

Weekly Study of Sunday's Message.

Sunday October 6, 2019. "Life's Biggest Questions: How Will I Know?"

I Intro.

Welcome to the weekly devotional that gives you some specific things to work thru from the message this past Sunday. Whether you were able to attend the worship service or not, this devotional is free-standing and you can still use it to help you dig deeper into your own spiritual walk. Take as long as you need to dive into this material and feel free to share it.

II Sunday.

Sunday we began a challenging, but important, series in the life of our church and also for people seeking God. Churches have not historically been a safe place to ask what often feels like scary or threatening questions about the nature of God. We often feel and react like a parent at the playground with their kid, when we feel the need to protect God from other people. Truth is God doesn't need our protection. And when we do this, we end up doing more harm than good, when we give the impression that the church is not a safe place to ask questions that rise out of some of the doubts we have.

Kal began with what he said were two truths about life.

1. You will live several lives over the course of your lifetime.

Richard Rohr, a Franciscan monk, talks about different lives you will live over the course of your actual life. This includes areas of our life such as; jobs, careers, relationships, locations, kids, beliefs, etc. Then Kal presented some specific things that happen during these life stages.

Early in our life we're building our personal identity and establishing ourselves.

Who am I...the real me inside? What will I be known as? As you move through life, you have the opportunity to tweak and rework, not necessarily what you do, but who you are as a person.

We work at becoming competent, skilled at things.

This is; what you will do with your life. **What am I good at? What can I learn to do?**

Later in our life we consider the deeper more abstract things.

Once we establish who we are, and what we will give our energy and life to (work), there's a deeper more philosophical/theological journey. **What is my purpose as a person, and not just my career?** And there is also a re-evaluation, revisiting, of some of your core beliefs and faith. **What will my faith and belief system look like? Where does God fit in?**

2. Life will collide with the person you are becoming.

Second big life truth Kal hit was, over the course of our life, we will experience profound crisis, loss, tragedy, often more than just once, that will collide with what we believe and think we know. It's at these places we will be forced to reconcile who we are, and our faith with these events. We will have to build a new and different understanding of who we are, our faith, who God is, and of our understanding of the world, out of the wreckage of that event.

What do we do when life happens to us? I used to have these beliefs about God and the world, and they all just blew apart. Now what do I do?

And these life events so disorient our beliefs, this structure we built to understand and explain God, that we can't seem to put it back together, and we don't know what to do. Which means we'll know these things aren't true anymore, and so our commitment to our faith won't be as real or deep. We'll just have this set of cliché religious phrases that sound good, but we're not really sure they're true or even what they mean. When we can't reassemble our beliefs or faith there's a strong chance we'll just drop out...which many do. Or we learn to start over and build again, but differently.

Have you experienced either of these, different stages of life or a life event, that rocked your world?

How have those shaped you and your faith?

We tend to be drawn towards certainty and thrive in knowing things for sure. And certainty is a trap that keeps us from living in a relationship of trust. Kal showed this video, and it's a great one that talks about trust. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ZZnGXhhdT4

How do you deal with a desire for certainty in your life?

Can you live in trust without having all the details?

III Scripture.

The primary scripture used was a classic one in the church world. It's on mugs and bookmarks. The passage is **Proverbs 3:5-6**. So, read this and then reflect on it.

What spoke to you about this passage?

What does trust mean to you? What does seek mean to you?

There are two truths we can pull from this passage.

1. Trust means you place your confidence IN the character of something, not in your knowledge about something.

This passage says you trust IN the Lord. Trust isn't built in proof or certainty. Trust doesn't have to have this structure of rules, and specifics. Trust isn't built on your ability to understand or have all the info. Having to have certainty is a **control issue that rises out of a lack of trust**. Trust is relational.

How do you distinguish the difference between trusting IN God, and trusting what you know ABOUT God?

2. Trust is built on love.

Trust is not filling what you don't know with your own effort or as the writer said; "*your own understanding*". **1 Corinthians 13:7** says that "*love always trusts*". Trust allows you to surrender, give, submit, WITHOUT having to have all of the information. Because in love you can always trust.

Trust fills in lack of information with only good. How can you practice this truth?

IV Challenge.

The final part of the message Sunday was an actual activity in which the congregation was challenged, and then led, into moving into the presence of God. To experience him, and all of who he is personally. Not just know more about him, or reinforce what they already believed about him. To have the courage to trust, and seek him in new and different ways. We cannot repeat that experience now, but in this moment I want to encourage you to stop, take some deep breaths, and as the congregation did, reflect on the goodness of God, and seek him in this moment.

There won't be a final question this time. Just this challenge. Having a vital relationship with God is not knowing or having all of the information about him, Paul had a lot of questions and lack of clarity about God. It's trusting in his nature, and seeking him every day of your life.