

GROUP GUIDE

NEWSPRING CHURCH

THE LIFE OF JOB

DON'T WASTE YOUR LIFE

WEEK 2



BIG IDEA

The Bible tells us the second half of Job's life was more blessed than the first. Last week we saw one key to living that kind of blessed life is to never give up on the God who has never given up on us.

This week, we will see that our lives will be wasted instead of blessed if we spend our time making excuses. God did not create you to make excuses; He has called you to make a difference.

GET STARTED

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Think about a time when you got in trouble as a kid and made an excuse for what you did. What did you do? What was your excuse?

Do you still make excuses when things go the wrong way for you? Who or what are you most likely to blame when things go wrong?

> WATCH THE CLIP FROM PERRY'S SERMON.

Job endured a lot of suffering. But he didn't make excuses or cast blame on anyone else. God didn't create you to make excuses; He has called you to make a difference. Perry shared in his message how we can move past excuses into a blessed future (Job 42:12).

DISCUSS

Why is making excuses a sure way to waste your life?

Take a look at the verses in Matthew 25:14-30. How do you see the master's generosity in this story?

Why is it important to see that God is generous with us?

How did the master react to the servant who made excuses? What does that tell you about what God wants for your life?

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This story from Jesus shows us just how seriously God takes our lives. God has a lot invested in us and He expects us to do something with it. The reason He expects that is because God wants us to share in His joy. It's through using what God's given us that we can share in the joy of Jesus.

> READ MATTHEW 7:9-12.

What is the main point of Jesus' teaching here?

What kind of Father is God?

What does that mean about what He wants for you?

God is out for your best—that's the kind of Father He is. He wants us to surrender to Him not because He's after our grudging submission, but because He's after our joy. When we stop making excuses and start taking hold of God's gifts, we can make sure our lives aren't wasted and our future is blessed.

NEXT STEPS

Help your group identify what next steps we need to take together.

What is your next step in discovering and using your spiritual gift? Where do you need to volunteer this week?

How are you going to help your family and close friends make the most of their lives and not waste them making excuses?

What is one situation in which you need to stop making excuses and start doing something? What's the first thing you need to do in that situation?

PRAY

Thank God that He wants your best and your joy. Ask Him to help you not make excuses but instead make a difference.

LEADER TIPS

Midway through this week, send a follow-up email to your group with some or all of the following:

- Questions to consider as they continue to reflect on what they learned this week:
 - **Have you decided where to volunteer using your gifts?**
 - **Have you been tempted to make excuses and play the victim this week? How are you moving past that?**
- A note of encouragement, following up on any specific prayer requests mentioned during your group gathering.
- The challenge to memorize Matthew 7:11.