

# LIFE IS SHORT.

Life is Short, Part 1  
Pastor Dave Patterson  
April 7-8, 2018

## USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so use the discussion questions as you see fit, but emphasize the relationships.

### **Key Text:**

#### **Psalm 90:12**

*Teach us to realize the brevity of life,  
so that we may truly live and achieve wisdom.*

#### **Psalm 39:4-5**

*"LORD, remind me how brief my time on earth will be.*

*Remind me that my days are numbered—  
how fleeting my life is.*

*You have made my life no longer than the width of my hand.*

*My entire lifetime is just a moment to you;  
at best, each of us is but a breath."*

#### **James 4:14**

*What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.*

Life is too short to \_\_\_\_\_

## Matthew 25:14-32

*“Again, the Kingdom of Heaven will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.*

*“After a long time, the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’*

*“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share in the joy of your master!’*

*“The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’*

*“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share in the joy of your master!’*

*“Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, (harsh and demanding) harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’*

*“His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So, you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.*

*“So, take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’*

*“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people*

*one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left*

Talent = an entrustment of time, gifting and God-given desire (passion)

## How do I live out my life calling?

1. My life is a stewardship not an ownership
2. I have been entrusted with a unique 'life-calling'

### **Romans 12:6-8**

*"In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing mercy, do it gladly."*

3. My life-calling is developed, not downloaded

### **Ephesians 5:15-17**

*"So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly but **understand what the Lord wants you to do.**"*

4. If my 'talent' is buried I can still dig it up!

William Ivy Baldwin Tightrope Walked Across a Canyon, at Age 82

Grandma Moses Started Painting, at Age 76

John Glenn Went to Space, at Age 77

Peter Roget Invented the Thesaurus, at Age 73

Diana Nyad Swam from Cuba to Florida, at Age 64

Colonel Sanders Started KFC, at Age 65

**John 17:4**

*"I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do"*

Life is short, so live out your calling!

**TALK IT THROUGH**

1. How would you finish this sentence? Life is too short to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Discuss the difference between stewardship and ownership. Can you identify areas in your life you're stewarding well? Are there areas you're still acting like an owner? What are the mental and practical adjustments necessary in order to transition to stewards?
3. Each of us has been given a unique life call and God will anoint the "real you." Your calling is the summation of your: natural and spiritual gifts, personality and passions. Where are you in the process of discovery and walking out your unique life call? If possible, articulate your calling.
4. Pastor Dave said we typically serve our way into our calling. Has this been true for you, and if so, in what ways? How would you encourage someone who has a dream or vision of something for their lives but hasn't seen it come to fruition yet?
5. "Successful people are in a continual state of development. Stay hungry!" Have you identified your gifts? Are you in an ongoing plan to develop yourself? What are some practical ways you can consistently develop your natural and spiritual gifts?
6. Do you have a buried calling? In this week's parable, fear and believing a lie caused the third servant to bury his talent. How might this relate to your story?

As you close, take time to pray for each other and spend time releasing and declaring the calling in one another's lives. We want to be people who can agree with the Apostle Paul's statement at the end of his life:

*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing. 2*

Timothy 4:7-8