

Talk About It

Small Group Discussion Guide

5 Words to Change Your Life

November 26, 2023

Start Talking

What is your go-to pie at Thanksgiving, and who makes it the best?

Main Idea

This is Week 4 of our teaching series titled "5 Words to Change Your Life". This week we will look at what it means to be INTENTIONAL and SPONTANEOUS! There is a unique correlation that binds spontaneous action with an intentional response. When someone caught a photo of a police officer spontaneously buying socks for a homeless person, the photo and story went viral, with people motivated to mimic the behavior, and stores began selling out of shoes and socks from the response. For the Believer, intentionality is *spirit-filled*, and spontaneity is *spirit-led*. For example, Peter and John were among the disciples who saw how Jesus lived. When they encountered a man who was lame from birth (Acts 3), they mimicked the love and power of Christ *through* themselves *to* that individual in a life-changing way. Just like them, there is a Christ-centered purpose that defines the way we live. We have something that can change their lives and give them a purpose for living. Being intentional means we must be *willing to work* toward specific results, placing a high value on the ministry you can do and with whom you do it. Being spontaneous means we must be *willing to stop* to capture the moment, which can lead to something extraordinary! Let's lean in and discover how God can use us in our intentional and spontaneous moments in life!

Personalize It

1. Are you a more intentional or a more spontaneous personality? (For those who are married, is your spouse the same or the opposite?)
2. What is the value of intentionality? Spontaneity? What are the risks associated with each?
3. As a follower of Christ, what does it mean to be "willing to work" for a specific outcome? What is the work? What is the outcome?
4. Also for Christ-followers, what does it mean to be "willing to stop" and capture the moment? Why is it important to stop sometimes? When is it important to stop?
5. Can Jesus actually use you? Re-read the question and do some inventory. Do you truly, fully believe it? How would your living of life change if you did?

Let's Do It! Commit to a step and live it out this week!

1. Schedule a "date" between now and Christmas—before the busyness of the season overtakes your schedule—with your spouse, your child(ren), or a close friend. Plan an evening. What would they enjoy doing? What topics of conversation would help them light up? Put some intentional thought into an evening invested in that relationship.

2. Sometimes it can be healthy to interrupt the routine and do something completely off-script. Initiate something spontaneous with a loved one this week—dinner out, an ice cream run, movie night in, a special song and "living room" dance with your spouse. Look for opportunities to do something spontaneous this week and then act!
3. There is a purpose that defines how we live as Christ-followers. What is that purpose and how might it transform your life and the lives of those around us if we were to live intentionally? Write down your purpose(s) in Christ and be ready to act on the opportunities he gives you this week to live out that purpose at home, at work, at school, alone, and in the spontaneous moments to come!

Let's Pray

Father, thank You for Your love. Thank You for life, friends, loved ones, and all the moments in life that can help us grow in the likeness of Your son Jesus and to be Your hands and feet here on earth. We confess that often our efforts and focus are for our own entertainment or pleasure with little thought to Your greater purpose for these moments. Help us to become more intentional in how we live our days so that we might become more aligned with Your purpose in each conversation, relationship, and circumstance. Help us to remain open and obedient, intentional to build our plans around Your purpose, not the other way around. Help us to remain flexible to the spontaneous moments where You would use us to bless, inspire, or "be there" for others. We invite You to continue Your work in us so that Your mighty purpose to seek and save the lost would work through us in all the planned and unplanned moments in our lives. Thank You for the work You have already done, and thank You for the work You are yet to do! We give You every moment going forward so that You may be glorified, the name of Jesus may be exalted, and so the lost may be found! We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Scriptures

Acts 3:1-8 (NLT)

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. ²Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. ³When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. ⁴Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" ⁵So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

⁶Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." ⁷Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. ⁸He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.