

What Are You Going to Do With Your Life?

DISCUSSION GUIDE

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CHAPTER 1:

DON'T WASTE YOUR LIFE

1. What comes to your mind when you think of a “wasted life”?
2. What are the characteristics of a life you would consider “wasted”?
3. Did reading this chapter change the way you would answer that first question?
4. J. D. says on page 6, “The right question . . . is not if God has called you to his mission, only where.” Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
5. Do you agree that everyone wants to live for something significant? Do you feel like you are currently living a significant life, or a wasted life?
6. On page 15, J. D. quotes the late missionary Jim Elliot, who said, “he is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.” Spend some time reflecting on that passage. What are the things in this world that you cannot keep? What are the things you cannot lose?

CHAPTER 2:

KICK YOUR BUCKET LIST

1. Share about a time when you really looked forward to something, but it didn't live up to your expectations.
2. Have you ever made a bucket list? Do you agree or disagree with J. D. that it's inappropriate for Christians to have a bucket list?
3. How does the biblical doctrine of the renewed heavens and earth in the next life change how we think about what we do in this life?
4. Discuss Blaise Pascal's analogy of the monster on pages 23–24. Did this image stand out to you? Is it convicting to you? Do you fall into the trap of distracting yourself from the greatest realities of life?
5. Are you “making the most of your mist”? If not, what might you need to change to do so?

CHAPTER 3:

THE MYTH OF CALLING

1. J. D. says on page 36 that “every follower of Jesus is called to leverage his or her life for the Great commission.” Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
2. How have you been thinking about your goals and plans for this life? How might those goals and plans look different through the lens of the universal calling of all Christians to mission?
3. On page 38, J. D. writes, “Whatever you’re good at, do it well to the glory of God, and do it somewhere strategic for the mission of God.” What are you good at? Are you doing it well for the glory of God? Are you doing it somewhere strategic for the mission of God?
4. Does it change your view of Christianity to read about how the mission has advanced most not through “professional” ministers, but through the “*them*”?
5. Is it overwhelming to think about the fact that God has called you to multiply, to make disciples? How does it make you feel to know it’s not you who have to do this, but Jesus who does it through you?

CHAPTER 4:

GREATER THAN JOHN

1. What is your experience with the Holy Spirit? Do you come from a church and tradition that emphasize his role in the Christian life, or not so much? Or is this whole idea new to you?
2. What did Jesus mean when he said that those with the Spirit would do greater works than his?
3. If it’s true that we’re better off with the Spirit inside us than Jesus beside us, how might that change what you plan on doing with your life?
4. What is more important in your efforts to make disciples—your *ability* or your *willingness*?
5. Not everything that comes from heaven has your name on it, but something does. Are you starting to get an idea of what might have your name on it? Of what God might be calling you to? Discuss together what you think he might be leading you to do with your life.

CHAPTER 5:

THE LAW OF THE HARVEST

1. What is the law of the harvest?
2. J. D. says on page 67, “What you hang onto, you lose. What you give away, you keep for eternity.” What are you hanging onto, and what are you giving away?
3. What is the difference between living for Christ’s kingdom and living for your own kingdom? Which kingdom have you been living for?
4. In the Parable of the Talents, why was the servant who buried his talents considered “wicked”? What would you compare “burying your talents” to today?
5. Fear keeps more people from abandoning their lives into God’s kingdom than anything else. What are you afraid of? Is it holding you back?

CHAPTER 6:

ONE THING YOU LACK

1. J. D. says on page 78, “God won’t accept gift cards. He only takes blank checks.” What does this mean? Have you given God a blank check?
2. The rich young man wouldn’t give up his “one thing”—his wealth—to follow Jesus. What is the “one thing” for you? Are you willing to take your hands off of it so you can take hold of Christ?
3. What does it mean to be a “living sacrifice”?
4. Christian discipleship is extremely challenging—it is a call to total surrender. Why do we sometimes expect it to be easy?
5. What prevents many people from totally surrendering to Christ? Is there anything preventing you from total surrender?

CHAPTER 7:

AUDIENCE OF ONE

1. Whose approval did you grow up wanting more than anything? What did it mean for you when that person gave—or withheld—approval?
2. Do you struggle to believe that Jesus is happy with you? Do you tend to think you have to work to get his approval, or do you believe you are free to work because you already *have* his approval?
3. What would it mean to live like God’s approval of you was most important—and to live like he’s already shown you his approval in Christ?
4. J. D. tells the story about Rusty the Rabbit as an analogy for chasing things that aren’t truly satisfying. What are the things you chase after for satisfaction that can’t actually bring them? What would it look like for you to turn away from those things and turn toward Christ?
5. Jesus + Nothing = Everything. Take some time to discuss this beautiful truth and what it means for your life.

CHAPTER 8:

DO PEOPLE REALLY NEED TO HEAR ABOUT JESUS TO GET TO HEAVEN?

1. Why is it so hard to grapple with the truth that people must believe in Christ to be saved?
2. Talk about the six premises of an eternal worldview (starting on page 108). Are you convinced by J. D.'s argument? Why or why not?
3. If this is true, what are the implications for your life?
4. There are currently at least 4.5 billion people alive on earth who are undeniably lost. About half of them qualify as “unreached”—which means they are most likely never going to hear about Jesus. What are you going to do, in obedience to Christ, about this reality?
5. J. D. says we're all called to two things: first, that we live sent to the people in our lives, and second, that we consider crossing a boundary. Are you doing these things? If not, what might be holding you back?

CHAPTER 9:

WORTH IT

1. Do you believe that God is so good, and his mission so important, that it would be worth it to lose everything else but live for him?
2. Talk about the stories of Kristen, Stephen, and Clara. Which of these most stood out to you? Do you admire these three people?
3. Sometimes obedience will take us in a direction we don't want to go in the moment. Do you think obedience to Jesus is worth it?
4. A line from a poem has been repeated several times in this book: “Only one live to life, 'twill soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last.” What do you make of this line? Do you believe it's true? Will you adopt it as a personal motto?
5. What are you going to do with your life? Are you going to use it in a way that only makes sense if eternity is real and the gospel is true?

EPILOGUE:

PUT YOUR “YES” ON THE TABLE

1. What have you learned from reading this book?
2. Has your mind or heart been changed in any significant way by reading and discussing this book?
3. Is your “yes” on the table? If it still isn't, what's holding you back?

WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE?

1. What are you going to do with your life?
2. How are your plans now different than when you started this book?
3. Consider writing on the cover of this book in a sharpie what you plan to do with your life and sharing with your friends, family, or on social media.