



BETTER

Living Life to the Fullest

Week 11

11 of 12

August 16, 2020

Bottom Line: A full life comes from intentional choices.

Icebreaker: During the COVID-19 slow-down/quarantine, what's the purchase you made that you most enjoyed? Was it online? What have you done to keep your edge or make life a little more enjoyable?

Key Verse: *Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in them."* Ecclesiastes 12:1

The last two chapters of Solomon's journal are all about developing a lifestyle that is contagious and rare. He is challenging us to really live life to the fullest. What are we protecting? This is our one and only life—this is no time to play it safe. How do we do this? **Invest yourself.** Give generously, for your gifts will return to you later. When you release your life to others, there is something remarkable about God's faithfulness in bringing benefits and blessings. Instead of always protecting yourself, release yourself and give freely in many different ways. Solomon tells us how important it is to see life from God's perspective so we can be wise with our giving—we give and leave the results to God.

Not only invest yourself, but Solomon says **commit yourself.** Pursue things you can change and that challenge you. Put the rest in God's hands—He is not troubled with details. Don't let the "how" get in the way of the "what" that God has for you. Release your doubt and trust God courageously. Invest, commit, and plant your seeds by living in three specific ways: **Rejoice in what you've been given.** You can rejoice and be realistic at the same time. Yes, there will be hard times and risk, but God has given us many gifts to enjoy and share. We give and leave the results to God. **Remove all resentment from your heart.** Vexation is the Hebrew term used here, and it is a combination of anger and resentment. The result of that combination is rebellion. This will clutter your mind and make a full and happy life impossible. Resentment can go so deep in us that we are unable to get free. **Remember your Creator.** Solomon begins his last chapter urging his readers to have committed spirits to the God who made them. This invested, committed, intentional life is the full life that Jesus promised: *"I am come that they may have life and have it to the full"* (John 10:10). He especially urges young people to remember their Creator when they are young so that their older lives will be full. The choices we make always impact our lives long term.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

Procrastination—waiting on the perfect moment or until you can afford it, or until you get it all figured out—is one of the greatest robbers of the life God has for you. Reflect and discuss.

Tony Campolo studied 50 people over 95 years old and asked what they would do differently if they could do life over. They said they would reflect more, risk more, and do more things that would live on after they are dead. From your vantage point today, which of these areas most needs your attention?

Don't let the how get in the way of the what? What characterizes an authentic, generous giver?

What does it mean to trust courageously?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

How is consistently rejoicing in what you have a spiritual discipline?

It's easy to agree that resentment-free living is essential to living a full life. How can we practically work with God to release resentment?

How is accountability to God a good and positive thing?

What are you investing in that cannot give back to you?

Rebellion can be so deeply rooted in us. What do we need to do to get rid of it?

How does not remembering God when you are young affect your future and satisfaction later in life?

What are you doing right now to live out the full and complete life for which God created you and Jesus came to insure?

NEXT STEPS

1. Consider how generously you can invest in and commit yourself to the purposes of God, trusting courageously. What risks can you take?
2. Rejoice and thank God for what you've been given.
3. Search your heart for any traces of resentment and give them to God.
4. Consider how you can consciously remember God deeply each day.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: A full life comes from intentional choices.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: Luke 19:26

Tuesday: 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Wednesday: Eccl. 12:14; Matt. 12:36

Thursday: Ephesians 5:15-17

Friday: Proverbs 3:5-6

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)