



Meaning over

Meh

BIG IDEA

Our broad acceptance of a secular (rather than a spiritual) frame for life is causing much of our despair and emptiness.

GROUP OPENER

Share a time when it was difficult to motivate yourself to continue with things that had been a part of your routine.

GROUP DISCUSSION

- Read Luke 2:1-20 Twice out loud, in different versions of the Bible – everyone listens.
- What are some significant observations you have about this text? What stood out? What didn't you like? What was confusing?
- What does this passage teach us about God? How does it change how I see God?
- What does this passage teach us about humanity/ourselves? How would it change how I treat others?
- What does this passage teach us about obedience? How should it affect the way I live?

December 15
WEEKEND

ACTION STEPS

I will statement...

- Based on what God is teaching in this passage, what should I do? Reflect for a minute or two and develop an action statement. Put it in the form, "I Will _____". Make it concrete, simple, and achievable.
- Share your "I Will" statement with the group.

As a Group

There is a constant drive for us to find and create our own meaning for almost everything including meaning and direction for our own lives. The story of the Bible challenges us to step into a larger story and challenges us to believe that every human has a purpose.

Question: Share with your group something that you had to work at to become skillful. Describe the confidence or pride you have in this hard-won ability.

Something has a purpose when it has a greater reason for which it exists. Scripture teaches that in our self-centeredness, we live as if we are the end and life is the means. Everything and everyone exists for us. That is a shallow purpose that often gives short-term pleasure but long-term pain.

Jesus teaches that we were made for the dual purpose of loving God and neighbor (Mt 22:37-40). This is a satisfying purpose that often gives short-term pain but long-term meaning.

Question: How do you see our culture's search for purpose as a signpost toward God?

Read: Matthew 28:18-20

Question: What are some practical ways you can love God and neighbor to step into your purpose?

On Your Own

Meaning often requires pain but always requires sacrifice! You make a deposit of yourself ...your time ...your energy ...your money ...your attention ...your presence. You have to throw yourself onto the agenda of God and into the needs of neighbor.