

Week One - A plea for intentionality and ownership.
Week Two - Turning your vision into a plan.
Week Three - Initiating your kids into life and faith.



- Mental Health
- Loneliness
- Extended Adolescence
- Loss of Trust

- Confusion
- Fragility
- Rage

FIVE MAJOR TRUTHS OF LIFE



1. Life is hard.

2. You are not that important.

3. Your life is not about you.



4. You are not in control.

5. You are going to die.

Socialization, initiation, and service have been replaced with self-discovery, self-expression, and self-actualization.





1. The Political Man -

Identity through civic and communal engagement

2. The Religious Man -

Identity through religious participation


3. The Economic Man -

Identity through work and the making of money

4. The Psychological Man - Identity through the inward psychological happiness


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Take, for example, the issue of job satisfaction, something that is significant for most adults. My grandfather left school at fifteen and spent the rest of his working life as a sheet metal worker in a factory...




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If he had been asked if he found satisfaction in his work, there is a distinct possibility he would not even have understood the question, given that it really reflects the concerns of psychological man's world.




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He would probably have answered in terms of whether his work gave him the money to put food on his family's table and shoes on his children's feet. If it did so, then yes, he would have affirmed that his job satisfied him.




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His needs were those of his family, and in enabling him to meet them, his work gave him satisfaction. My grandfather was, if anything, Rieff's "economic man" whose economic production and the results of that for others (i.e., his family)




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were key to his sense of self. If I am asked the same question [about job satisfaction], my instinct is to talk about the pleasure that teaching gives me, about the sense of personal fulfillment I feel when a student learns a new idea...



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The difference is stark: for my grandfather, job satisfaction was empirical, outwardly directed, and unrelated to his psychological state; for members of mine and subsequent generations, the issue of feeling is central.



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In the worlds of political, religious, and economic man, commitment was outwardly directed to those communal beliefs, practices, and institutions that were bigger than the individual and in which the individual, to the degree that

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he or she conformed to or cooperated with them, found meaning. The ancient Athenian was committed to the assembly, the medieval Christian to his church, and the twentieth-century factory worker to his trade union and

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working man's club. All of them found their purpose and well-being by being committed to something outside themselves. In the world of psychological man, however, the commitment is first and foremost to the self and is inwardly

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directed. Thus, the order is reversed. Outward institutions become in effect the servants of the individual and her sense of inner well-being. In fact, I might press this point further: institutions cease to be places for the formation of



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individuals via their schooling in the various practices and disciplines that allow them to take their place in society. Instead, they become platforms for performance, where individuals are allowed to be their authentic selves precisely

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because they are able to give expression to who they are “inside.” ...This helps explain in part the concern in recent years over making the classroom a “safe place”—that is, a place where students go not to be exposed to ideas that

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may challenge their deepest beliefs and commitments (part of what was traditionally considered to be the role of education) but to be affirmed and reassured... If education is to allow the individual simply to be himself,

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unhindered by outward pressure to conform to any greater reality, then the individual is king. He can be whoever he wants to be. And rejecting the notion of any external authority or meaning to which education is to conform,

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the individual simply makes himself the creator of any meaning that there might be.



FIVE MAJOR TRUTHS OF LIFE



1. Life is hard.
2. You are not that important.
3. Your life is not about you.
4. You are not in control.
5. You are going to die.



ACTS 9:2

He requested letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, asking for their cooperation in the arrest of any followers of **the Way** he found there.



TYSON'S FIVE SHIFTS

1. Instead of saying “Life is hard.” It’s a shift from “ease to difficulty.”




TYSON'S FIVE SHIFTS

2. Instead of saying “You’re not important.” It’s a shift from “Kids care about themselves, adults care about others.”




TYSON'S FIVE SHIFTS

3. Instead of saying, "Your life is not about you." It's a shift from "You're part of the story, you're not the whole story."




TYSON'S FIVE SHIFTS

4. Instead of saying “You’re not in control.” It’s a shift from “control to surrender.”




TYSON'S FIVE SHIFTS

5. Instead of saying “You’re going to die.” It’s a shift from “the temporary to the eternal.”



JAMES HOLLIS' SIX-STEPS OF INITIATION

1. Separation from childhood – “You’re not a baby anymore.”




JAMES HOLLIS' SIX-STEPS OF INITIATION

2. Death of naivete – “Here’s the realities of life.”




JAMES HOLLIS' SIX-STEPS OF INITIATION

3. Impartation of the tribes' religion, story, and required roles – “This is God and how you fit into our community.”




JAMES HOLLIS' SIX-STEPS OF INITIATION

4. A big test – “Let’s see if you’re ready to be a man/woman.”




JAMES HOLLIS' SIX-STEPS OF INITIATION

5. A blessing ceremony – “Welcome to adulthood.”




JAMES HOLLIS' SIX-STEPS OF INITIATION

6. Reintegration into society to serve – “Time to play your part.”




EPHESIANS 6:4

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the **discipline** and instruction that comes from the Lord.



PARENTAL PAIDEIA

The daily task of the physical, intellectual, relational, and spiritual formation of a child.




HEBREWS 12:7-11

As you endure this divine **discipline**, remember that God is treating you as His own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never **disciplined** by its father?



HEBREWS 12:7-11

If God doesn't **discipline** you as He does all of His children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really His children at all.



HEBREWS 12:7-11

Since we respected our earthly fathers who **disciplined** us, shouldn't we submit even more to the **discipline** of the Father of our spirits, and live forever?




HEBREWS 12:7-11

For our earthly fathers **disciplined** us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's **discipline** is always good for us, so that we might share in His holiness.



HEBREWS 12:7-11

No **discipline** is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way





Formation Firsts

Starts school

First exposure to bully

First exposure to non-Christian

First crush

First exposure to LGBTQ community

First exposure to death

First exposure to racism/white supremacy

First major failure

First major sin

First major adversity

First date



Formation Firsts

First breakup

First fight

Baptism

First mission trip

First doubts about faith

First cell phone

Driver's license

First job

Gender specific transitions

First exposure to drugs/alcohol

First vote


IT IS TRUE THAT LIFE IS HARD, BUT:

“My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” (MATTHEW 11:28)



**IT IS TRUE THAT YOU ARE NOT THAT
IMPORTANT, BUT:**

“Do you not know that your name is written in heaven?”
(LUKE 10:20)




IT IS TRUE THAT YOUR LIFE IS NOT ABOUT YOU, BUT:

“I live now not my own life, but the life of Christ who lives in me.” (GALATIANS 2:20) COSSSIANS 3:4)




IT IS TRUE THAT YOUR LIFE IS NOT ABOUT YOU, BUT:

“Your life is hidden with Christ in God. He is your life, and when he is revealed, you will be revealed in all your glory with Him.” (COLOSSIANS 3:4)



IT IS TRUE THAT YOUR LIFE IS NOT ABOUT YOU, BUT:

“Can any of you, for all your worrying, add a single moment to your span of life?” (LUKE 12:26)



IT IS TRUE THAT YOUR LIFE IS NOT ABOUT YOU, BUT:

“I am certain of this, neither death nor life, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power,



IT IS TRUE THAT YOUR LIFE IS NOT ABOUT YOU, BUT:

not any height nor depth, nor any created thing can ever come between us and the love of God.” (ROMANS 8:38–39)

