

THE SEARCH FOR MEANING

June 25, 2017

PASSAGE: Ecclesiastes 1:1-2:26 NLT

BIG IDEA:

Why are we here? What is the point to this thing called life? Is life pointless? What will bring me happiness and contentment? To discover the meaning for my life I must stop looking at what the world can offer and I must see what God wants me to discover!

SERMON POINTS:

I. Meaningless Living

The result of meaningless living:

1. Life is _____. (Ecclesiastes 1:2-4 NLT)
2. Life is _____. (Ecclesiastes 1:5-8a NLT)
3. Life is _____. (Ecclesiastes 1:8b NLT)
4. Life is _____. (Ecclesiastes 1:9-11 NLT)

II. The Search for Meaning

I must remember:

1. _____ doesn't bring fulfillment. (Ecclesiastes 1:12-18 NLT)
2. _____ doesn't bring fulfillment. (Ecclesiastes 2:1-3 NLT)
3. _____ doesn't bring fulfillment. (Ecclesiastes 2:4-8 NLT)
4. _____ doesn't bring fulfillment. (Ecclesiastes 2:9-11 NLT)

III. Finding Fulfillment

I can live a meaningful life when I:

1. _____ God. (John 1:12 NLT)
2. _____ God. (Psalm 20:7 GNT)
3. Become like _____. (Ephesians 5:1-2 NLT)
4. Have an _____ perspective. (Colossians 3:2 TLB)
- 5.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Spend time this week prioritizing the things that are most important to you. If you find that pursuing God and growing deeper in Christ is near the bottom of your list then it might be time to focus on the eternal things of life and less on the earthly things of life.

2. Spend time reading Ephesians 1:4-5 this week and allow God to speak to you about your true purpose for being created.
3. Invite a friend to church next week so they can experience what you have already discovered!

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

1. Has there ever been a time or a season of life where you doubted that God was real? Did you search for meaning and purpose? Recall that time and talk about what your life was like when you tried to find meaning and purpose in the world?
2. Do you find you feel better about yourself when you have more money, when you have more fun, when you achieve more, or when you do something incredibly smart? Is your self-worth tied to these worldly things or do you have a good balance between the earthly things and eternal things?
3. Do you agree with King Solomon that history simply repeats itself over and over? Generations come and generations go and each generation simply does the same things over and over.
4. What do you think the purpose of life is all about? Why are we here? Discuss as a group. Then read Ephesians 1:4-5. Discuss.