9.*

Knowing we would fail, God provided a means of escape in the sacrifice of His Son. Was this an act of cruelty or love?

Knowing that sin is the cause of death and knowing that we are hopeless sinners on our own, we have some choices: we can adopt the attitude, "Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die!" or we can try to be good enough to make up for our sin, or we can heed Jesus' warning in John 14:6, "no one comes to the Father except through me." The answer is not living fast or living right, but living for Jesus.

#### JESUS IS THE CURE

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*Have someone read 1 Corinthians 15:21-22 & 54.*

Jon posed two critical questions at this point:

If you died tonight, are you sure you would go to Heaven?

If, at the gates of Heaven, you were asked why you should be allowed in, what would you say?

*Have someone read Acts 4:12.*

Perhaps we should all memorize that scripture just in case they ask.

#### CONCLUSION

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*Have someone read Romans 8:1-2.*

Are you in Christ Jesus? If so, follow the instruction of James and show it by your good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom (3:13). In fact...

*Have someone read Hebrews 12:1-3.*