



**Surviving Life**

January 24th, 2010  
Sermon Based Studies

Group Members Guide

**Planning Your Retirement**—Don Erickson  
**Luke 12:16-20**

Text: **Luke 12:16-20** <sup>16</sup>And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. <sup>17</sup>He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'  
<sup>18</sup>"Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup>And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."'  
<sup>20</sup>"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' (NIV)

### Getting to know me

1. Have you thought about retirement? What would you like it to look like?

### Into the Bible

1. What plans have you made for the 20,000 to 30,000 year range? That is, how do you know what is going to happen after death?
  
2. In his sermon, Don quoted James 2:18 – *Show me your faith without deeds and I will show you my faith (I will prove I am a Christian) by what I do.* In your life, what evidence would there be that you have faith? Scan through the letter of James and list some of the “works” that he talks about. Would these qualify you?

3. Look again at the verses Don listed about God's glory. What does God do for His own glory? To ask "why" can call for an easy answer; that He is God and worthy of this. But try to get deeper on this. What happens to us when we give glory to God for who He is and what He has done?

[I would recommend the first chapter of Desiring God by John Piper]

Ephesians 1:4-6, 11-14

Psalm 23:3

Psalm 31:3

Psalm 25:11

John 14:13

Isaiah 43:7, 21

4. In Mark 10:29-30, Jesus tells his disciples what is the present value of following him. It seems obvious that this is not a literal "return" on investment. How do you interpret this? Would you say this is true in your life?

### **Application Questions**

1. How much thought do you give to your possessions?
2. If you are doing things that can not bring glory to God, you should stop doing them. Do you really believe that? Where and when can you evaluate your life on this point? How would that be difficult for you?
3. What would you say that you "give up" for the sake of following Jesus?
4. Think about I Tim. 6:6-10. How do you try to balance "contentment" with the fact that you occasionally buy something new? What kind of guidelines should there be for this?