

Small Group 2021 Fall Session

**Writing Your Obituary**

*“Now when David had **served God’s purpose in his own generation**, he fell asleep; he was buried with his ancestors and his body decayed.”*

*Acts 13:36*

*“His master replied, ‘**Well done, good and faithful servant!** You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’”*

*Matthew 25:21*

**Part 1: A Life of Significance**

One of the most well-known stories about obituary writing is about Alfred Nobel, founder of the Nobel Peace Prize. Nobel was a Swedish chemist, engineer, and industrialist who invented dynamite and other powerful explosives. His family’s investments in chemicals manufacturing and explosives brought him a large fortune. When Nobel’s brother died of a heart attack in 1888, some French newspapers reported that the wrong brother had died. In the obituary, reporters called Nobel a “merchant of death” because of his family’s history of creating explosives. After reading these accounts of his own “death,” Nobel realized he did not want to be remembered this way. This realization led Nobel to rewrite his will to dedicate his fortune to philanthropy. On November 27, 1895, Nobel signed his last will and testament, giving the largest share of his fortune to a series of prizes in physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature and peace – the Nobel Prizes. In 1896 Nobel died of a cerebral hemorrhage at his villa in San Remo, Italy.

- Complete the attached Obituary Exercise.
- Watch this video about Bob Tebow called “A Life of Significance”:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SfDHZ04HGt8>

**Part 2: Reflection Questions**

- Alfred Nobel used his desire for a favorable obituary to change the course of his life. Does this exercise in writing your obituary help you to think about your own values and legacy?
- Bob Tebow followed God’s call to become a missionary in the Philippines. His life choices have impacted many, including his five children who have followed in his footsteps. Do you desire to live a life of significance? If you have children, how might this desire impact them?

**Part 3: Prayer Requests**

Close the meeting with any prayer requests.

## Obituary Exercise

*Instructions: Fill in the blanks and circle the appropriate "his/her" designation. This exercise in creating a Mad Libs-style obituary is meant to be both entertaining and thought-provoking. It's OK to have a little fun with it.*

It is with deep sorrow and much love that we mourn the passing of \_\_\_\_\_, who  
*your first and last name*

unexpectedly succumbed to injuries while \_\_\_\_\_ at the ripe old age of  
*activity on your bucket list*

\_\_\_\_\_ years.  
*preferred age at time of passing*

\_\_\_\_\_ will be lovingly remembered by his/her spouse \_\_\_\_\_ and children  
*your first name* *your spouse's name*

\_\_\_\_\_, who affectionately gave him/her the  
*your children*

nickname \_\_\_\_\_.  
*nickname you currently have or always wanted*

Interestingly, \_\_\_\_\_ was an individual of unique passions and odd habits, including  
*your first name*

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. As a closet  
*first unique habit or activity* *second unique habit or activity* *third unique habit or activity*

food connoisseur, \_\_\_\_\_ really loved to eat \_\_\_\_\_ and could be  
*your first name* *your favorite food*

seen spending much of their free time \_\_\_\_\_. Most importantly,  
*your favorite place to eat food*

\_\_\_\_\_ will be remembered for \_\_\_\_\_. This  
*your first name* *characteristic or passion you would like to be remembered for*

value was important to \_\_\_\_\_ and it clearly showed by the way he/she  
*your first name*

would \_\_\_\_\_.  
*how you exhibit your characteristic or passion*

In lieu of sending flowers, \_\_\_\_\_ requests that you \_\_\_\_\_.  
*your first name* *how you would like others to honor your memory*

Thank you.