

Scripture for the Week

During the week, read and meditate on these verses of Scripture. Ask God to help you embrace and apply these truths to your life.

Job 14:5 Man's days are determined; you have decreed the number of his months and have set limits he cannot exceed.

Psalms 39:4 "Show me, O LORD, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting is my life.

Psalms 39:5-7 You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Each man's life is but a breath. Man is a mere phantom as he goes to and fro: He bustles about, but only in vain; he heaps up wealth, not knowing who will get it. "But now, Lord, what do I look for? My hope is in you.

Psalms 90:12 Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Psalms 89:47 Remember how fleeting is my life. For what futility you have created all men!

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

James 4:13-16 Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil.

***"No Limit" Living (Selected Scriptures)**

Definition of Margin: *The space between my current activity and my limits.*

Without margins we get:

1. Stressed Out
2. Self-Absorbed
3. Relationship Poor

Why do we live this way?

1. Fear of missing out. (Falling behind)
2. Guilt of underperforming. (Not matter)

What is God's plan for us?

1. Accept our God given limits.

2. Allow God to insert His margins.



REALife Application

Set aside time during your week (add some margin!)
Reflect on the following questions. This can be done
individually, with your family, or in a small group.

1. Are you currently living at a “pace” that you feel is healthy and sustainable? Why do you feel this way? Be specific.
2. Read Mark 12:28-31. How would you say you are doing at obeying the most important commandment?
3. In what areas of your life do you feel that you have the least margin? Are there some immediate steps you could take to increase your margin?
4. Do you feel that you have confidence in God to guide your life? See Proverbs 3:5-6. Now read the words of Jesus in Matthew 6:19-34. How do you display your confidence in God by your daily choices?
5. Identify areas of your life where you have established your own limits or allowed the culture to determine your limits. Are you satisfied with the results of living this way? Ask God to help you live within His limits.

*1st message in the Margins series, by Pastor Tim Hawks.
CDs of this message (07/19/09) may be purchased at the
Media Center or listened to online at www.hcbc.com.

6. Do you and your family view the Sabbath as a day of rest? Do you spend intentional time together in worship and connecting with each other? If you are not currently experiencing “Sabbath rest,” discuss this as a family and identify ways to make this a priority.
7. Ask God to show you specific areas of your life where you are living without margin. How can you insert or adjust the margins in your life?

Recommended reading:

Margin: Restoring Emotional, Physical, Financial, and Time Reserves to Overloaded Lives, by Richard A. Swenson, M.D.

Making Room for Life: Trading Chaotic Lifestyles for Connected Relationships by Randy Frazee

Memory Verse

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

(Please See Additional Scriptures on the Back)