



## Tommy Briggs

**Focus** God created life, and it is a gift. Life goes quickly, so now is the time to give your heart to Jesus!

**Fun** What are three things you are thankful for? What is your favorite Thanksgiving tradition?

**Review** Key Scriptures: James 4:13–17; Luke 12:20

### 1. Life is ...

In the midst of eternity, where there is no beginning and no ending, God created earth and life on earth. There are over 7.5 billion people on the earth today. Millions are overweight while millions are undernourished. Millions are born every year, while millions die each year. Life is full of good, bad, difficulty, celebration, joy, and sorrow.

### 2. Life is a gift.

Nobody had anything to do with their life being conceived. James 4:13–14 tells us that we don't know what will happen tomorrow. Nobody can say with absolute 100% certainty that they will be alive tomorrow. God gave you life. You did not earn it. Jesus came that we may have abundant life. Life is meant to be lived to the fullest each day, it isn't meant to be lived in "yesterday" or wasted thinking only about "tomorrow." We are to live life one day at a time, enjoying it to its fullness because of Jesus Christ.

### 3. Life is a vapor.

Just like a cloud vapor hovers over a lake in the early morning and is gone a few hours later, life is here one minute and can be gone the next. There are no guarantees we have tomorrow to live. The odds of being killed by a lightning strike are 1 in 2 million. The odds of becoming president of the United States are

1 in 10 million. But the odds that you will eventually die are 1 in 1. If there is just a slight thought in your mind that the Bible is true and Jesus is the only savior, why risk it? The blood of Jesus was shed for our sins, and if we will believe in Him and receive Jesus as our savior, we will spend eternity with Him in heaven.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** This is a great time of year to engage people in your group. Ask someone in your group to partner with someone who is administrative and plan an activity for Christmas. You may go as a group to look at Christmas lights, attend a city event, or just have fun in someone's home. It's the season to celebrate, and it's also a great opportunity to give other people in your group the chance to plan an activity.

## Discuss

1. Read James 4:13–16. How can we practically apply this Scripture to our lives?
2. When you look back on your life, what have been some of the highlights? What have been some of your biggest trials?
3. What are some of the experiences you've had in life that show how life is a special gift?
4. At the end of your life, when you reflect back, what will you want to have accomplished? What things will you be the most thankful for?
5. How does thinking about your life as a vapor (short), in light of eternity, cause you focus on the things that really matter most? How can this perspective affect your decisions?
6. Jesus is the only guarantee in this life. How has He shown His faithfulness to you?
7. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this message? If you haven't given your life fully to Jesus, take time to do it now. There are no guarantees we have tomorrow, and there is no better time than now to be born again and have the assurance of eternal life in heaven!

**Take Home** As we conclude, remember the following:

- Life is a gift.
- Life is like a vapor.
- If you believe in Jesus, ask Him to be the Lord of your life, and you will spend eternity in heaven with Him.

### **Prayer**

Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us the gift of life. Even though life is short, thank You that we can enjoy the life You've given to us. We acknowledge that Jesus died on the cross to take away our sins. We believe Jesus is the savior of the world. We place our trust in Jesus and ask You to be the Lord of our life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** Great groups have great conversations. Don't focus solely on teaching, focus on generating healthy interaction and dialogue. As you facilitate the discussion questions, ask open-ended follow-up questions. Feel free to add your own questions that stir up conversation in your group.