

# Life is short; make it count

READERS: A, B, Group a Group B, All, Leader

SCRIPTURE BASED ON: Psalms 39, 49, 90, 102; Matthew 6, James 4

FK reading level 4.6

## Psalm 39

A: Show me, LORD, my life's end

GROUP A: and the number of my days

A: let me know how fleeting my life is.

GROUP A: You have made my days a mere handbreadth

GROUP B: the span of my years is as nothing before you.

B: Everyone is but a breath

ALL: even those who seem secure

B: Surely everyone goes around like a mere phantom

GROUP B: in vain they rush about, heaping up wealth

ALL: without knowing whose it will finally be.

## Psalm 49

A: But now, Lord, what do I look for?

ALL: My hope is in you.

B: No one can redeem the life of another

A: or give to God a ransom for them

ALL: the ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough

A: so that they should live on forever and not see decay.

B: For all can see that the wise die

GROUP A: that the foolish and the senseless also perish

GROUP B: leaving their wealth to others.

ALL: People, despite their wealth, do not endure

A: Do not be overawed when others grow rich

GROUP A: when the splendor of their houses increases

B: for they will take nothing with them when they die

GROUP A: their splendor will not descend with them.

## Psalm 90

A: Before the mountains were born

B: or you brought forth the whole world

ALL: from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

B: A thousand years in your sight

A: are like a day that has just gone by

ALL: or like a watch in the night.

GROUP A: You sweep people away in the sleep of death

GROUP B: they are like the new grass of the morning

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GROUP A: In the morning it springs up new  
 ALL: but by evening it is dry and withered.  
 GROUP B: Our days may come to seventy years  
 GROUP A: or eighty, if our strength endures  
 GROUP B: they quickly pass, and we fly away.  
 GROUP A: Teach us to number our days  
 ALL: that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

## Psalm 102

A: Hear my prayer, LORD  
 GROUP A: let my cry for help come to you.  
 GROUP A: For my days vanish like smoke  
 GROUP A: My days are like the evening shadow  
 GROUP A: I wither away like grass.  
 B: But you, LORD, sit enthroned forever  
 ALL: your renown endures through all generations.  
 B: In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth  
 ALL: and the heavens are the work of your hands.  
 B: They will perish, but you remain  
 ALL: they will all wear out like a garment.  
 A: Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded.  
 B: But you remain the same  
 ALL: and your years will never end.

## James 4

A: Now listen, you who say  
 B: Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.  
 ALL: Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow.  
 A: What is your life?  
 ALL: You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.  
 A: Instead, you ought to say  
 B: If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that  
 A & B: If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it  
 ALL: it is sin for them.

## Matthew 6

LEADER: Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life  
 GROUP A: what you will eat or drink  
 GROUP B: or about your body, what you will wear.

ALL: Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?

LEADER: Look at the birds of the air

GROUP A: they do not sow or reap or store away in barns

GROUP B: and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.

LEADER: Are you not much more valuable than they?

ALL: Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

LEADER: And why do you worry about clothes?

GROUP A: See how the flowers of the field grow.

GROUP A: They do not labor or spin.

LEADER: Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.

GROUP A: If that is how God clothes the grass of the field

GROUP B: which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire

ALL: will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?

LEADER: So do not worry, saying

GROUP A: What shall we eat?

GROUP B: What shall we drink?

ALL: What shall we wear?

LEADER: Your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

GROUP A: But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness

GROUP B: and all these things will be given to you as well.

ALL: Therefore do not worry about tomorrow