AT THE MOVIES

Don't Miss It – Up (Week 3)

Preacher: ***Pastor Daniel Erasmus***

Worship:

Spend a few moments worshipping together, thanking God for His presence in every season and for the life He has given us today.

Suggested Worship Songs

- **Goodness of God** – Bethel Music
- **Gratitude** – Brandon Lake

Worship Focus
Invite the group to thank God not only for the future He has promised, but also for the people, opportunities, and moments He has placed in their lives right now.

Check-in:

Take a few moments to connect as a group.

- What was a highlight from your week?
- What stood out to you most from Sunday's message?
- Is there something in your current season that you are grateful for?

Key Scriptures:

- John 10:10
- James 4:13-14
- Psalm 31:14-15
- John 16:33
- Psalm 118:24
- Mark 12:30-31

Sermon Summary:

Through the story of Carl and Ellie in *Up*, the message explored how easily we can spend our lives chasing a future destination while missing the life God is giving us today. Carl and Ellie dreamed of one day reaching Paradise Falls, but along the way life brought unexpected disappointments, detours, loss, and unfulfilled expectations.

Many of us live with a "when-then" mindset: *When I get there, then I'll be happy. When this season changes, then life will begin.* Yet Scripture reminds us that our times are in God's hands and that today is the day He has made.

As Carl's adventure unfolds, he discovers that the journey he needed was different from the one he planned. Through his relationship with Russell, he learns that some of life's most significant moments are found in ordinary conversations, everyday relationships, and simply being present with people.

The message ultimately pointed us back to Jesus. Life to the full is not found in reaching a destination, accomplishing a goal, or obtaining what we've always wanted. True life is found in knowing Jesus and loving the people He has placed around us.

The challenge was simple: **Don't miss the life God is giving you because you're waiting for the life you imagined.**

Discussion Questions:

1. **Living in the Present**
   The message highlighted how easy it is to live with a "when-then" mindset, always looking ahead to the next season. Where do you find yourself most tempted to think, *"When this changes, then I'll be happy"?*

2. **The People Right in Front of You**
   One of the key themes of the message was that we can miss the people God has placed around us because we're focused on our plans or what's next. Who might God be inviting you to notice, invest in, or be more present with in this season?

AT THE MOVIES

3. **Life to the Full**
   Jesus promised that He came so that we might have life to the full. What does "life to the full" look like from God's perspective, and how is that different from the picture our culture often presents?

Prayer Pointers | Pray together for:

- Hearts that are present and attentive in the current season.
- Gratitude for God's work in our lives today.
- Eyes to see the people God has placed around us.
- Trust in God when life doesn't unfold according to our plans.
- A deeper relationship with Jesus, the source of true life.
- Opportunities to love and serve others well this week.

Weekly Application:

This week, take time each day to pause and thank God for one person, one opportunity, and one blessing in your current season.

Ask yourself: What might I be missing because I'm too focused on what's next?

Then intentionally invest in one relationship this week through a conversation, shared meal, phone call, or act of encouragement.

Leader Note:

Many people may be navigating disappointment, grief, unmet expectations, or difficult seasons. Keep the discussion hopeful and anchored in the reminder that God is still writing their story. Encourage the group to celebrate God's presence in the ordinary moments of life and to recognize that true fullness of life is found in Jesus, not in arriving at a particular destination.