



How To Live Intentionally WEEK 5 DISCUSSION GUIDE

OVERVIEW

In this message of the series entitled, *Out of Darkness - A Study in the Book of 1 Peter*, we will learn practical ways we can live more intentionally.

DISCUSSION

In **1 Peter 4**, Peter is writing to Believers facing persecution and teaching them how to overcome in life through living with purpose. He's calling them—and us—to live with a higher level of intentionality. Peter identifies several traps we can fall into when life is pressured, confused, and pain filled. Some of the key traps that come against intentional living are:

1. The Stinking Thinking Trap (having a victim mentality)
 2. The Short-Sighted Trap (giving up & compromising)
 3. The Self-Protection Trap (not allowing anyone in)
- On a scale of 1-10, how often do you live with intentionality? (1 just going through the motions and 10 living every day in God's will and purpose)
 - Have you experienced one of the three traps that come against intentional living?

How To Live Intentionally:

1. Live with a right mindset.
1 Peter 4:1 says: ***Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin.*** We are to intentionally renew our minds. We should have the same mindset as Christ, especially in our days of difficulty. The Apostle Paul says something very similar in **Philippians 2:5: *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.*** Both Peter and Paul are saying that our mindset is essential and foundational to a successful Christian life. We need to think like Jesus would think—or have the mind of Christ. It's key to living an intentional life.
 - What are some ways we can renew our minds?
 - How can we be more intentional with what we allow in our minds?

Peter continues his call for a right mindset in **verse 2: *That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.*** Not only are we to live with a healthy mindset, we are to passionately walk out the will of God. God's will is the plan and purpose of God. It's setting aside our agendas and asking for His will to be done in our lives. When you live to do God's will, it keeps you above the lust of the flesh. In **1 Peter 4:3-6**, Peter calls us to holiness and righteous living! When we choose to live for God and His will, we will experience satisfaction and true peace.

- What do you believe God's will is for your life?
- In what ways can we say 'no' to our plan and 'yes' to God's plan? Have you experienced a time like this?

2. Live with the end in mind.

In **verses 5-6**, Peter continues: ***They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.*** The dead are those who heard the Gospel while they were alive but rejected it and remained dead in their sin.

In **verse 7** Peter says: ***But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.*** Peter's not trying to build a fear mindset but an eternal conscious mindset. When we don't live with the end in mind, we end up getting caught in the Short-Sighted Trap. When we have no vision for the future, we end up sabotaging both our present and our future. **Psalm 90:12**, says: ***So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.*** There's an accountability to the time and life God has entrusted to us. Every day and every choice we make matters. When we live with the end in mind, we can live more intentionally.

- Why is it important to live with the end in mind?
- What choices can you start making today that will help you to have a better future and relationship with God tomorrow?

3. Live to serve others.

1 Peter 4: 8-11: ***And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins." Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.***

Peter challenges us to have a fervent love for one another. **Verse 8** is often misinterpreted when people read, "Love covers a multitude of sins." That doesn't mean that we hide sin. Kindness, compassion, and empathy are unparalleled forces to help people come out of sin, to come out of short-sighted thinking and out of the trap of self-protection. When the love of God flows through us to people around us, they get set free.

- How can we speak the truth in love to others?
- Has there ever been a time when God's love flowing through you helped another person walk towards freedom?

According to **verse 10**, God has given each of us a gift. This gift is to be used for others—and it's our responsibility to steward and develop this gift. When we use our gifts, it brings glory to God. So, use your gifts to love and serve others!

- Give examples of how we can develop and steward the gifts God has given us.
- What are some ways we can be intentional about serving others this month?

LIFE CHALLENGE

Let's live intentionally. Let's live out Peter's wisdom. Let's say 'Yes' to living with a right mindset, and say 'No' to stinking thinking. Let's say 'Yes' to living with the end in mind, and say 'No' to short-sighted living. Let's say 'Yes' to living to serve others, and say 'No' to self-protection. Be aware of what you mentally say 'yes' and 'no' to this week, and start living more intentionally!

PRAYER REQUESTS & CLOSE IN PRAYER