

Weekly Study of Sunday's Message.

Sunday January 9, 2021. "Reset: Factory setting, why were we made"

I Intro.

Welcome to the weekly devotional that gives you some specific things to work through from the message this Sunday. Whether you were able to participate in this service or not, this devotion is free-standing and you can still use it to help you dig deeper into your own spiritual walk. We're now in 2022, a brand new year, and we're excited about where God is leading us. A great group of familiar and new faces join us each Sunday. Our children's area is expanding and we are retooling our student ministry. You can check that out through our social media sites. We're so encouraged by your love and presence when you gather with us. If you're still joining us online, we love and so appreciate your presence also. We are 100% committed to our virtual attenders. We are your church family, and if there is ANYTHING you need, prayer, ideas or suggestions, please pass them our way. We know the future is still uncertain, but we are committed to making our virtual congregation as central to NCC as our in person group.

II Recap.

Okay...there was a lot that went on in the first Sunday of this series. Really too much to completely cover. So, we'll be as brief as possible. But if you want a more thorough recap, go back and check last week's message and devotional. Our basic premise for this "**Reset**" series is to take advantage of a new year, and do some intentional and helpful inner work to help us live the life we were made for. This requires us understanding the things that are barriers, inhibit us, and how they actually affect us. And what are we willing to, and can, do in order to do an actual "reset".

Again, there's a lot of info in that first lesson, so go back and watch and read it to get the full effect.

III Sunday.

Sunday we began the actual journey by talking about why we're here, and what we were made for. WHY AM I HERE? Is one of the most foundational and deepest of any question we can ask. This is an often asked question by people who love asking the BIG questions. So, let's have a little fun, and start with some of those questions that push us to dig deep.

What do you believe is the purpose of life in general?

Do you believe you have a specific purpose? Why or why not?

What would help clarify your understanding of purpose and why you're here?

There was one scripture Sunday. So, read it and then talk about purpose. **Ephesians 2:1-10.**

What jumped out to you from this passage?

What did you see about missing the purpose of God?

What did you see about what is the purpose of God?

This passage is pretty simple and straightforward. We were created for one thing. That is to do “good works”. Our purpose, why we were made, what brings true meaning to our lives, is when we fully embrace this truth, build our life towards discovering what our purpose is, and then doing specific things to build on this understanding and practice into our daily life. To discover our gifts, talents, abilities, and passions, and then find ways we can fully live into those to make our world a better place.

A couple of questions to help guide this conversation.

Was there ever a time when you felt satisfied, content, in something you were doing? You were making a difference, what you did mattered. And it could be anything.

What was it about doing that thing that made you feel that sense of purpose?

Why do you think, believe, it had that effect on you?

I know we’ve bombarded you with lots of questions, but this specific aspect of doing a “reset” for the new year is pretty straight forward, we understand it, and don’t really need it explained to us. But for whatever reason, we’re not really good at regularly practicing the things we need to do to live into our purpose...why we were made.

So, we’re going to introduce something called ‘asset mapping’. Now, ‘asset mapping’ is primarily a tool used by communities to help address needs within the community that aren’t currently being met, and there aren’t the resources or plans to address those needs. But doing ‘asset mapping’ in your personal life is basically simply making a list of current assets, both tangible and somewhat abstract things you’re pretty good at doing, have the equipment to do them, and listing them. This helps ‘tease out’ strengths and abilities you have that you never connected with doing “good works”.

And this is how we explained and challenged people on Sunday to do their own ‘asset mapping’.

What are things you can and like doing, and have the materials needed to do them?

Such as; baking, knitting, car repair, wood working,

What are things you possess? This is not dependent on what it is useful for. It’s just what you have access to.

Such as a car, a house, tools, lawn equipment, craft tools and supplies, etc.

This is NOT coming up with ways to use them to do “good works”. Obviously that task is easy and we could do that without any trouble. Right now it’s just listing all the assets you possess, both tangible and intangible, and leave it at that. And then you ask God to grow your sensitivity to opportunities and moments to be used by him. As you move through the world and your life, be aware of God’s presence in that moment, and respond to any promptings you feel. Don’t worry about not getting those promptings from God...you for sure will. Just be open and ready for them.

IV Challenge.

So, the challenge is easy and obvious. Do an ‘asset mapping’ for yourself. Write down those tangible and intangible things that you can do and possess. And then post them in an obvious place.

Something you can see regularly, and add to when it hits.

Ask God to grow your sensitivity and your courage to step out. And just wait. It will be amazing.