

Life as a Journey of Spiritual Discovery

What Will Fill My Cup?



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Dedicated To

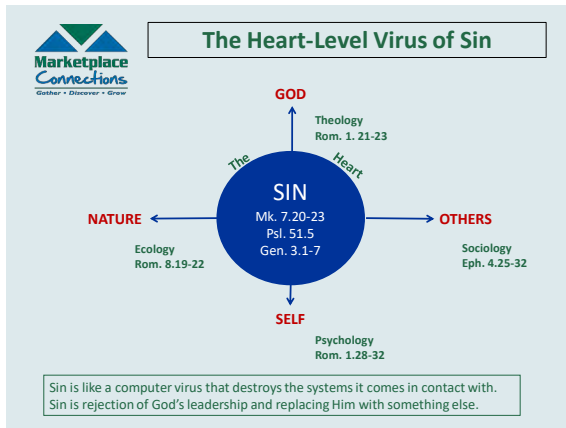
Haifa Alhussieni who owns Cafe Louvre in Edmonds, Washington. My favorite all time third place to hang out. Your friendship and great place are a source of encouragement to me. Thanks

S. Umit Kucuk for nudging me to write this booklet. I am grateful for having conversations about things that matter while we hang out at Cafe Louvre.

Chapter Eight - Final Discussion (continued)

Jesus I want you to fill the cup of my life. I recognize and embrace my sinful nature and I believe that you are the Son of God who rose from the dead to give me purpose for living. I surrender the throne room of my heart to you and want to live as your follower for the rest of my life. Amen!

Chapter Eight - Final Discussion (continued)



This diagram explains the relational destruction that happened as a result of sin.

So the first step to filling our cup is to recognize and agree that we are sinners in need of repentance or a turning back to God.

The next step in the process is a decision to believe in what Jesus Christ did on the cross.

Jesus Christ is the living water that can feed hungry souls and he has the anti-virus that can kill the sin nature that ravages our soul. Jesus died on the cross, was buried and rose again so you and I could have an intimate relationship with the God of the universe.

In John 10.10 Jesus said that he came to give us His abundant life and that he wants to be the living water that can fill the cup of our life.

If God has spoken to you through this discussion, take some time to bow your head and heart and pray the following prayer.

Introduction

As I sat in the coffee shop with my friend Jim (not real name), we chatted about a lot of things including what is the purpose for living. He had been watching some Ted Talks and found one that had touched him deeply. The Ted Talk was about having regrets as one faces the inevitable process of dying. I was grateful that Jim had shared the deep needs of his soul and was willing to be real in our friendship.

During our conversation, I felt led to share some of my spiritual journey and how I had found someone who could meet the deep needs of my soul. I drew a coffee cup on a piece of paper and talked about the things people experiment with to give purpose to life and how each of those things are inadequate to meet the hunger in our hearts. As Jim listened, he said, "This is helpful, and you should write a book about this idea."

So fast forward to the next week and we are having another stimulating conversation at the same coffee shop. I share a diagram about my spiritual journey and Jim says, "This is helpful and you need to use this in your book."

Well after being prompted twice by Jim here I am trying to put words to experiences I have had over the last 30 years that might be helpful to someone searching for someone or something that will fill the cup of their life.

How to use this booklet

My hope for this booklet is that you will gather a small group of people who enjoy having conversations about things that matter. One of my favorite activities is to meet with small groups of people in coffee shops and pubs to build friendships and have stimulating discussions. Jim is one of those people who makes me think about things that matter.

Format:

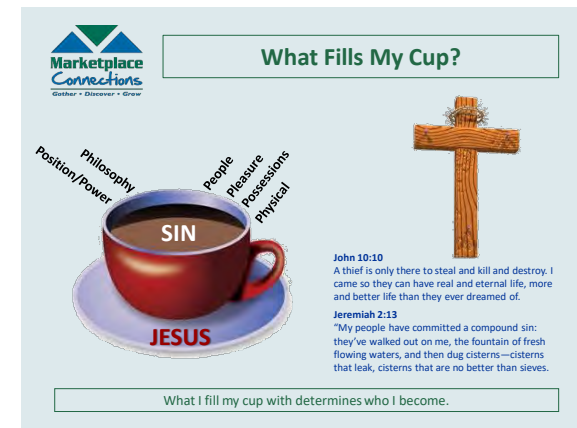
1. Read the story out loud in the group and use the discussion questions. About 15 minutes
2. Read the Bible story out loud and use the discussion questions. About 15 minutes
3. Close by asking each person to share what they are taking away from this discussion. About 15 minutes

Group Sharing Guidelines:

- This is a safe group to share with and what is shared in the group stays in the group and does not appear on Facebook.
- We are on this journey together and we can be real and transparent with each other.
- We do not attempt to “fix each other” but we do try to nudge each other toward growth.
- We commit ourselves to follow the truth we discover in these conversations no matter the consequence

Chapger Eight**Final Discussion****Introduction**

So we have finished our journey through the six things that we experiment with to fill the cup of our life. I have tried all of them and found some satisfaction from each of them but I finally realized that they could not fulfill the needs of my soul.



How then does a person find the right source of soul fulfillment? As you look at the cup there is a line with a question mark at the top and the bottom of the cup? The line at the top should have the word sin written on it. Before a person can find soul fulfillment they need to recognize that they have a soul level computer virus that has infected their whole life. We call this the computer virus of sin.

Sin is a relational idea and not a behavior. In Genesis 3:1-7 Adam and Eve decided to rebel against God and reject a relationship with him. The consequences of this rebellion spread in four relational directions. People were separated from God, each other, nature and from themselves.

Chapter Seven - #6 - Philosophy - From the Bible Passage - Wisdom is Meaningless (continued)

Questions:

- What did you learn from this story?
- Why is wisdom better than strength?
- How do think the man saved the city?
- What wisdom would save our country right now?

“I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. I devoted myself to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under heaven. What a heavy burden God has laid on men! I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind. What is twisted cannot be straightened; what is lacking cannot be counted. I thought to myself, “Look, I have grown and increased in wisdom more than anyone who has ruled over Jerusalem before me; I have experienced much of wisdom and knowledge.” Then I applied myself to the understanding of wisdom, and also madness and folly, but I learned that this, too, is chasing after the wind. For with much wisdom comes much sorrow; the more knowledge, the more grief.”

Questions:

- What did you learn from this passage?
- Why can wisdom bring sorrow?

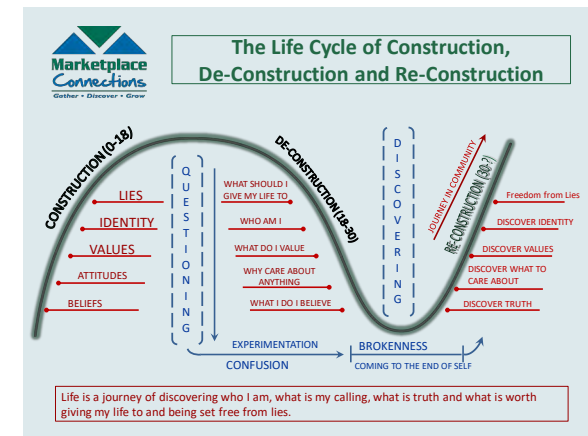
Conclusion:

What have you learned about philosophy and wisdom from these passages?

Chapter One The Journey of Life

Introduction

So, what was the spiritual journey diagram I shared with Jim? The diagram below explains the cycle of life that we all go through as we experience and process the events of life. We will take three weeks to unpack this diagram and share our life story in the context of what have been the positive and negative events that have shaped who we have become.



Construction (age 0 to 18)

On the left side of the diagram it talks about the first 18 years of our life. We grow up in a family and learn certain beliefs, attitudes and have an identity. We learn things we believe to be true, but we also learn things that may not be true. For example, I grew up believing that I was dumb and ugly as a result of someone who said these things to me repeatedly. Unfortunately, I believed those lies and they became my identity.

Chapter One - The Journey of Life (continued)

Questions:

1. In your group, have each person share what beliefs they were taught in their family of origin?
2. In your group, share some things that became lies that were not founded on truth? How did those things shape who they became?
3. Discuss the following statement. A person's worldview should be shaped by choice and truth and not family and culture. Agree or disagree and why?

Deconstruction

Many people walk through a season of life where they begin to question what they believe and look for alternative ways to explain reality. This can be a normal developmental phase of life or it can become a downward spiral into destructive patterns of living. For me, I went through a phase in life in my 20's where I rebelled against everything. I rejected the Christian faith I had been raised with, began to question everything my country stood for and used drugs to cope with the pain in my life. This journey lasted for three years and I eventually contemplated ending my life. In the midst of all this pain I began to pray in desperation and asked God to somehow turn my life around. I ended up breaking my ankle playing football and had to move out of the drug house where I was living.

The long-term result of this season of life was to be sent back into the Marine Corps where I was deployed to Okinawa, an island south of Japan. I was 23, miserable and had no purpose for living. This was a time of deep brokenness and coming to the end of myself. I had nowhere to turn.

Chapter Seven #6 - Philosophy - From the Bible

Introduction

The Bible is the True Story of God. God communicates to us by sharing stories that have truth that connects to our head and our heart. God invites us into relationship with himself and gives us a real time philosophy that connects to our world. When I really understood the True Story of God my heart was set free with his truth.



Passage - Wisdom Better Than Folly

- Ecclesiastes 9.13-18

“I also saw under the sun this example of wisdom that greatly impressed me; There was once a small city with only a few people in it. And a powerful king came against it, surrounded it and built huge siege works against it. Now there lived in that city a man poor but wise, and he saved the city by his wisdom. But nobody remembered that poor man. So, I said, “Wisdom is better than strength.” But the poor man’s wisdom is despised, and his words are no longer needed.”

Chapter Seven - #6 - Philosophy - From My Own Life Story of My Life (continued)

After months of study I had learned so much but remained in a state of confusion. I could understand what the great philosophers had taught, but my soul was empty. I had this nagging sense that something was wrong and all of the philosophical musings I had read were unable to cure the ache in my heart.

At this point in time I decided to give the Bible a try again. I had studied the Bible while attending church as a young person, but it all seemed so mysterious and I was unable to grasp the story line. I began in the gospel of John and my friend Bruce helped me understand what I was reading. Slowly I began to see that Jesus was the person who could answer my questions and most importantly address the malaise that plagued me but remained nameless. Finally, I realized that my deepest problem was two-fold;

- At the deep level of my heart my root problem was rebellion against a relationship with God and that sin was the main impediment to finding the meaning of life
- Secondly, the Bible was a relational book and that God deeply desired a living, vital relationship with me

I was startled about all of this to say the least. In Okinawa, on December 15, 1969 I bowed in tearful surrender to the God who made me and desired a relationship with me.

Questions:

- Describe how philosophy can be a useful tool in developing a worldview, but what are some of the pitfalls of philosophy ultimately filling the cup of our life?
- What philosophy has been most helpful to you in discovering the purpose for life?

Chapter One - The Journey of Life (continued)

Questions:

- Share about a time in your life where you began to question what you believed?
- What can be the benefits of going through a time of deconstruction in life?

Reconstruction

My first steps toward recovery came through a fellow Marine. Bruce began to reach out to me and eventually invited me to study the Bible with him. I had so many questions and Bruce was so patient with me along with another friend named Tom. From their friendship and spiritual guidance, I began to realize that Jesus Christ was the answer to the longing of my heart. I finally saw that sin and rejection of God was the source of my struggle in life and that Jesus was the only one who had the answer to the sin problem by what he did on the Cross. I remember pouring my heart out to Christ and with tears in my eyes asked him to rescue and put my life back together. I felt a huge load lifted from my heart and sensed that a radical transformation was taking place. Everything felt different.

Questions:

1. Share about a time in your life where you went through a life changing experience?
2. During a time of reconstruction, how does a person come to embrace a new way of living?

Chapter Two

#1 - Possessions

Introduction

The Bible is a contemporary book that contains some insights for living life based on truth. The stories in the Bible can captivate the soul when embraced by the head and the heart. Read this story out loud and then discuss the questions.



Story from My Life

Shortly after I finished high school my car defined who I was. I had a 1966 Chevy, that had 325 horsepower and was a stick shift. I loved that car. "It was fast and I beat my buddy who owned a Chevrolet Corvette in a drag race." I was cool.

I also had a nice girlfriend who liked my car more than me. We were at a drive-in restaurant one time and one of my buddies came up to us in the parking lot and said to my girlfriend, "I bet he got you because of the car." I forget what my girlfriend said and not sure I want to remember.

Chapter Seven

#6 - Philosophy - From My Own Life

Introduction

Life is a journey of discovering what can give us meaning and purpose. We are born with a cup in our hands and we take that cup through life and seek someone or something to fill our cup.

In this part of our journey I will share two stories. One from my own life and one from the Bible. Each story will illustrate how a particular thing can or can't fill the cup of our life.



Story from my Life

When I arrived on Okinawa in the Marine Corps I decided to begin a philosophical journey to find a worldview that could make sense of the world and life for me. I spent hours in the library reading every book on philosophy I could find. I read Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Hegel, Nietzsche, and so many others in search of truth that could sustain my life.

Chapter Six - #5 - People - From the Bible Story from the Bible-The Woman at the Well (continued)

¹⁹⁻²⁰ “Oh, so you’re a prophet! Well, tell me this: Our ancestors worshiped God at this mountain, but you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place for worship, right?”

²¹⁻²³ “Believe me, woman, the time is coming when you Samaritans will worship the Father neither here at this mountain nor there in Jerusalem. You worship guessing in the dark; we Jews worship in the clear light of day. God’s way of salvation is made available through the Jews. But the time is coming—it has, in fact, come—when what you’re called will not matter and where you go to worship will not matter.

²³⁻²⁴ “It’s who you are and the way you live that count before God. Your worship must engage your spirit in the pursuit of truth. That’s the kind of people the Father is out looking for: those who are simply and honestly *themselves* before him in their worship. God is sheer being itself—Spirit. Those who worship him must do it out of their very being, their spirits, their true selves, in adoration.”

²⁵ The woman said, “I don’t know about that. I do know that the Messiah is coming. When he arrives, we’ll get the whole story.”

²⁶ “I am he,” said Jesus. “You don’t have to wait any longer or look any further.”

Questions

- What do you think the living water was that Jesus talked about?
- The woman at the well had been drinking from the relational wells of men and she had not found fulfillment? Why?
- Share about someone in your life that has given you relational joy?

Chapter Two - #1 - Possessions Story from My Life (continue)

The other possession that I enjoyed for 28 years was the house we raised our girls in. It wasn’t a fancy house but had plenty of space for all the people who passed through our home. When we sold that house, it was difficult emotionally. Not so much because of the house but because of all the memories that it represented. It took me a while to realize that I carry the memories in my heart and I don’t need the house to preserve the memories.

Throughout my life I have tried to use my possessions for worthy purposes and not have them define who I am.

Questions:

- Has there been a possession in your life that has defined who you are? What was it and how did it define you?
- Why are possessions an inadequate source of finding what will fill our cup of life?
- How do we hold our possessions loosely?

Chapter 2

#1 - Possessions - From the Bible

Introduction

The first commandment in the Bible in the Old Testament was to have no other gods before God. The Bible has a lot to say about idolatry as one of the barriers between God and people. An idol is anything that we use as a source of worship and build our identity around. Possessions are one of the things that can function as a secular god for people.



Passage-Luke 12.13-21

-The Story of the Greedy Farmer

“Someone out of the crowd said, “Teacher, order my brother to give me a fair share of the family inheritance.” He replied, “Mister, what makes you think it’s any of my business to be a judge or mediator for you?” Speaking to the people, he went on. “Take care! Protect yourself against the least bit of greed. Life is not defined by what you have, even when you have a lot.” Then he told them this story; “The farm of a certain rich man produced

Chapter Six - #5 - People - From the Bible Story from the Bible-The Woman at the Well (continued)

⁶To get there, he had to pass through Samaria. He came into Sychar, a Samaritan village that bordered the field Jacob had given his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was still there. Jesus, worn out by the trip, sat down at the well. It was noon.

⁷⁻⁸ A woman, a Samaritan, came to draw water. Jesus said, “Would you give me a drink of water?” (His disciples had gone to the village to buy food for lunch.)

⁹ The Samaritan woman, taken aback, asked, “How come you, a Jew, are asking me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?” (Jews in those days wouldn’t be caught dead talking to Samaritans.)

¹⁰ Jesus answered, “If you knew the generosity of God and who I am, you would be asking me for a drink, and I would give you fresh, living water.”

¹¹⁻¹² The woman said, “Sir, you don’t even have a bucket to draw with, and this well is deep. So how are you going to get this ‘living water’? Are you a better man than our ancestor Jacob, who dug this well and drank from it, he and his sons and livestock, and passed it down to us?”

¹³⁻¹⁴ Jesus said, “Everyone who drinks this water will get thirsty again and again. Anyone who drinks the water I give will never thirst—not ever. The water I give will be an artesian spring within, gushing fountains of endless life.”

¹⁵ The woman said, “Sir, give me this water so I won’t ever get thirsty, won’t ever have to come back to this well again!”

¹⁶ He said, “Go call your husband and then come back.”

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ “I have no husband,” she said.

“That’s nicely put: ‘I have no husband.’ You’ve had five husbands, and the man you’re living with now isn’t even your husband. You spoke the truth there, sure enough.”

Chapter Six

5 - People - From the Bible

Introduction

At the heart of the Christian message there is an eternal relationship known as the Trinity. God has always existed as a community of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. No other religion has a relational starting point like the Christian faith. Ultimately, our relational longings can only be met when we are daily immersed in the Community of God.



Story from the Bible-The Woman at the Well -John 4.1-26

⁴Jesus realized that the Pharisees were keeping count of the baptisms that he and John performed (although his disciples, not Jesus, did the actual baptizing). They had posted the score that Jesus was ahead, turning him and John into rivals in the eyes of the people. So Jesus left the Judean countryside and went back to Galilee.

Chapter 2 - #1 - Possessions - From the Bible The Story of the Greedy Farmer (continued)

a terrific crop. He talked to himself; 'What can I do? My barn isn't big enough for this harvest.' Then he said, 'Here's what I'll do; I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll gather in all my grain and goods, and I'll say to myself. "Self, you've done well! You've got it made and can now retire. Take it easy and have the time of your life!" Just then God showed up and said, 'Fool! Tonight, you die. And your barnful of goods—who gets it?' "That's what happens when you fill your barn with Self and not with God."

Questions:

- What is the point of this story?
- If life isn't defined by what you have, what should define life?
- How do we have possessions but not have them become the center of our lives?
- Share about a time in your life when you struggled with greed and the hunger for more?

Chapter Three

#2 - Physical (Beauty & Body)

Introduction

Billions of dollars are spent annually to enhance how we look and try to stay in shape. The motivation behind this can be noble but can also deteriorate into how we look defining who we are. I have battled with this in my own life.



Story From My Life

When I was growing up I believed two lies about myself. I believed that I was dumb and ugly. These lies became software in my soul and functioned as a virus in my life. I had always wanted to be tall and handsome and have a body that would attract girls. I saw tall guys with sports bodies that had girls chasing after them. I wanted that kind of a life.

Since I could never be part of the “in crowd” I chose to hang out with the wrong group of people. I needed something else to have any sense of joy in my life. My whole identity became one of

Chapter Six - #5 - People

Story from My Life (continued)

she moved to another city 100 miles away. I was not happy and thought that the relationship might end. She had become the center of my life and I wanted to marry her.

This was a time for me to make sure I had the right person at the center of my life and though deeply in love I had to let her go. I needed to let God awaken love for me in her heart and not try to force the relationship. So hard to let go but in the end it was good for me. As I write these words Pat has been the love of my life for 41 years but I have learned not to have her become the definition of who I am. Only God can do that.

Questions

- Why do we long for healthy relationships?
- Why we long for heroes and heroines in our lives?
- How do we prevent relational addictions in our lives?

Chapter Six

#5 - People

Introduction

Relationships are at the core of why the universe exists. We long for someone to share the joys and challenges of life with. Relationships can give such joy and meaning to life but can also be a source of conflict and depression. How do we strike a balance between deep relationships grounded in love and relationships that result in grief?



Story from my Life

Being a mild introvert, relationships have been a challenge for me. I so enjoy people but find my energy comes from time alone with a good book. When I was in my 20's my parents had given up on me ever getting married. Connecting with women was awkward for me and I was lacking in social skills. I once memorized poems as a pick up approach at local bars. Didn't work too well! While in university I met a woman who I was very attracted to. We shared the same vision and values and became good friends. Didn't take long for me to all in love with her. I was smitten but she wasn't in quite the same place. We began to date and then

Chapter Three - #2 - Physical (continued)

drinking, poor grades and a general sense of lostness. The rest of this story will be told when we talk about pleasure as one of the things we try to fill the cup of our life with.

Questions:

- Have you ever wanted to be someone other than yourself? If so who and what was it about that person that you wanted to be like?
- How does a person become content with how they look?
- How do we keep physique (Beauty & Body) from becoming an idol that defines us?

Chapter Three

#2 - Physical - From the Bible

Introduction

The Bible has a lot to say about our bodies and our appearance. If we begin with the assumption that God has designed us the way we created, we end up in a healthy place in our sense of what we look like.



Passage-Psalm 139.13-18

“Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me in my mother’s womb. I thank you, High God-you’re breathtaking! Body and soul, I am marvelously made! I worship in adoration-what a creation! You know me inside and out, you know every bone in my body; you know exactly how I was made, bit by bit, how I was sculpted from nothing into something. Like an open book, you watched me grow from conception to birth; all the stages of my life were spread out before you, The days of my life all prepared before I’d even lived one day.”

Chapter Five -#4 - Pleasure From the Bible

Story from the Bible-Ecclesiastes 2. 1-11 (continued)

men and women singers, and a harem as well-the delights of the heart of man. I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me. I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my work, and this was the reward for all my labor. Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.

Questions

- What do you see in these passages about the pursuit of pleasure?
- The writer repeatedly talks about things being meaningless. How would you attach meaning to life so that pleasure was something good?
- What are some of the pleasures you have sought and have they given you pleasure?

Chapter Five

#4 - Pleasure - From the Bible

Introduction

The pursuit of pleasure is part of our design. We long for a sense of enjoying what the world has to offer. God has created a world for us to enjoy but gave warning about pleasure with no boundaries.



Story from the Bible-Ecclesiastes 2. 1-11

I thought in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good. But that also proved to be meaningless. Laughter, "I said, is foolish, And what does pleasure accomplish? I tried cheering myself with wine, and embracing folly-my mind still guiding me with wisdom. I wanted to see what was worthwhile for men to do under heaven during the few days of their lives. I undertook great projects; I build houses for myself and planted vineyards. I mad gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. I mad reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees. I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me. I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired

Chapter Three - #2 - Physical - From the Bible (Continued)

Questions:

- What are the implications of this passage for accepting how we have been designed?
 - What do you think is behind the beauty movement when it becomes excessive for someone?
 - When you think about beauty, how do you describe it?
-

Chapter Four

3 - Position & Power

Introduction

Position and power are necessary for order in our world. When used with integrity, they can create cultures where people thrive. When abused, power and position can result in evil that demeans people.



Story from my Life

When my life was finally set free from the lies of being dumb and ugly, other things crept into my soul that caused me to worship false gods. When I worked for an organization, one my goals was to become at least the Vice-President of the organization. At its core, this striving was based on my own insecurity and a false definition of leadership. I thought that leadership had to do with position and power and that I would really feel good about myself if I had a position of influence.

When I finally was the President of an organization, I became a controlling leader who silenced the voices of the two people who

Chapter Five - #4 - Pleasure

Story from my Life -(continued)

When my life began to fall apart in the 1960's I eventually reverted back to drugs and the hippie lifestyle. This painful time in life eventually led to brokenness and coming to the end of myself. There really was no pleasure in my life only pain.

Out of pain and brokenness God showed up to throw me a life-line to a relationship with him. I eventually found the truth that I was searching for in Jesus Christ. He has become my ultimate pleasure.

Questions

- What are the sources of pleasure in life for you?
- What makes the difference for pleasure being a source of enjoyment or an addiction?
- How can the longing for pleasure result in finding God?

Chapter Five

#4 - Pleasure

Introduction

Pleasure can be something to enjoy but when pleasure has no boundaries it can result in bondage and addiction. Sex, drugs and material goods are often what our culture offers as sources of pleasure. In the age of the iPhone and computers, the digital world now offers opportunities to experience pleasure in new forms. The lure of a pseudo identity on Facebook and the endless availability of sexual stimulation via pornography are powerful stimulants to addictive behavior.



Story from my Life

When I was growing up, I went through many seasons of searching for what would fill my cup. In high school it was alcohol and golf. Golf because I did not do well in school and golf was all I was interested in. Alcohol because it gave me a group of buddies I could hang out with.

In college I finally found something that I was excited about. For some reason the history of ideas became quite interesting. That

Chapter Four - # 3 - Position & Power

Story from my Life (continued)

worked with me. This eventually resulted in me resigning as the President. I was very broken and discouraged by all of this. God had to reshape my heart and teach me how to lead with humility and grace. I also needed a friend to hold me accountable to not repeat the same patterns again.

This journey of leadership striving changed when I understood my contribution for work and when I learned a new definition of leadership. When I understood that my purpose in life was to engage people about conversations that matter and help people discover and embrace how God was showing up in life, I felt a huge load lifted from my soul. My calling to leadership was to be an influencer and not primarily to hold leadership positions. Now I am able to daily live into my passion and calling without the pressure of a position.

Questions

- How does a person use their position and power for worthwhile purposes?
- Why are position and power an inadequate source for filling the cup of life?
- Share about yourself or someone you know who leads with humility and love? How are they able to lead this way?

Chapter Four

3 - Position & Power - From the Bible

Introduction

The Bible has a lot to say about work. Work can be a source of great satisfaction but it can also lead to worshipping work. Work can become the ultimate source of our identity and can deteriorate into workaholism.



Story from the Bible-Philippians 3. 4-11

"If anyone else things he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more; circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more; I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through f

Chapter Four - # 3 - Position & Power From the Bible (continued)

faith in Christ-the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead."

Questions

- Paul, the writer of this passage, had achieved all that was of value in Jewish culture and yet he went through a process of losing all he had achieved for something far better. Describe the process he went through and what he found that was far better than position and power?
- What are the empty promises of what our culture offers for those who reach the apex of position and power?
- Share how striving for position and power in your life has either helped or hurt you or both?