



Kingdom Investments - Session Three

“Number your days”

Session Three Purpose: To count your days and see God’s big picture regarding what you are doing in your life and when you give to Hope’s ministry.

Needed for session: Bibles, paper, and pencils/pens for each person.

Leaders’ Introduction: (After welcoming your participants, try to recap the past two weeks) “Let’s pray and watch the video.”

Play Video Three (10 Minutes)

Bible Study (10 Minutes): Put the following in your own words: “None of us know how valuable we really are, or how short our lives may be. We tend to ignore what Scripture commands and often instead assume that we have all the time we want to do what we think gives us pleasure in life. Look up the following verses.” [Allow participants to turn in their Bibles to the passages announced.]

Psalm 90:12, **“Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”**

Matthew 6:31-33, **“Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘what shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father know that you need them all. But seek**

first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

Leader: “What does it mean to number your days?” [Let several people answer.] What would motivate us to do that?

Leader: “Is it possible what we say is not the same as what we really believe? Is it possible that sometimes we say that Jesus is our Lord and Savior, and that we trust him for eternity, but when push comes to shove, we may not really believe those words? Why is this so?” [Allow for some discussion on this.]

“In Matthew 6:31-33, Jesus is commanding us (This is a command in the Greek New Testament!) to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. What does ‘seek first’ mean? [Discussion here.] “Why don’t we do that all the time?” [Let several people share.]

Leader: “Why is seeking first the kingdom of God so hard to do?” [Allow several people to answer.]

Leader: (If group is large break up into small groups, but if not, feel free to stay as one group) “Let’s break up in small groups of four. The person whose birthday is closest to June 1 is the leader, and the person whose birthday is closest to September 1 is the scribe. [Allow people to get into groups. Once they are settled, continue with instructions.]

Leader: “In your groups, answer the following questions:

1. What is an “eternal perspective?”
2. What would it take for you to have this perspective?
3. Do you believe handling your finances with an eternal perspective is good? Why or why not?
4. What are the benefits of having an eternal perspective regarding your giving money to Hope?”

[Give groups 5-10 minutes to work through these questions. Then the leader should go through each questions and ask groups to read their answers.]

Leader: In the video, you heard some of Jim Harrell’s powerful story (feel free to add information from the bio below). How did his words and story impact you as you heard him speak? If you are not living with an eternal perspective, what might need to happen in order for you to change your focus?

Leader: “Thanks so much for being present at these three sessions. I hope it has been profitable for you. Let’s close our session in prayer.”

[Leader closes meeting in prayer.]

Jim Harrell bio: Jim Harrell was a dynamic president of a company. He seemingly had a great life. He had a wonderful family, was well known in his community, his church, and deeply respected among his professional peers. He also had the wealth that comes with success.

Then, one day he discovered he had ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. This progressive disease affects the nerves and muscles. There is no cure. People start out with minor symptoms and in a short time lose the ability to balance, walk, use of their hands, their voice, and eventually can't breathe on their own. They quite literally wither away and die.

Instead of remaining angry and upset about this fatal diagnosis, Jim began to number his days, and seek first the Kingdom of God. An amazing thing happened. He began to have significant interactions with many people for the Lord. People in his neighborhood, the city he lived in, and around the world were drawn to him. He eventually would say that ALS was a blessing because it rescued his life from being wasted on affluence and things that were not eternally meaningful. Jim said he developed an eternal perspective. He said that the last few years of his life were more meaningful than all the years before.