

STUDY GUIDE

Monday, April 12- Friday, April 16

Monday, April 12 – Read Psalm 90:12. You get to choose how to spend that little dash of time between the two dates of your earthly existence. What are you spending yours on? Are you living the dash, knowing fully who you are and why you're here? Or dashing to live, hurriedly spending precious time chasing things that really don't matter to you? **Read Psalm 90.** Consider how the writer brings our short lives clearly into perspective. What does this passage suggest about how we can find meaning in our few years on this earth?

Tuesday, April 13 – The world says, "Don't be ridiculous, be reasonable. Don't stand out. Don't take risks; play it safe, and make security and comfort your primary goals in life."...God calls us to a life of faith, living every moment all out for Him. As followers of Christ, we should come to expect risk and regard the pain and losses of life as normal and even valuable to our Christian journey. Life brings pain. And sometimes following Christ actually invites suffering. But the life God offers is one of belonging and fulfillment and exciting breakthroughs. To experience it, we have to risk. **Read Mark 10:29-31, Luke 18:31-34, and Matthew 16:21-23.** What do you see about the life of risky faithfulness in Jesus?

Wednesday, April 14 – Time once spent cannot be reclaimed. Once an hour, minute, or moment is over, it's gone forever. However, we can redeem the remaining time we have. We can reconsider our God-given purpose and the eternal legacy we want to leave behind and allow them to guide our schedule moving forward. Johann Friedrich von Schiller said, *"He who neglects the present moment throws away all he has."* Where have you been living recently? Have you been glorifying the past? Have you been dreaming of the future? For a life of purpose, you must live in the present, where you can make a difference by applying past lessons and making wise choices to impact the future. What, practically might you do to live more in the present, while applying lessons from your past and investing in your future? Read the following passages and write out a list of God's priorities: **Psalm 63:3, Proverbs 16:16, Proverbs 17:1, Ezekiel 18:23, Mark 12:29-31 and Acts 5:29.**

Thursday, April 15 – The only way to risk greatness is to trust God with all areas of your life...He wants us to trust Him to accomplish incredible things we could never achieve on our own. **Read Luke 5:1-11.** That day, Jesus revealed the unexpected potential in Peter's life. Changed from fisher-man to man-fisher, Peter was destined to become the rock-solid follower which Jesus built his church. Each and every day I have to come to the place where I can't control everything in my life, and I have to let go and surrender to God. He always catches me, and that's when I feel His peace and strength in the stressful moments of life. What do the following passages promise? What don't they promise? **John 10:27-30, Romans 8:31-39 and 2 Timothy 4:16-18.**

Friday, April 16 – God's power is available to help us live the lives for which He created us, but so much of the time we live in our own strength. We try to climb the hills and tackle problems without adequate power to finish the course. Have you ever felt powerless? Good! In ourselves, we are lacking real power for abundant living. God purposely designed us with weaknesses, so that we'd depend on Him for complete, all-out living. **Read 1 Corinthians 1:25-2:5 and 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.** Trusting God is often uncomfortable, because our faith in Him is a lifelong work in progress. But He's patient with us, as long as we remain willing to take the next uncomfortable step. Whether we believe it or not, this often awkward process is the means by which God causes us to accomplish the miraculous.