



"Teach us to number our days,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

Psalm 90:12 (NIV)

PURSUE THE INTENTIONAL LIFE

JEAN FLEMING

“Because we as believers will soon see Jesus face-to-face, we need to live intentionally for Him. *Pursue the Intentional Life* has stimulated me to think and act more intentionally so I can serve Him with my best until He calls me Home.”

—DAVID RAE, president, Cables and Kits; former president, Apple Canada

“No one is better qualified to write *Pursue the Intentional Life* than Jean Fleming. Her single-hearted quest of ‘becoming the person God had in mind when He created me’ is exemplified in her life and writings. Over the years, Jean has kept an Old Woman File, and it is out of her ‘rumblings and stirrings’ as she pondered life on earth that we have this rich compilation of profound insights and lessons learned. In her words, ‘the book is a collection of mooring cables attaching me to my Anchor.’ You will find strong mooring cables here to challenge and encourage your relationship with Christ no matter where you are in your journey with Him. Jean’s underlying theme addresses the question ‘What does it look like to live Christ to the very end?’ Read this priceless book to discover the answer.”

—CYNTHIA HEALD, author of the BECOMING A WOMAN OF . . .
Bible study series and *Intimacy with God*

“This book is vintage Jean Fleming. Its message addresses my recent reflections about finishing well, maximizing spiritual fruitfulness, and living for the glory of God in the fourth quarter of life. The biblical wisdom Jean shares in these pages would be profitable for anyone, regardless of age, who fears spiritual drifting and wants to pursue an intentional life.”

—DON WHITNEY, associate professor of biblical spirituality and
senior associate dean, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary;
founder and president, The Center for Biblical Spirituality

“Jean is a gifted writer and a passionate lover of Jesus. Her artistry shows clearly in her compelling word pictures that remind us of the joy of living our lives to the fullest and for God’s glory at any stage of life and even into old age. You will be blessed and spiritually energized as you follow Jean’s journey of reflection that prepares you for the future.”

—MARY WHITE, coauthor of *Unfinished*

"Pursue the Intentional Life deals with a critically important life principle that deserves much more literary attention. This book is not only timely but also succinct, biblical, well referenced, practical, and often profound. That Jean Fleming is such an unusually gifted author gives this book value not only for the ideas expressed but also for the expression of those ideas. These words will not wear out."

—RICHARD A. SWENSON, MD,
best-selling author of *Margin* and *The Overload Syndrome*

"Do you want a book that is not so much a teaching book as it is a searching, asking, walk-with-me book that encourages you to ponder your life? Then this book is for you! Like Jean, I celebrated my seventieth birthday this year. I loved reading *Pursue the Intentional Life* as an older woman but would also have delighted in it at age thirty. I highly recommend it to you and believe that these pages will encourage, motivate, and inspire you just like they did me!"

—LINDA DILLOW, author of *Calm My Anxious Heart*;
coauthor of *Passion Pursuit*

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with Tyndale House Publishers*

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For the generations that come from us —
to the glory of God

“The children of your servants will live in your presence;
their descendants will be established before you.”

Psalm 102:28

Matt and Lashawna
Beth and Lyle
Graham and Yasuko
And our grandchildren

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DISCUSSION GUIDE

CHERRI PARKS, PhD, AND JEAN FLEMING

After my husband, Jim, and I put a contract on a house in Montrose, Colorado, our friends of thirty years, Jerry and Nancy Garcia, came over to the house while we were making the final inspection. Having known me for a long time and knowing what a worker I am, Jerry asked me what I planned to do with myself in Montrose. I said, “I’m going to start a women’s ministry. I’ll gather women in the church, at the golf course, at the recreation center—wherever I meet them. Together we will get rid of regrets and disappointments and finish our lives well.”

“Okay then,” he said, “that sounds like a plan.”

I don’t know that I had even been thinking about starting a ministry until that moment, but once I said it out loud, I couldn’t think of anything else. I even gave it a name.

The house deal fell apart.

Some time later, I came back to Montrose to work with our realtor for a week. I don’t know if it was on the way to Montrose, while I was in town, or on the way back to Denver, but I got sick. Really sick. I tested positive for COVID-19, and a few days later, I was in the emergency room with viral pneumonia. A few days after that, I was back in

the ER with viral pneumonia, bacterial pneumonia, and blood clots. Almost immediately I was placed in isolation intensive care, intubated, and given all kinds of treatments to save my life. They told my husband there was a fifty-fifty chance I would live.

But God . . .

Ten days later, I came home. The medical team did a lot for me in the hospital, but there isn't much they can do for viral pneumonia except prescribe oxygen. After a few months of no improvement at home, I found a wonderful nutritionist, Jess, who put me on a series of supplements to help me detox, build my immune system, and increase my energy level. Within two months I was off the oxygen.

About three months after I left the hospital, my primary care physician set up an appointment with me. I had been seeing her or having a telephone call with her every two weeks since being in the hospital. This appointment, however, was different. She had been reviewing my medical records, including my records from the intensive care stay, and she told me that she could see no medical reason I had survived. It was clear that the intensive care doctors had thought I would not survive. "So," she asked, "why do you think you lived?"

Why do I think I lived? God. God decides the number of our days, and I still had more. I am so grateful.

While recovering, I discovered that the women's ministry I had dreamed about already existed. It even had the same name. The founders had written a book. They had a blog, a podcast, and lots of followers. May God bless them and grow their ministry. *So*, I said to myself, *that was a great dream. But it wasn't for me.*

Four months after I left the hospital, our realtor in Montrose called and said she had found our house. It had been on the market for eight minutes; she was driving there and would give us a virtual tour with her phone. We loved it. She said we needed to make a full-price offer right away because this house would sell quickly. Everything at that time was selling quickly, and most houses had multiple bids.

We put an offer on the house, and they accepted. In less than an

hour, we had a house—a house that I didn’t see until I walked inside right in front of the movers. Can you imagine?

Our pastor at Cedar Creek Church asked Jim what I planned to do in Montrose. Jim told him about my dream of a ministry. But he also shared that COVID-19 had taken a real toll on me and my energy level, so those plans were tabled for now. The pastor mentioned a woman in the church, Jean Fleming, who had written a book about people finishing their lives well. He contacted Jean, who gave me her book *Pursue the Intentional Life*. I read the first chapter and met with her to ask if I could write a study guide for the book and gather women together to discuss it. The first group consisted of eleven women from Cedar Creek Church. We met for nine sessions at my home. The second group of women were from a book club, the community Bible study, and the recreation center. As of this writing, our third group will be starting in a month.

Praise be to God for taking my vision and altering it. He gave me Jean and her book—and dozens of women who want to finish well.

Cherri Parks, PhD

Group Reading and Study Schedule

Session 1 . . . Chapters 1–3

Session 2 . . . Chapters 4–6

Session 3 . . . Chapters 7–10

Session 4 . . . Chapters 11–13

Session 5 . . . Chapters 14–17

Session 6 . . . Chapters 18–21

Session 7 . . . Chapters 22–24

Session 8 . . . Chapters 25–28

Session 9 . . . Chapters 29–31

Our groups meet for nine sessions, planning to gather together three times a month on Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00. But in reality, we almost always meet until 11:30, as most women stay to talk further about the material and catch up with each other. However—and I watch the clock—we are “officially” finished with the material at 11:00 in case anyone needs to leave.

Each time we meet, the women come ready to discuss the material since they have read the chapters and answered the questions in advance. I start each session with prayer, and then, beginning with the first chapter for the session, ask what the group would like to talk about. Instead of jumping around from chapter to chapter, I feel it is important to move through each chapter individually so that the questions follow the progression of the chapters. This has worked well for us and keeps us focused on one chapter at a time.

The group leader needs to watch the clock and keep the discussion moving forward through all the chapters in a session. Do not be worried about silence. This is heavy stuff. But I am always ready with another question in case there is a lull.

There may be similarities among the women in your group, but all have unique histories, gifts, and hopes for finishing well. It is a beautiful experience for me to be with women who want to change and grow and remain vital and living for God throughout their entire lives.

Session 1

Read chapters 1–3 of *Pursue the Intentional Life*, looking up the Bible verses referenced in each chapter. As a group, work through the following questions:

1. What are Jean’s two big questions in chapter 1?
2. If you were to make an “Old Woman File,” what would be your first entry?

3. Right now, how do you see yourself living your remaining years?
4. Flaws and weaknesses “concentrate” with age. What do you see as your major flaws—things that you do *not* want to concentrate?
5. After reading chapter 1, how do you feel about becoming “old”?
6. From chapter 2, why did Jean write this book?
7. We do not know the future. But we do know what God has revealed to us in His Word. How have you encountered this truth in your life?
8. Give a few examples of this chapter’s focus on *preparation*.
9. What does Jean mean by “a rock of respite”?
10. What do you take “The sovereign God is executing His purposes and plans” to mean?
11. Which of Jonathan Edwards’s resolutions in chapter 3 most resonate with you?
12. After reading Jean’s prayer in chapter 3, what do you “resolve”?

Read Jonathan Edwards’s quote at the beginning of chapter 3. List a few ways you would live differently if you were to do it over.

Write five resolutions for your life.

Pray as Jean prays in chapter 1: “God, please don’t leave me to myself.”

Session 2

Read chapters 4–6 of *Pursue the Intentional Life*, looking up the Bible verses referenced in each chapter. As a group, work through the following questions:

1. If you saw the book *The Fine Art of Recuperation* in the library, what would you expect it to contain?
2. In chapter 4, Jean mentions the importance of the word *prepare* in the Old and New Testaments. What do you most need to prepare?
3. What did Louis Pasteur mean when he said that chance favors a prepared mind? What has this looked like in your life?
4. What are you doing with your time? What would you like to change? What small changes can you make now?
5. Jean prays in chapter 4, “Whatever the future holds, please keep me from terror and bless me to live for Your glory and the

advancement of Your kingdom.” *Terror* is a very strong word and denotes great fear. What are your great fears?

6. In chapter 5, Jean describes how she wept with gratitude that she had followed Christ for fifty years. Yet she also recalled her father’s comment: “With Jean, nothing lasts more than three weeks.” What limiting “prophecy” do you hear about yourself?
7. Every life creates an “atmosphere.” What atmosphere is your life creating? How do you know? What adjustment might your atmosphere need?
8. Eager expectation and hope are central to chapter 5. How do you respond to those concepts?
9. John Milton penned the phrase “intended wing.” What does it mean?
10. How do you show courage? When do you need courage?
11. What does it look like for you to *soar*, as Jean describes in chapter 6? What are you thinking, feeling, and doing when you are soaring? What is the danger of seeking a life that soars?
12. David wished for wings so that he could fly away. Yet he prayed for God to keep him and be with him in the circumstances as they were. What do you pray to be released from—that is, to fly away from? And if God does not release you, how can you pray for God to keep you in the midst of things as they are?
13. The albatross gives us a unique way of understanding the need for storms. How do you react to this imagery?
14. Isaiah 40:29-31 is a very inspirational Bible passage. How does it help you?
15. Jean prays, “Father God, please keep me from distorted ideas of what it means to walk with You.” What does she mean?

Write a prayer to God about your great fears (see question 5), and ask for His protection.

Choose a verse for the year ahead.

Session 3

Read chapters 7–10 of *Pursue the Intentional Life*, looking up the Bible verses referenced in each chapter. As a group, work through the following questions:

1. In chapter 7, Jean shares how she did the math and calculated that she might live 800 more days. How do you react to knowing that your days are numbered? Does it affect the way you live today? How will you use those last days—however many there are?
2. Read and pray about Psalm 39:4-6. What is God saying to you through this passage?
3. Jean writes, “God is not asking me to number my days to increase my pace but rather to examine my route, not to increase my efficiency but to see where I must make course corrections in heart, character, and actions.” This will take time. But right now, what in your heart, character, and actions needs to be corrected?
4. After reading chapter 8, what do you think is God’s purpose and desire for your time on earth?

5. What is the significance of clouds?
6. How should the reality of eternal life influence your time on earth? How does this play out in the way you are living now?
7. What is Phase 1? Phase 2? Why does Jean place Phase 2 before Phase 1?
8. In chapter 9, what does Jean mean by “I see ‘through a glass darkly’”?
9. Read Ephesians 2:7-9; 3:7-12; Romans 8:19,22-23; and 1 John 3:2. What do you glean from these verses?
10. Jean describes the “story of heaven” as “dazzling.” How does this match your thinking?
11. From your unique perspective, what is the gospel story?
12. What would it look like for you to live with a heavenly perspective?
13. How do you picture seeing Jesus in heaven, as Jean does in chapter 10?
14. Respond to the words “I stand before Him forgiven.” How does this impact you?
15. Revelation 21:4 tells us that God “‘will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” What do you experience while reading this?
16. Jean states, “This is my eternal destiny, my eternal privilege, and my eternal joy. Jesus wants me to be with Him and see His glory.” How do you relate to this?
17. Jean imagines that heaven will fill her with infectious “bubbling joy.” What do you imagine about being in heaven?

Reflect on how “Jesus’ life in heaven informed His life on earth,” as Jean writes in chapter 8.

Respond to these words from chapter 8: “Jesus knew who He was, Whose He was, why He was on earth, and where He was going for eternity.”

In chapter 8, Jean writes, “What kind of old woman will I become? Lord, how do You want me to think about the rest of my life”? Write a prayer reflecting on this.

Session 4

Read chapters 11–13 of *Pursue the Intentional Life*, looking up the Bible verses referenced in each chapter. As a group, work through the following questions:

1. In chapter 11, Jean recounts how she once walked a golf course reading the New Testament and found it boring! She had the same feeling while reading a psalm each morning at school. But

God intervened and woke her “out of a dead sleep.” Have you had a similar experience? Describe it.

2. When God saves us, we are filled with his Spirit. So why—as Jean prays—do we live as paupers?
3. What would you want written about you on your nursing home door?
4. Identity is a core issue in our lives. Who are you? What factors were or are involved in your identity?
5. What does Jean mean by “hav[ing] both an individual identity and a corporate identity”?
6. Living fully for Christ in Phase 1 helps us listen to His voice. How is your identity changed as you listen to His voice?
7. Jean reflects on the fullness of God’s forgiveness, the fullness of His Spirit, and the fullness of His Word. Which of these most resonates with you?
8. Jean teaches in chapter 12 that God’s approval, His smile, is undeserved. God is not impressed with us. We can’t earn His approval; it is freely given. What were you thinking as you read this?
9. “If you’re saved and you know it, tell your face.” Because God saved us, we should radiate joy and love at this gift. Do you? Your body language and face indicate your thoughts and feelings. What do your body and face tell others?
10. What faces come to mind when you think of people whose countenances have ministered to you?
11. Jean’s poem in chapter 13 about the ninety-seven-year-old restaurant owner includes the line “His life is a scaffold of discipline and creativity.” What does this mean?

12. “Life well lived wears deep tracks.” If we followed your tracks, what would we learn?
13. Jean uses the terms *creativity* and *discipline* many times in this chapter. What does she mean? How did this play out for the survivor of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti?
14. How do the two kinds of scaffolding—a static schedule and a structure of mission and values—affect your days?
15. Jean defines *disciplines* as “habits with a purpose.” What disciplines do you want to improve or begin in your life?
16. How can you “make your life art, a thing of beauty,” as Jean writes at the end of chapter 13?

Respond to Numbers 6:24-26: “The LORD bless you, and keep you; The LORD make His face shine on you, and be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance on you, and give you peace” (NASB).

Jean includes a poem in chapter 13 about the scaffold of her life. Draft a few lines of your own poem.

Session 5

Read chapters 14–17 of *Pursue the Intentional Life*, looking up the Bible verses referenced in each chapter. As a group, work through the following questions:

1. What does Jean mean by *imagination* in chapter 14? What is an example of imagination in your life? What is the difference between disciplined imagination and “wild-eyed, slobbering imagination”?
2. How can imagination help free us from self-absorption?
3. What did you learn from the examples of the servant girl and the centurion?
4. God communicates to us through our imaginations. How?
5. Jesus loves children. According to chapter 15, who is a child from His perspective? Are you the child Jesus wants you to be? Explain.
6. How did Paul become a “little child in Jesus”? How could you become a child?
7. Jean asserts that “a child has no platform, no achievement. Instead, a child must depend on another for all that comes to him.” How do you respond to this?
8. What does “mature childlikeness” mean? How have you demonstrated this?
9. How do you respond to this line from the beginning of chapter 16: “A ‘welcome’ sign hangs over my heart”?
10. How are a torn curtain and a “welcome” sign related?
11. Jean writes that “hospitality affirms another’s value.” How do you practice hospitality to Jesus? To others? How do you offer hospitality to yourself?

12. Jean prays, “Lord, please reveal anything in my life that might keep others from coming to You.” What do you see in your life that might need to change?
13. In chapter 17, Jean shares her desire to be a lifelong learner. Are you a lifelong learner? What is an example of this in your life?
14. How does Matthew 11:28-29 invite you to learn?
15. How is Jesus—who knows everything and created the world—our best teacher? List a few of the things He has taught you.
16. How do you respond to the idea of “learning obedience”?
17. Did entering a relationship with Christ ignite your love of learning? How might you keep this love alive for the rest of your life?

Using chapter 16 for inspiration, give examples of Jesus’ welcome to you.

Read Isaiah 55:1-3 and reflect on its impact on your life.

Session 6

Read chapters 18–21 of *Pursue the Intentional Life*, looking up the Bible verses referenced in each chapter. As a group, work through the following questions:

1. Chapter 18 opens with two passages in Matthew 21 that teach us that God requires fruit in our lives. What fruit do you bear? What is the evidence that your life bears this fruit?

2. Jean says that the “abundant life” is “like no other.” What does she mean?
3. Jean prays, “Father God, please make me aware of the ways I hinder the expression of Your life in me.” Do you ever hinder the expression of God’s life in you? What comes to mind?
4. Reflect on these words from chapter 19: “Jesus says that He expects fruit bearing from tender and easily broken branches.” How has this been true in your life?
5. How do you respond when you read Jesus’ call to “remain” in Him?
6. God invites us to ask Him anything. What are the conditions for asking? What do you ask?
7. Psalm 92:14 says, “They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green.” How are you being fruitful in your life stage? How might you remain fruitful throughout your life?
8. In chapter 20, Jean uses the example of a cottonwood to illustrate Paul’s desire to bring Christ a “harvest” of people. What example would you use to illustrate this?
9. Paul writes in frustration to “mere infants in Christ” (1 Corinthians 3:1). In what way could you be considered an infant?
10. Would you consider yourself passive or active in bringing the gospel to and building up believers? What do you need to change to increase your impact in helping believers mature?
11. We do not work alone but are part of a body—each member is important. How do you see your work in the body?
12. Paul focused on generations of believers to come—not just on his life. In Jean’s words, he “prepared to pass the baton.” How do you think about passing your baton?

13. What is your reaction to the two elderly women and their investments?
14. How can you invest in future generations of believers?
15. At the beginning of chapter 21, Jean thanks God for “my body and these veins.” Which part or parts of your body do her words remind you of?
16. What does it mean to you that you are made in the image of God?
17. Paul teaches that “the gospel and the body are powerfully intertwined.” How?
18. Psalm 139:13-14 is beautiful. How does it minister to you?
19. Jean thanks God for reminding her that her body is moving toward death. How do you react to this?
20. How is the body like a seed? A jar of clay? A tent?

Read and respond to Colossians 1:28-29, a favorite verse of Jean's.

Answer this question from the opening paragraph of chapter 18:
“What is God expecting from my life?”

Write some things you might do now to prepare for greater fruitfulness in the future.

Session 7

Read chapters 22–24 of *Pursue the Intentional Life*, looking up the Bible verses referenced in each chapter. As a group, work through the following questions:

1. At the beginning of chapter 22, Jean describes how three different people responded to aging. Which do you identify with and why? Can you think of someone else whose response is closer to yours?
2. Jean writes, “Reframing means keeping what is important but wisely reconfiguring as necessary.” Give an example in your life.
3. There are many “what ifs” in aging (almost all negative and limiting). What “what if” most limits you? How will you reframe this?
4. In chapter 23, Jean mentions “slack-mindedness” and drifting “into drowsy dullness.” How easy is it to do this? What can you do to avoid it?
5. “The end of all things is near” (1 Peter 4:7). How does this motivate you?
6. “Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8). How does this reality impact your life?
7. The church at Sardis is a great example of being alive on the outside but dead inside. How do you see this in your life?

8. Jean repeats several times in this chapter, “Please don’t leave me to myself.” What does this mean to you?
9. How does the knowledge that Jesus is coming motivate you? What is an example?
10. “As dead flies give perfume a bad smell, so a little folly outweighs wisdom and honor” (Ecclesiastes 10:1). What does this mean?
11. We are “living in enemy territory,” as Jean writes in chapter 24, and we need to be careful. In what areas of your life do you need to be most vigilant? Has it gotten easier for you to be vigilant as you’ve aged? Why or why not?
12. Self-indulgence and a need to satisfy the “I” led to Solomon’s disregard for God. How is this true in your life?
13. Aging is not a barrier to letting in the “flies.” How can you put up barriers?
14. At every age, at every stage, the looming “I” threatens to direct us. How is this revealed in your life?
15. How are you impacted by knowing that the younger generations are watching you for an example of being faithful to the end?

Review the list of reasons in chapter 24 why there could be excess among older people, and write down the ones that most relate to your situation.

Pray Psalm 92:12-15 for your life. Write it out as if it were written to you.

Session 8

Read chapters 25–28 of *Pursue the Intentional Life*, looking up the Bible verses referenced in each chapter. As a group, work through the following questions:

1. In chapter 25, Jean uses the imagery of a physical lump to depict emotional and spiritual grief. What is your lump? Why do you think the assurance found in Romans 8:1 that “there is now no condemnation” did not dissolve Jean’s lump?
2. What are the dangers of being overwhelmed by grief and sorrow?
3. Peter is a perfect example of failure. How did he behave after denying Jesus? Can you identify with this example?
4. Jean notes that as she cared for her mother, she grieved for what she saw in herself. What are you grieving? What wound do you have that needs to be “kept open” so that it can heal?
5. Jesus prayed that “this cup be taken from me” (Matthew 26:39). As Jean observes in chapter 26, each of us also has a “cup.” What cup do you want Jesus to take from you?
6. In Psalm 23, David sings of his cup with gladness for all that God has given him. What is in your cup that fills you with joy and gratitude?
7. How do you respond to Jesus’ drinking the cup of judgment—the cup you deserve?

8. Jesus knew what cup he would drink. What would you do if you knew the cup being prepared for you? Is there any way you can prepare for your cup?
9. Chapter 27 opens by narrating how Paul wrote to Timothy and revealed his weariness, his hurts, and his disappointment that people close to him had deserted him. What was his reaction to this disappointment? Can you relate? How did Paul keep from bitterness and resentment?
10. Paul told Timothy—and us—not to be resentful during life’s struggles and hard times, but to be kind instead. How do you react to this? Is there an example in your life?
11. Jean states that “life’s bitter moments come throughout a life and in varied forms. No one escapes.” What didn’t you escape?
12. What are antidotes to bitterness? How has this worked in your life?
13. Jesus is the ultimate example of dealing with suffering. What does he teach us about our suffering?
14. Jean opens chapter 28 by sharing that she has lost the ability to write by hand. How do you respond to this?
15. “Life is full of loss and leaving,” Jean writes. What have you lost and left? What has left you?
16. Jean observes that “losses redirect. Losses force reevaluation and reshaping.” What are examples of this in your life?
17. How do you respond to the idea that there is gain in loss? What have you gained from your losses?
18. What “advance-work” can you do to prepare yourself for future losses?

Respond to the biblical truism that the Lord gives and the Lord takes away.

Pray through Jean's question at the end of chapter 27: "When life closes in, what will you believe about God, and what will you believe Him for?"

Session 9

Read chapters 29–31 of *Pursue the Intentional Life*, looking up the Bible verses referenced in each chapter. As a group, work through the following questions:

1. Chapter 29 opens with this quotation from Kay Redfield Jamison: "Grief, lashed as it is to death, instructs. It teaches that one must invest in a way back to life." How has death instructed you? What did you learn about yourself from a significant death?
2. "I know that if I lose my husband, I will feel upended," Jean writes. How will (or how did) you feel in the face of a similar loss?
3. What does the Bible say about widows? How does God address the vulnerability of widows and orphans?
4. What do you learn from the widows in 1 and 2 Kings?

5. Jean prays, “Build into my life now the bent of faith that will serve me in the future.” How can you profit from this prayer?
6. How do you respond to these words from the beginning of chapter 30: “No matter my current age, now is the time to be in earnest”?
7. What did Puritan Thomas Dale mean when he counseled us to “take the measure of our days as compared with the work to be performed”? Are you clear about what God has asked of you?
8. How did Paul convey his commitment to run with purpose toward the finish line?
9. “Unmet needs did not drain Jesus,” Jean writes. Do you relate to this? Why or why not?
10. Give an example of using your earthly resources to advance God’s kingdom.
11. Christ will not judge you for your sins, but he will judge your work. What does this mean to you?
12. Respond to the title of chapter 31: “Preparing for Death: Stocking the Ammunition Box.” How do you react to the idea of preparing for your death?
13. If you had one year to live, how would you contribute to God’s kingdom?
14. What is in your ammunition box?
15. When you read that to die well is the same as to live well, how do you respond?
16. How does the death of Christ change death forever?
17. In what way are you impacted by the truth that because God will be with you, there is no need to fear?

Write out the answer you think God is giving you to this question Jean prays in chapter 30: "Today, this week, this year, Lord, what would You have me do?"

Reflect on Phases 1 and 2. Is Phase 2 increasingly real and relevant to you, informing and influencing Phase 1 more and more? How so? Write your response.

Write your response to Acts 2:25-28.

Reflect on Jean's closing words: "Perhaps the rest of my life is my funeral sermon. I will deliver it day by day."

Next Steps: Where Do We Go from Here?

These might be questions that you or your group would like to consider:

1. What from this book do you want to think more about?
2. How can you live a more focused life?
3. Where is God calling you higher?
4. What choices made today will help you live your life well?
5. What needs to change?
6. Where do you need to make progress?
7. What action or direction do you need to pursue?
8. What is your vision for the rest of your life?
9. How has God equipped you up to this point?
10. Make a list of everything you have done. What have you enjoyed?
What have you seen benefits from in your work, ministry, family?
11. How can you go deeper in the Scriptures?
12. What strategic thing might God want you to do?
13. How can you invest in advancing the kingdom?