

## Small Group Discussion Guide — September 20, 2020

- Series: Gospel Truth - Good News for Everyone
  - Sermon: Your Life Has Meaning
  - Scripture: Jeremiah 1: 4-5, 2 Timothy 1: 9-10, Colossians 1: 27
- 

### **FOLLOW-UP FROM THE SUMMER:**

What difference has it made in your life this week to know how grand a story is the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

### **CONNECT:**

What kind of life events make you ask the questions, *Who am I*, and *Why am I here?*

### **ENGAGE:**

1. In Jeremiah 1: 4-5, God tells Jeremiah, “Before I formed you in the womb I **knew** you.” What does this suggest about how important we are to the creator of the universe?
2. Read 2 Timothy 1: 9.
  - What does it mean that the grace of Jesus Christ was “given to us **before the beginning of time**”? What are some implications of this statement?
  - How is it possible to comprehend such a thing without faith?
  - Does this concept of the timelessness of God encourage or overwhelm you? Why?
3. Read Colossians 1: 27. According to this verse, what is the grand mystery of life?

### **APPLY:**

1. If we could wrap our minds around how God knew us before we were born, how might that understanding infuse our daily lives with meaning and purpose?
2. David suggested that a great temptation is to think our life’s purpose is about finding out deeper truths about ourselves - how we are uniquely gifted. How does John 6:29 suggest otherwise? What would it mean for you to internalize and act on the belief that our greatest purpose is to live out an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ?
3. David’s words about finding purpose and meaning in Christ suggests that outside of a relationship with God, it is impossible to find meaning in our lives. What are some ways that we *drink water from the ocean*, trying to satisfy our existential thirst? What have those experiences taught you?

### **PRAY:**

Father in heaven, we marvel that you knew us before we were formed in the womb. We can hardly comprehend that you desire a relationship with us, despite how small we feel. Thank you for this miraculous love. May we come to believe that you are the only answer to the questions in our hearts about who we are and what is our purpose. Help us have the courage to grasp the answer you provide through your son, Jesus Christ. Amen

## **GOING DEEPER:**

David mentioned our tendency to think of the Gospel as an employee who “works for us,” reducing our relationship to it as one of a business transaction. This can be summarized in the idea that “the gospel (or church) didn’t work for me.” This is a me-centric approach to the Gospel, and misses its greatness and sufficiency.

This week, take note of the messages you allow to shape your understanding of the Gospel and your purpose. As an experiment, deliberately increase your “intake” of God’s word, making it equal or greater than your intake of social or other media. See how your soul feels after a consistent diet of scripture and prayer, versus the constant barrage of the world’s messages. What happens to your faith?

## **SUPPORTING VERSES**

*Friendly reminder: Download one of the Bible apps on your phone or tablet to have quick access to the many different versions of scripture available.*

John 7: 38-39

1 Corinthians 10: 31

John 6: 29

Ephesians 2: 6

## **QUOTES**

“Human beings need nothing so much as something to bring life together into total meaning and total goal. Life for people today needs something to give total meaning to an otherwise fragmented life. We need an absolute from which we can work down to the relativisms of our day. We are being pushed and pulled and beckoned to, enticed from all directions, pushed from relativism to relativism. We are confused - the most confused and yet the most intelligent people that ever existed. We know everything about life, except how to live it.”

Gordon MacDonald

“Without a moral purpose, we sail along rudderless, coping with inevitable wind and waves but making little progress toward the destinations we pick for ourselves.”

Max DePree

“A platform built on worldly success will crumble quickly when we struggle. The gospel enables us to glorify Christ in the midst of our struggles and successes. “

Webb Simpson