

one
month
to live

Leave Boldly

Week Four

JOURNEY
lutheran ministries

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Leave Boldly

Connect *(10 minutes)*

Write your Legacy statement. Start with what your life has been so far and then continue with it well into the future. What do you want to be known for when you pass on? What legacy will you leave in your relationships?

Respond *(10 minutes)*

Think about the possessions you will leave behind one day. Who will inherit them? Remember, we don't really own anything. We're just stewards of what God has given us.

How often do you accomplish something that lasts beyond the moment? What did you do last week that will last for the rest of this year? For ten years? For eternity? How much time did you spend this week reading God's word compared to the time you spent reading the newspaper or watching television?

Expand *(60 minutes)*

READ Matthew 13:1-12; 18-23 (NIV 1984, ©1984)

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ² Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³ Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly,

because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹ He who has ears, let him hear.” ¹⁰ The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?”

¹¹ He replied, “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. ¹² Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him... ¹⁸ “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰ The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹ But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. ²² The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. ²³ But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

1. Where has the seed landed in your life?

- Along the path
- In the rocky places
- In the thorns
- In the good soil

Where has the seed fallen in the lives of people you care about and how can you nurture their seed by the Holy Spirit?

READ Acts 8:26-40 (NIV 1984, ©1984)

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”
²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship,²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet.²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.³¹ “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.³² The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture: “He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth.
³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.”³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?”³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. Why shouldn’t I be baptized?”³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

1. Philip heard God’s will and ran to it. On a scale of one to ten, with one being totally following your will and ten being totally following God’s will, where are you presently?

In what areas of your life do you see the greatest discrepancy between your will and His—relationships, finances, spiritual growth, something else? How will you go about changing this?

2. Where do you behave the same as Phillip and where do you behave differently than Phillip?

3. Reread verse 29-30. What did the Spirit tell Phillip, and what did Phillip do on his own? Do you live your life looking for the God instances or opportunities he's providing for you? What will help you do that better in your life?

4. Experiences like these help build one's character. How might God be using your experiences to build your character?

5. How important is comfort to you at this stage of your life? What conveniences would be the hardest for you to give up? Computer, microwave, iPod, mattress, coffee? How do these prevent you from "living boldly" in your life for Christ?

6. How often do these conveniences prevent you from stepping into God's opportunities for you? Who will help you so you don't pass these opportunities by again?

7. Think of a recent experience when your spiritual beliefs led to a practical application of serving others. What need in others did the experience meet? What need in you did it meet? How will you choose to meet people each day of your life?

8. Your life can make a difference in the life of others. What choices are you going to make now so your Christian life makes an impact on others? Will you spend time with your children or grandchildren and tell them of your faith? Will you set up your finances to continue to give back to God's ministry? What will you do to keep God's word vibrant for the lives of those who come after you?

Honor *(3 minutes)*

What is the greatest barrier to trusting God in your life right now? What past experiences have left you doubtful, angry, hurt, or disappointed? Spend some time in prayer, either writing or talking to God about these experiences. It can be difficult to build trust with him if you're not communicating.

Apply *(7 minutes)*

- ❖ How have you enjoyed focusing and living your life like you had one month to live what have you learned about yourself and your relationships, with God, with others? How will you live your life different from 30 days ago?

One Month to Live Cliff Notes

Day 23

The Lord wants all of His followers to leave a lasting legacy. To leave a legacy we must understand God's calling for our lives and then do it.

Day 24

To live a life that will outlast us we must continually plant seeds of faith. Our challenge is to never stop telling others about the good news of Jesus.

Day 25

Eternal legacies are built on our convictions, our character, and the people that surround our lives. Jesus must be number 1 in our own personal lives.

Day 26

On our road of life we must travel in God's direction not our own. When we drive our road of life our way it is like heading the wrong way on a one way street.

Day 27

If you want to experience God's full adventure for your life you must be willing to take action and serve those in need with God's love.

Day 28

In order to impact those who follow us we have to make God number 1 in our lives, serve others, and give from what He has given us. God will give us His power and strength to leave a lasting impression.

Day 29.

All of us will have an end to our lives. We must always keep our eyes focused heavenward and focused on God's Word and people. We must never lose focus of our eternal perspective.

Day 30

There are 4 key ingredients in leaving a lasting legacy: Focus on God's love for you; Show integrity in your life; Forgive other people; and have enthusiasm for God's calling in our lives. We must live out our lives with discovery, joy, and purposeful contentment.

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