



## LIVING YOUR BEST LIFE

### Jimmy Evans

#### Focus

The focus of this message is to help us understand the importance of giving God our best so we can live the very best life He has for us.

#### Fun

Sit in a circle with an object like a beachball or pillow. The first person will say their name and a fun fact, then pass the object. The next person will repeat the first person's name and fun fact then introduce himself or herself and his or her fun fact. (Example: "I'm Sue and I like purple. I'm Jack and I like ice cream. Next person: This is Sue and she likes purple, this is Jack and he likes ice cream. I'm Nancy and I like kittens.") The game will continue until the object is back with the first person who will recite all the names and fun facts. See how well you can remember and help each other play!

#### Review

Key Scriptures: Genesis 22:1–2, 10–19

God required Abraham's best. Four questions we can ask to apply this to ourselves:

**1. Beyond the story of Abraham and Isaac, where in Scripture can we find God only releasing His best when we give Him our best?**

The story of Cain and Abel – the first offering in the Bible.

From Genesis to Revelation, God shows us that He rewards our obedience in giving Him our best.

*Genesis 4:2–5; Proverbs 3:9–10; Matthew 6:32–33; Luke 6:36–38;*

*Revelation 2:2–5*

## 2. Is this fair?

Another way to say this: Who is God to demand our best?

He is our Creator, Savior, and Lord. Giving God our best acknowledges who He is in our lives and honors Him for all He's done.

*1 Corinthians 6:18–20*

## 3. If God requires our best before He releases His best to us, why is this not considered legalism and performance?

a. The most important blessings—salvation, forgiveness of sins, baptism in the Holy Spirit—are already ours, given freely by grace.

b. God's motivation is not righteousness, it is relationship.

*Matthew 22:36–40; Luke 14:25–33*

c. God requires our best because He knows our passions cannot be separated from our priorities.

*Matthew 6:19–20*

## 4. How do you give God your best?

Areas to consider: time, finances, gifts and talents, relationships, etc.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** Can you still remember everyone's name and fun fact from the activity earlier this evening? Go around the circle again and share one thought about how this message affected you.

### Discuss

1. Pastor Jimmy said to give God our best, we must make Jesus the Lord of every area of our life. What does this mean to you?
2. What areas in your life have you not yet fully surrendered to God?
3. What are some commitments you want to make this week to start giving your best to God?

4. Why do you think giving God our best helps us to live our best life?
5. How can we pray for each other this week?

### Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- Make Jesus the Lord of every area of your life.
- Pray about every significant decision and act only with the Lord's approval.
- Give God the best of your time.
- Give God the first and best of your finances.
- Surrender your gifts and talents to serve God and expand His kingdom.

### Prayer

Father God, we know Your Word commands us to prioritize our finances and spiritual gifts for Your glory and to expand Your kingdom. This week make these truths more than intellectual knowledge and understanding. Stir in our hearts a passionate desire to be good stewards and cheerful givers. May we be tuned in to Your Holy Spirit as we walk through our day, so we may be an encouragement to others and give generously when You lead us. Focus our eyes on You, soften our hearts, and lead us into full surrender, so we may "see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living" (*Psalms 27:13*). In Jesus' name, Amen.

### \*New Leader Tip\*

Gateway Equip has already begun for the Spring Semester. Encourage group members to get involved with Stewardship Ministry classes (such as the Financial Hope Seminar), the ID Workshop, or Freedom Ministry classes (such as Freedom Basics). Classes can be found at [equip.gatewaypeople.com](http://equip.gatewaypeople.com).