

Group Discussion Questions

UNSTUCK | Week 5 *"Your Purpose is Only Found in Christ"*

It has been said that the two most important days of your life are the day you were born and the day you discover why. The vast majority of people in the world not only don't know their purpose in life, they haven't a clue about how to find it. The good news is that God has provided us with the means to both discover and to live out our purpose in life.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Almost all of us were asked when we were in elementary school, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Do you remember what you said (or at least what your own young children have said) when you were asked this question? Why do you think you answered this way?
2. If you had not ended up doing what you are doing, what do you imagine you might have done instead? If you could go back to the beginning and do it all again would you have followed the same career path or opted for something different?

SERMON NOTES REVIEW

Looking back at your sermon notes from this weekend's teaching, was there anything said that caught your attention, challenged you or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read Ephesians 2:10. What do you think Paul means when he says we are God's masterpiece created in Christ Jesus? How does that make you feel? Paul goes on to say that we were created for good works which God prepared ahead of time for us to do. How are we to understand this in light of what Paul says just above in Verse 8 about being saved by grace and not by works?
2. 2 Timothy 2:12 tells us that everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ will be persecuted. We might live in a place where the persecution does not place yet us in physical peril, but there is no guarantee that this will always be the case. We can still feel real persecution from friends, family, and co-workers for living out our faith. Regardless of the form that persecution might take in your life how can we know how to live in the face of persecution? Read 1 Peter 2:21. What better example can we ask for?
3. Read Philippians 2:3-4. What is one of the best ways we can guard against the kind of self-centeredness that caused Solomon (and countless others) to fall? What does this look like in your life?

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4. Read Proverbs 13:20. What does this tell us about wisely choosing our friends? Does this mean that we should not have any friends who are not Christians? Why or Why not? While we are to be kind to everyone, serving any way we can, we should be careful about those we allow to get close to us. Our closest friends carry great influence and can lead our hearts either toward or away from God's plan for our lives. Who are your closest friends? What kind of influence are they having on you?

5. Read 2 Timothy 3:16–17. Bank employees are trained to recognize counterfeits by studying genuine money so closely that it is easy to spot a fake. Why is it important to spend time with God and his Word? How does this make it easier it is to recognize his voice and his leading in our lives?

TAKING IT HOME

- Psalm 37:4 says, "Delight yourself in the LORD and He will give you the desires of your heart." If we are walking closely with the Lord and truly desiring His will for our lives, God will place His desires in our hearts. The key is wanting God's will, not our own. Look for opportunities to align your desires with God's.

- Read Ecclesiastes 12:13–14. Solomon ends this book about his journey back to God after descending into self-serving decadence with these words. Take some intentional time to do some self examination in order to recognize the areas in your life that might be vulnerable to seeking self centered pleasure over God's will and make a plan to avoid it.

PRAYER TIME

Close your group in prayer. Humble yourself before God with the realization that if even the wisest man beside Jesus ever to live could be lured into serving himself rather than God, we too are vulnerable. Ask God to help you to avoid becoming stuck in the downward spiral of worldly pleasures and to keep you focused on him and his purposes for your life.

ACTION ITEMS

- The King James translation of Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." Since God placed you in the world at this particular time in history, take time this week to pray about exactly what that purpose might be and how you can fulfill it with the help of the Holy Spirit.

- Read Jeremiah 2:3. The problem is not that we seek pleasure; the problem is that we seek pleasure apart from God. In the Bible God does not condemn

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people for seeking happiness but for seeking it in ways that ignore, neglect, or rebel against God's will. Take a personal inventory and determine whether or not what makes you happy aligns with God.