

An invitation to consider The Course of Your Life



Do you ever stop and think about where your life is going?

We don't do this most of the time. It would be unhealthy if we did. We can hardly conduct a full enquiry into the meaning of our existence every morning before we get out of bed.

But most people stop and think about their lives from time to time. We pause and take our bearings. Is my life where I thought it would be now? Is there some sort of overriding purpose? Where is it all going? Where am I going?

Sometimes grief or failure or a scare with illness pushes us to these thoughts. Sometimes it just naturally happens at different times of life—like when we leave school, or when we turn 50.

Of course, there's a deeper and more pressing reason for stopping to ponder the course of our lives—it's the wonderful possibility that our lives do in fact have a profound purpose; that we were made by God for a reason. If that was the case, would you want to discover that purpose, that reason, and live the rest of your life pursuing it?

We want to provide an opportunity for you to stop and 'take the temperature' of your life: to think about who you are and why God put you here on this planet; to understand where your life is going.

We want to invite you to discover what the God who made you says about *the course of your life*.

the COURSE of your LIFE

What's the aim?

The Course of Your Life aims to help you achieve three things:

- To understand afresh who God is, what he is doing in our world, and what Jesus Christ has to do with that.
- To see and understand yourself afresh—who you really are, what you're here for, and what your future holds.
- On the basis of both of these things, to discover what God wants you to do with the rest of your life from this point on—not just in a vague general sense ('give him the glory', 'be a good Christian'), but more personally and specifically.

This is a unique and potentially life-changing opportunity.

What's involved?

A small number of people will be getting together to participate in *The Course of Your Life*. The methodology is essentially to listen to God and each other, and to respond to God together:

- We'll spend quite a bit of time digging into the Bible in a variety of ways to see for ourselves what God says about the course of our lives.
- We'll also spend plenty of time talking with each other—not only to help each other understand what God is saying in the Bible, but also to share experiences, stories and backgrounds. How do we come up with the purposes we have for our lives? What drives us? We'll understand ourselves better, and apply the Bible's message to our lives better, if we seek our answers together.
- And we'll pray for each other—that God would open our often half-closed eyes, that he would stoke the fire in our hearts that might be burning low, that he would fill us with a new enthusiasm for serving him.

Three basic components

1. Seminars

Each week or fortnight, everyone involved will get together for a 90-minute seminar. The seminars will feature teaching input, presentations, and discussion in groups.

2. One-to-one meetings

You will be paired with someone else in the course to regularly meet with one-to-one. You can organize the time and location to suit yourselves—and (wherever possible) you'll be paired with someone who lives, works or studies near you to make it simple. If you've never met one-to-one with another person in this way before, don't worry—we will provide coaching and materials to walk you through the process from the beginning.

3. Intensive

Towards the end of the course, all of us will go away together for two days. This is an opportunity to pull the big ideas of the course together, and to take some time away from the pressures of life to think it all through.

The Course of Your Life provides an extraordinary opportunity to take the temperature of your life; to break the cycle of your current busyness and re-evaluate who you are, what you're doing and where you're going.

These questions are not simple or trivial, so it will take time and commitment to work together on them. The different components of the course fit together and complement each other—so please don't accept this invitation unless you are able to participate fully, including coming to all of the intensive.