

Living With No Regrets
Lesson 01 of the series, “No Regrets”

I. Life is too short to waste time pursuing the wrong things.

“A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. He said to himself, ‘What should I do? I don’t have room for all my crops.’ Then he said, ‘I know! I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. And I’ll sit back and say to myself, “My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!”’ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?’ “Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.” Luke 12:16-21 (NLT)

“I collected great sums of silver and gold, the treasure of many kings and provinces. I hired wonderful singers, both men and women, and had many beautiful concubines. I had everything a man could desire! ...Anything I wanted, I would take. I denied myself no pleasure. I even found great pleasure in hard work, a reward for all my labors. But as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless—like chasing the wind. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere.”
Ecclesiastes 2:8-11 (NLT)

Resolved: This year I will choose to pursue the right things.

“Companions as we are in this work with you, we beg you please don’t squander one bit of this marvelous life God has given us.” 2 Corinthians 6:1 (MSG)

II. God is the only resource we can trust for knowing and doing the right things.

a. God knows everything.

“Great is our Lord... His understanding is infinite.” Psalm 147:5 (NKJV)

“O LORD, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I’m far away... You know everything I do.”

Psalm 139:1-3 (NLT)

“Only I can tell you the future before it even happens.” Isaiah 46:10 (NLT)

Life Application: God promises to guide us if we will listen.

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth.” John 16:13 (NLT)

The LORD says, “I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you. Do not be like a senseless horse or mule that needs a bit and bridle to keep it under control.”

Psalm 32:8-9 (NLT)

b. God loves us completely.

“For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west. The LORD is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him. For he knows how weak we are; he remembers we are only dust.” Psalm 103:11-14 (NLT)

Life Application: God wants what is best for us more than we do.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT)

c. God is all-powerful.

“O Sovereign LORD! You made the heavens and earth by your strong hand and powerful arm. Nothing is too hard for you! ...You are the great and powerful God, the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. You have all wisdom and do great and mighty miracles...” Jeremiah 32:17-20 (NLT)

Life Application: God will give us the power to do right things.

“I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms.” Ephesians 1:19-20 (NLT)

Resolved: This year I will surrender my passions, plans and desires to God.

“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives.” Galatians 5:24-25 (NLT)

III. Before we make any major decisions this year we should pause.

- a. We should pause to listen to God’s Word and God’s people.

“Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.” Psalm 119:105 (NLT)

“Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives.” Colossians 3:16 (NLT)

- b. We should pause to pray for God’s direction and peace.

“If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.” James 1:5 (NLT)

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)

Resolved: This year with God’s help I will follow where God leads me.

“God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.” Philippians 2:13 (NLT)

“Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:3-5 (NLT)

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Connect Group Questions

1. Share two of your New Years resolutions for 2017 with your group. Why did you choose them? Why do some people refuse to make resolutions?

The following questions require some self-reflection. Spend some time alone pondering them before sharing your answers with your group.

2. What God-driven dreams have I put on hold? Why? When will I be ready to tackle a God-sized challenge? (Read Philippians 2:13 & Ephesians 1:19-20 if you need encouragement to get going)
3. Read Luke 12:16-21 & Ecclesiastes 2:8-11. What activities in my life are time-wasters or taking me in the wrong direction?
4. Am I doing anything in my life that requires faith? If not, why not? What is my greatest fear about trusting God with my life? Now read James 1:5-6. Where does faith intersect obedience?
5. What are the current barriers to spiritual health in my life? What keeps me from connecting with God? What lifestyle changes am I willing to make in order to get spiritually healthy?
6. At Centerpoint we often remind people that in order to have a closer relationship with God we need to: Surrender, Listen, Pray and Obey. How should these four steps impact our New Year's resolutions?
7. Discuss the following quotations:

"Security is a superstition. It does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. Life is either a daring adventure or nothing." Helen Keller

"People who know their lives will soon be over tend to feel a desperate urge to change. But a desperation to change is not enough. In order to sustain the changes, we have to be connected to a power source beyond ourselves...We have to move from willpower to the real power that comes from a connection to our creator." Kerry Shook in "One Month to Live"

"If the ladder is not leaning against the right wall, every step we take just gets us to the wrong place faster." Stephen R. Covey