



Life Group Study Guide

A new normal. These past several weeks have forced us to adapt to new ways of doing things. Work. School. Even the way we do mundane tasks like getting groceries. And, in the weeks or months ahead, as stores and parks and schools reopen and social distancing is reduced and eventually eliminated, there will undoubtedly be yet another new normal to the way we live, relate, learn, play, and live.

But, what if it wasn't just a new normal, but a better normal? What if we take the lessons learned this spring and use them as a catalyst to living differently? By changing habits and adopting new ways of thinking, what if we could not just alter our routines but use them to strengthen our relationships, minds, bodies, finances, and everything in between?

Join The Water's Edge, beginning April 19th, as WE take a look at not just a new normal, but A New Better Normal.

Weomaha.com/Normal

Week 5: Hoarding The Wrong THing

Watch:

May 17, 2020 Sermon

Available on-demand on Facebook.com/WEOmaha,
YouTube.Com/WE Omaha and WEOmaha.com/normal

Read:

At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³ The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. ⁴ The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. ⁵ The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

⁶ “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

⁷ “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

⁹ “‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

¹⁰ “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

¹¹ “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’

¹² “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’

-Matthew 25:1-12

Ask:

1. What are some things that people hoard? What are some things you feel you hoard?
2. When you think about boredom, what comes to mind? Do you find yourself becoming bored these days? What caused your boredom pre-pandemic? During the pandemic?
3. Abundance can be experienced no matter what you are experiencing. In days of health and prosperity – Jesus gives abundance. In days of pandemic and uncertainty – Jesus gives abundance. How can you live with abundance rather than boredom?
4. Faith can't be borrowed. Faith can only be accepted and developed. How do others try to borrow faith? What does it take to accept faith?
5. There's an old song that goes:
Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning
Give me oil in my lamp, I pray
Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning
Keep me burning till the break of day

What do these lyrics mean to you? How will accepting faith keep your lamp burning? How has faith carried you through difficult moments in life?

6. Are you a procrastinator? How has this worked out for you? What things have procrastination kept you from? How could things be different if you did not procrastinate?
7. What excuses do you make regarding building your faith? Why do you think you do this?
8. We don't have to exist in fear, boredom, and busyness. God gives us another option: faith. Faith believes that God makes both life and death meaningful. What does a meaningful life look like to you? How can you achieve this through faith?

9. What are some ways you can develop your faith starting right now? What step will you take TODAY to do this? How will you commit to developing your faith daily?

10. What would your life look like if you stopped making excuses and used that energy to focus on your oil level? What would your life look like if you worked toward increasing your oil? What would it look like if you replaced fear and boredom with abundance and faith?