

Finding Our Way Back to God – 10/3/21

Pastor Rick – Awakening to Life

Message Summary:

In Christ, we find life that is really living! Find your place in the community of God's family as we celebrate, connect, and contribute together.

In this series, we've covered

- Awakening to Love
- Awakening to Longing
- Awakening to Regret
- Awakening to Help

All of us can point to a moment in time when we felt more ALIVE than we ever had before.

Have you ever felt like you're going through life, but there's no life going through you?

How do we continually awaken to life?

The prayer of the 5th Awakening is: "God if you are real, make yourself real to me. Awaken in me the confidence that I can live a brand-new life."

John 10:10

What do you think of when you think of "abundant life" or "life to the full?"

We connect fullness of life with MORE in our lives. But that's not what Jesus is getting at in this verse.

The original language of the New Testament has two words for life: BIOS and ZOE

ZOE includes a BIOS kind of life but goes way beyond that. BIOS, is about quantity and "more" of the same; but ZOE is about a quality of life that comes only from knowing God.

Luke 15:11-12

It's as if the father is saying, "I'll let you have all that the BIOS life can offer, but someday you will realize that MORE won't fully satisfy."

God doesn't want us to settle for the BIOS life when he created us for the ZOE life. The Father wants us to experience life to the full; life in him and with him.

When you find your way back to God, you discover the ZOE life!

1. **CELEBRATE:** We Party when the Lost are Found! (Luke 15:6-10)

2. **CONNECT:** We Discover We're Better Together!

- People who excel at achieving but fail at connecting, end up unhappy people.
- People who prioritize connecting in meaningful relationships, even if they're not great at achieving and accomplishing goals, still report life as being fulfilling.
- When we intentionally and consistently stay connected to others, we are more likely to experience the ZOE kind of life as God intends for us to have.

1. **CONTRIBUTE:** We Find Our Part in God's Dream!

God invites you to contribute to his dream. You have a part to play in God's dream! His desire is that you would willingly risk loving others because you know God has risked everything in loving you!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Think of a time or activity in your life when you feel/felt most alive. Share with your group.
2. What do you think of when you think of "abundant life" or "life to the full?"
3. Where do you see REAL life in your day to day life?
4. We get to celebrate when someone who is lost and becomes found. What are you doing to help someone come closer to God?
5. How are you connected with others? What step do you take towards deeper community?
6. We're all invited to contribute to the dream for God's mission. In what ways are you contributing? (Consider partnering with EFC, giving time/gifts/resources, etc.)