

STAGES

Finding God Where You Are

AT A GLANCE:

Our talk series, STAGES: Finding God Where You Are, is about the various phases of life and how one may know and feel the Presence of God in each of those stages.

First Stage: The first 20 years of your life, and its purpose is to explore, to discover who you are—specifically, your calling, your values, and your identity.

Second Stage: The next 20 years—from 20 to 40 years old—and its purpose is to expand your life. In this stage, you develop your calling, your craft, and as always, your character. You also enter into new territories.

Third Stage: The next 20 years—from 40 to 60 years old—which is the time to be exact. To zero in. To focus even more on your distinct mission and increase your impact in the world.

Fourth Stage: This consists of the remaining years of your life, where you prepare your exit, pass on the baton, and possibly enter into new worlds.

AFTER THE SERIES:

You will see God in what you're doing. You will see God in the ordinary routine of your daily life.

Talk 4: "Exit"

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT:

Talk 1 is about the first 20 years of your life, and its purpose is to explore, to discover who you are—specifically, your calling, your values, and your identity. The key message is God is right here, right now.

Talk 2 is about the second stage of your life— from 20 to 40 years old— where your goal is to expand what you already have. Yes, pray for expansion. But here's a warning: When you expand, you'll meet pushback. You'll face resistance. The key message: "God fights your bat-tles."

Talk 3 is about after you hit 40, where your goal is to be Exact. To focus. To zero in. To subtract more than to add. To eliminate so you can concentrate. Knowing what you cannot do is as important as knowing what you can do.

The key message is no matter what stage you're in right now, "God will turn it into good."

Talk 4, titled Exit, centers on the message The best is yet to come. Why Exit? Because when you become a dual citizen (Filipino Citizen and Senior Citizen), little by little, you need to exit old roles, old jobs, old positions, old responsibilities, and yes, prepare for your exit from this world.

But let's face it. People are allergic to talking about their own death. Many live as if they'll live forever. It's nuts.

I. REVIEW THE KEY BIBLE VERSES:

Review the two Bible verses for this talk:

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a

STAGES

Talk 1:
Explore

Talk 2:
Expand

Talk 3:
Exact

Talk 4:
Exit

Notes:



profit"—yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. (James 4:13-14 ESV)

Jesus said: *And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. 17 He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' 18 "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. 19 And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'" 20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' 21 "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."* (Luke 12:16-21 NIV)

Review the story of David, particularly the last stage of his life. In the last years of his life, David's sons were fighting over his kingdom. Early on, his son Absalom revolted and proclaimed himself king, until he was killed by David's men. And when David was an old and frail man lying on his bed, his other son Adonijah was also scrambling for power.

David didn't spend enough time with his sons to pass on the character of humility and selflessness. David may have been a great king but he was not a great father.

And God told David, *'Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.'* (2 Samuel 7:16-17)

This great promise was fulfilled in David's lifetime. Some 1,000 years later, Jesus, a descendant from the house of David, became King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and His rule will have no end.

II. ASK FOR REACTIONS AND REFLECTIONS

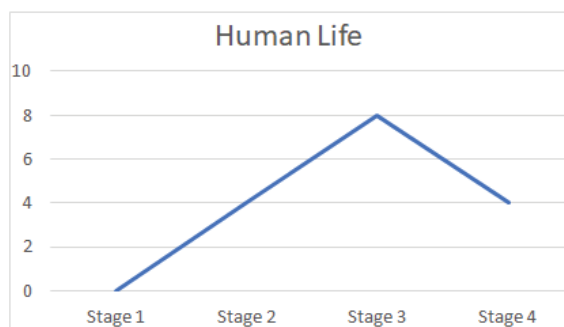
Ask for reactions on the advice to write two important documents: Living Will and Last Will.

The Living Will is a document in your own handwriting that tells your family what you want to happen when you're in critical condition. Do you want to be resuscitated? Do you want them to give you feeding tubes? Do you even want to be brought to the hospital or do you want to die at home?

The Last Will and Testament, also done in your own handwriting, states how you want your estate to be managed—who gets what.

Ask for reactions on the two charts showing Two Ways of Looking at The Last Stage:

Chart 1:



Notes:



