

# **Beyond the Sermon**

## A Sermon Application Guide

Title: The Game of Life

This guide is designed to offer a simple tool for those wanting to take the next step with Sunday's message. You can print this guide to study on your own, or use it in a group and experience transformation together.

### **Message Theme & Prayer Focus**

Are We Winning The Game?

*"Gracious God, thank you for the time I have this week and for all you are doing in and through me. Thank you for your willingness to teach me your ways, to be kind to me, and to help me to see the good things you're doing in the world. Give me eyes to see and ears to hear what you have for me in this message, and strengthen me to be all you've called me to be."*

### **Key Truths & Application**

We all enjoy playing and winning, but what game are we playing? If we play the wrong game, we can play it perfectly and still lose overall.

Okay let's back up:

Today's culture would define 'winning' as having the highest worth. Worldly culture defines wealth and winning as money, property, the biggest house, or the most well behaved kids. We can choose to dedicate our life to stocking up, saving, earning, and growing in these worldly desires, or we could stock up, save, earn, and grow in heavenly rewards.

How do we do that?

Matthew 13 tells a parable of a man who was walking through a field and stumbled across something valuable. He hides it and goes home to sell all he owns in order to buy the land he found the treasure on. To everyone around him he looked crazy for selling all of his belongings but in the end he prioritized something far more valuable than they even realized. What does this tell us today?

All of the 'Kingdom work' we do pays off in the end. 'Kingdom work' such as our tithe, the time we sacrifice telling our neighbor about God, paying for someone's groceries, stopping to pray for someone, and even doing our best to raise children according to God's word.

Our treasure:

We have a treasure that is far more valuable than what this world has to offer—an eternity with our Creator that starts now! So often people trade a moment of pleasure for a lifetime of regret,

like giving up time with our family for work. But when we let God have our family, finances, and jobs, things change. He has the freedom to move in our lives when we seek Him first. If our focus is just on winning, we've missed it. Let's stay focused this week, keeping our eyes on our kingdom work.

How can you impact the world around you for the Kingdom rather than being swept away by it?

**Key Verses:** Matthew 6:9 • Matthew 10:42 • Matthew 13:44 • Matthew 18:7-9 • Matthew 25:34-40 • Mark 8:36 • Hebrews 11:6

## **Declarations**

God's heavenly reward for me is far better than what this world offers me. I will stay on course, allowing God to lead me, grow me, and conform me into the likeness of His Son. Making momentary sacrifices in this life is worth it for eternity, and I allow God to finish the good work in me that He has started. I know that He is faithful to continue it until the day of Christ.

## **What's Next?**

Now it's time to write down anything that the Lord has spoken to you. Praise Him, Thank Him and ask the Holy Spirit to help you walk this out.

## **Scripture References**

### The Game of Life

#### **Matthew 6:19-21 ESV**

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

#### **Matthew 13:22 ESV**

As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

#### **Matthew 13:44 ESV**

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

**Hebrews 11:6 ESV**

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

**Matthew 10:42 ESV**

And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."

**Revelation 22:12 NLT**

"Look, I am coming soon, bringing my reward with me to repay all people according to their deeds.

**Revelation 22:12-13 MSG**

I'm bringing my payroll with me...

**Mark 8:36 ESV**

For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?

**Matthew 18:7-9 ESV**

Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

**Matthew 25:35-36 ESV**

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'