

Dgroup Discussion Guide for April 15, 2018

Minefield #13: Find Your Purpose

Scripture: John 21: 15-17

So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus *said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?” He *said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He *said to him, “Tend My lambs.”¹⁶ He *said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” He *said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He *said to him, “Shepherd My sheep.”¹⁷ He *said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus *said to him, “Tend My sheep.

All of us experienced failures in our lives. Sometimes, the failures we’ve experienced in the past rob us of the ability and the joy to have a vision and a purpose in life. Because we have failed miserably, ore repeatedly, we start to think that maybe life has no purpose.

Purposelessness is a spiritual condition which makes people think that their purpose in life is no better than their current daily existence. This may be a result of ignorance, past failures, or regrets. The biggest loss resulting from purposelessness is missing out on God’s plan for our lives.

To know our purpose in life we need to go back to life’s two most important questions: “who are you Lord?” and “What do You want me to do?” Only when we answer the first question and acknowledge Jesus is our personal Lord, Master and King in our lives can we honestly ask Him the second question.

In order to find our purpose, we need to follow Jesus. Jesus Himself set a purposeful pattern and cycle for us to follow in making Christ-committed followers who will make Christ-committed followers. Jesus sought those who need Him, showed them His amazing love, and sent them on a mission.

JESUS SEEKS THOSE WHO NEED HIM

Jesus took the initiative to seek His disciples during the darkest time in their lives. After the disciples had all deserted Him and abandoned Him to His enemies, they must have felt guilty, ashamed, lost, without direction, and without any purpose in life. Perhaps in their mind there was nothing better to do, so they thought of just going back to fishing. One night, they all went fishing but they caught nothing. Their lives must have felt empty as their nets were.

Like the apostles, you may have made some mistakes in your life which you think is irreparable and unforgivable. Or having no vision for yourself, there may be times when you thought you wanted to give up. You may even be thinking that you are at the lowest point in your life right now. But many times, we don’t realize that we are exactly where Jesus wants us to be. For it is at the lowest point of our lives can we discover how much Jesus loves us and how much He wants to use us for His glory. So don’t fret. Don’t worry if you are down there, your net is empty and your life is dark. There is a reason why you are there today and Jesus wants to say something to you.

happens. Like Peter and the rest of the apostles, we would soon realize that indeed God has a great plan for us. So, if you feel like your net is empty, come and let Jesus fill it for you.

JESUS SHOWS THEM HIS AMAZING LOVE

Jesus' amazing love is absolutely consistent. He washed His disciples' feet even when He knew they would abandon, betray, and deny Him. After His resurrection, Jesus prepared breakfast for them and invited them to eat with Him. This was undoubtedly a significant and memorable experience for the Apostle Peter. Later on, when he stood to witness for Jesus before the Gentiles, he would recall this great privilege to have been chosen to dine and drink with the risen Christ (Acts 10:40-41).

In our darkest moments, when we see ourselves as good for nothing, being invited to dine with the King at His table is such an amazing privilege we know we do not deserve.

JESUS SENDS THEM ON A MISSION

Jesus asked Peter three times, "Do you love Me?" Peter answered that he loved Him but each time his kind of love did not match God's agape love. And yet, Jesus repeatedly commanded Peter to tend His sheep.

Though we may be filled with grief, broken, and imperfect like Peter (or maybe even worse than him), Jesus will still choose to send us on a mission, not only as fishers of men but as shepherds of His sheep.

Whatever our current status in life is, we are all called to follow Jesus through the pattern He modeled to us in John 21:



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Do you love me. Have you invested in a personal relationship Jesus? How are you intentionally growing in your relationship with Him?
2. His Amazing Life. Have you had a personal encounter with God's amazing love? How has this changed your life, your beliefs, your actions today.
3. Purposeful Life. What is God's purpose for you? What is your personal mission from God? How does God want to use you in order to tell/ share to others His amazing love?

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.