

Beyond Survival: Leaving Space

January 21 & 22, 2023

All Bible passages are quoted from the New International Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

BIG IDEA: God wants us to have a fulfilling life, not an over-full life.

Leviticus 23:3 | “There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a day of sabbath rest, a day of sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a sabbath to the LORD.

Leviticus 19:9-10 | ⁹ “When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰ Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the LORD your God.

1. Survival instincts are initiated by FEAR.

Living beyond survival is initiated by FAITH.

2. God commands us to leave some SPACE around the edges. (v.9)

- In your SCHEDULE.
- In your FINANCES.
- In your RELATIONSHIPS.

3. LEAVE some of your time and resources for OTHER people. (v.10)

BEYOND SURVIVAL HACK: Make space in your calendar and budget for what matters most.

NEXT STEP PRAYER: God, help me live a fulfilled life.

I commit to be intentional with my time and money.

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Further Study & Discussion Questions

Getting to Know You:

Which part of your life is lacking space? Where are you maxed out? Is every dollar spent, every minute booked, every ounce of energy used up?

Quick Review:

Was there anything about this week's message that was surprising to you? Was there a specific point or Scripture that made you want to elbow the person sitting next to you? Or maybe made them want to elbow you? What was the one thing you remember most from the message?

Digging Deeper:

You may have heard this week, "We can spend so much time chasing the "good life" that we miss the good things in life."

Why do you think we chase so hard after the "good life?"

What does society tell us the "good life" is?

Read **Ephesians 2:1-10**.

Ephesians 2:1-10 | ¹ As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

We see in verse 3 the phrase, "gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts" and later in verse 10 that we are "created in Christ Jesus to do good works." Which of these two opposing phrases consumes most of your time, money, and energy?

- What do you think are the good works we were created to do?
- What are some of the cravings of the flesh society tells us are the good things?

Application:

Do you need to re-work your calendar? Does your budget need adjusting? Does someone or something deserve more/less of your time?

We challenge you to take an honest look at those things and make at least one necessary change today!