

“Before You Go”

5 Nuggets of Wisdom to Remember **Senior Sunday 2024**

“Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one’s youth.” Psalm 127:3-4 (ESV)

Before we send our “arrows”, here are five nuggets of wisdom for us all to remember:

1. Don’t get drunk on social media & news.

“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit.”
Ephesians 5:18 (ESV)

If we aren't careful, we can fill ourselves so much that we become distracted from what God wants us to do.

“For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”
Romans 8:6-8 (ESV)

Life Application: We must fill our lives with God’s Spirit. When life squeezes us, and it will, whatever is on the inside will be revealed. - “The Toothpaste Rule”

2. Remember, the Gospel saves...and builds bridges.

“Jesus stood up and said to her, ‘Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?’ She said, ‘No one, Lord.’ And Jesus said, ‘Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.’” John 8:10-11 (ESV)

We must deliver truth in love. Too much truth without the presence of grace has the potential to build tension and cause harm. Both must exist!

“Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.”
Psalm 85:10 (ESV)

3. **EVERYONE is created in the image of God.**

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” Genesis 1:27 (ESV)

God created you. That means that you matter. God is not in the business of creating mistakes. Yes! That means that you aren't a mistake. You are valuable to the Creator of the Universe.

“Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” Luke 15:8-10 (ESV)

Life Application: We are created on purpose, for a purpose!

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)

4. **It's all about relationships!**

a. Learn the “art of neighboring.” Why? God commands it. Do we know our neighbors?

“And he said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” Matthew 22:37-39 (ESV)

b. Break bread with people.

This is where the term “companion” comes from.
com = “with, together” + pan(is) = “bread”

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” Acts 2:42 (ESV)

c. Invite outsiders in.

Who’s at our table? Jesus didn't just eat/hangout with people who looked like him, talked like him, and acted like him. He invited tax collectors and sinners to His table. Jesus’ mission was to seek and save the lost. We need to join Him in that mission.

“And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples.” Matthew 9:10 (ESV)

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” Luke 19:10 (ESV)

Life Application: We need two types of people at our tables. We need those who NEED TO KNOW God and those who NEED TO GROW in God.

5. God’s got this; we don’t!

“Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth! The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.”
Psalm 46:10-11

Do you know Him? Have you made him your LORD? If we aren’t careful, we will raise up a generation that worships “a god of their parents.” At some point, you have to make Him your God.

Life Application: We must surrender our lives to God.

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23 (ESV)

Senior Sunday - May 5th, 2024 - Rob Cox rob@centeringlives.com

Connect Group Questions:

1. What was the best piece of advice you received when you graduated from high school/college, finished basic training, received certification, etc.? What advice would you pass on to someone graduating in 2024?
2. Read Ephesians 5:15-18. In what ways can consuming too much social media or news ruin our lives just like consuming too much alcohol? What is the Biblical alternative? (Romans 8:1-8) How does this work in your life?
3. Read Psalm 85:10 & John 8:1-11. How can God be perfect in justice (righteousness) and mercy at the same time? How did Jesus’ crucifixion allow God to display His love for sinners and His hatred toward sin at the same time?
4. Why do we sometimes doubt that we are created in the image of God? (Genesis 1:26-28)
5. Discuss the following statements: “Your life matters!” “God doesn’t make mistakes!”

6. How does God feel about lost people? (Luke 15:8-10 & 19:10) How does God want us to feel about lost people? (Matthew 25:34-40)
7. When did your faith in Jesus become personal as opposed to the faith your parents had, the faith they talk about in church, etc.? (Psalm 46:10-11, John 1:12)