

WEEK 7: THE IDOL OF COMFORT

Ice Breaker: If you had to choose one chocolate and one non-chocolate candy to eat for the rest of your life, what would you choose?

This week, we heard about the second primary motivational idol: the idol of comfort. This idol says that the most important thing we can seek in life is comfort and/or pleasure. It causes us to value that above all else, which at best, puts serving Jesus and others in second place. It shapes us to be self-centered, and thus, in conflict with how Jesus shapes us. Something has to give.

Getting Started.

- Did anything stand out to you or hit you personally from this Sunday's message?
- Audrey Hepburn famously said, "The most important thing is to enjoy your life - to be happy - it's all that matters."
 - What does this quote make you initially think? How does it hit you?
 - How does culture/the world show it believes this quote is true?
 - What are examples of people/groups who show they believe this quote is not true?

Reading Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 in 2019.

- Noting that these are not all "bad" things, recall the ways that the writer found comfort.
 - What are the parallels today, be it largely positive, negative, or neutral?
- *What* does our culture shape us to seek comfort in?
- *How* does our culture shape us? What are the means with which we are shaped like this?
- The writer was ultimately let down by his pursuits of comfort. When have you been let down by something you put hope in for comfort/pleasure?
- What is something that you find disproportionate comfort in?
- What's something that causes you a disproportionate amount of un-comfort?

Seeking the God of Comfort in Scripture.

- Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-11 and 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17.
 - From these passages, where does real comfort come from?
 - From these passages, what is real comfort for?
- Read John 14:1-7, 25-27. What does this teaching of Jesus show us about comfort?
- Read Psalm 119:76. What would it look like if you looked to God for your comfort instead of in the idols of comfort?
 - What is comforting about God's "steadfast/unfailing love"?
 - Who are you challenged to help free from the idol of comfort by helping them to know this love?

LET'S PRAY!

Breaking the power of this idol in our lives.

Break up into groups of 3-4 (M/F) and share any prayer needs you have. Re-read Psalm 119:76, and share what you need prayer for specifically to replace your "idol of comfort" with the "steadfast/unfailing love" of God. Then pray for one another. And remember: this week we are praying for our leaders, so don't forget to pray for them too.

