

INTRO

- Reflect on a time when you were uncertain or questioning your purpose in life. How did it make you feel? What helped in that time?

In Search Of addresses the universal quest for identity, belonging, purpose, transcendence and freedom. Today's discussion focuses on the search for meaning and purpose, grounded in our relationship with God.

READ

Psalm 8:3-6; Eccl 12:13-14; 1 Cor 10:31

REFLECT & RESPOND

Most people would acknowledge they want to live a fulfilling life. In order to do that, we need a sense of the meaning and purpose of our lives.

Qu: why do we long for meaning and purpose? How have you experienced this longing in your life? What helped or hindered your search?

Ecclesiastes points to the futility of life "under the sun," when we explore it from a purely earthly perspective. We often try to find meaning in aspects of our lives such as work, relationships, and accomplishments. However, this leaves us vulnerable to life's uncertainties: we can lose jobs, relationships can be unstable, and we might fail to achieve anything substantial.

Psalm 8 echoes Genesis 1:27, reminding us that life, including our individual lives, has inherent meaning and purpose because we are created by and for God. To be truly human is to flourish as made in God's image and likeness, reflecting Him into the world.

Qu: How does the idea of being an image-bearer change the way you think about purpose? What does it mean for you personally?

Sadly, popular versions of the gospel minimize the sin issue as simply breaking God's moral

code. Yet, our deeper issue with sin is that it dehumanizes us, preventing us from flourishing as image-bearers in our relationship with God, one another and creation. Yet, Jesus came to deal with this comprehensively. He redeems and restores us to what it means to be truly human again. Our chief purpose from which all other purposes in our life flow, is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever (see also 1 Cor 10:31).

Qu: what does glorifying God mean and look like in our lives?

Our purpose is rooted in God's glory. By reflecting His image and trusting His plan, we discover true meaning and significance in every aspect of our lives. We can also discover the unique ways this looks in our personal lives by asking questions like:

- Who am I? (How has God uniquely designed and gifted you?)
- Where am I? (What season of life are you in? What opportunities are before you?)
- What's in my hand? (How can you use what you have to bring glory to God?)

Qu: Is there an area of your life where you feel a lack of purpose? How can surrendering to God's purpose bring peace and direction in that area?

RESPOND & PRAY

- Pray for wisdom and courage to pursue God's purpose with trust and resilience. Ask God to help each group member discover their purpose in Him.