

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. **Enjoy discovering more about Him!**

"REFLECT-RESET-REJOICE" | PSALM 90 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What is one word that comes to mind when you think of 2023?

"Reflect" Psalm 90

Moses looks over his life and others, but with humility because he is meditating on God. **How could meditating on God and His character impact how you look back at the past year and look ahead to the next year?**

"Reset" Psalm 90: 1-12

Moses points out that God is eternal but human lives are brief, and full of struggle because of sin. We need to learn to "number our days" or to live one day at a time, relying on God's new mercies. **What is hard about living one day at a time? How does living one day at a time help someone be more present and purposeful instead of distracted and drifting?**

"Rejoice" Psalm 90: 13-17

Moses asks God to "satisfy us... with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days" Joy that lasts and praise come from God's love, something we experience together in His family. **What are ways to receive God's love? What are ways to praise Him?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

This psalm puts God as the source of life and love. Only He can satisfy and save and give life meaning. But many people ignore God, seek satisfaction from other sources, and miss out on wisdom and joy. The key to satisfaction is to reflect on God, reset each day with His mercy, and rejoice over His love, shown ultimately in Jesus. **Do you believe God can satisfy you more than anything else? How can you trust God to "establish the work of our hands" so that your life has meaning? Take time to confess your sins and then rejoice in God's love.**

New Years 2024 Message

12-31-23

Reflect - Reset - Rejoice

I. Slide1 **Announce:**

A. Welcome to those in the Fellowship Hall and Online.

II. **Intro:** *Reflect - Reset - Rejoice* 12-31-23

A. Often when you hear someone count **1,2,3** *something is about to happen!* (Like a toddler jumping into your arms into the pool).

1. It is apropos then that our date today is **123,123** as we start a new year, **because ... somethings is about to happen!**

B. This mornings **Outline** for our *New Years Message* is: *Reflect - Reset - Rejoice*.

1. **Reflect** (on 2023, what God has done). **Reset** (reboot today). **Rejoice** (in the journey, this upcoming yr has for us).

a) **But not** what *the Year* has for us (scary), **but** what **God** has planned for us!

C. **Prayer:** Father, you **loved us** *all year long* with an *everlasting, unwavering love*, *without reference* to anything we did or didn't do.

1. Our **sorrow** is magnified over the **brokenness** in the world, the **brokenness** in our own hearts, **to** the **unacceptable plight** of the *Unreached* in our world, **and now** to the **100 million people displaced** in our world.

2. **But** our **Joy** and **Hope** are also magnified in all we've seen **You** **accomplish**. **So we reflect on** both **sadness and gladness** in this last year, both occupying appropriate **space in our hearts**. *Lord, Great is Your Faithfulness!*

III. Slide2a **REFLECT** *review 2023, what God has done.*

A. **Looking back on 2023 at CM.** 30,000' view, *not a detail view*.

B. **A few weeks ago** I already highlighted our *Community Outreach* (Kel oversees).

C. **Outreach** serving opportunities coming soon! (Jason Bell has been working on, *dom & Int*)

D. **Slide2b YOUTH** - CK, 678, Rise High

1. Growth in all 3 programs. 678 & Rise High continue to grow their Leadership and Discipleship programs. CK started Corporate Worship in their new MPR, & started small groups for the older kids. And, expanded VBS significantly this lats year.

E. **BUILDING on FAITH** - Remodel & Expansion

1. LC & MPR for CK were completed. - Fellowship Hall is now completed.
2. Sanctuary - we upgraded technology for Live-Streaming and fixed our Acoustic problems (side wall baffles, & back wall sound treatment).
3. Courtyard is getting close. (peek thru the fence)
4. This time next yr we should have everything finished. (Youth building)

F. **MISSIONS** - General

1. STM back in full swing this year. Through these teams we saw fruit in team members lives (their relationships w/the Lord and w/each other).
2. Hosted a Perspectives Class: which is an **educational course** showing the unique role, for each Christian, in God's global purpose of *evangelizing the nations*.
3. We have continued to communicate *our unique view of Missions* through our Intro To Missions Class. And to *train, teach, & equip* what missions looks like *in our world today*.
4. Also, Larry was able to *meet a few H-people who are believers in Jesus* over in Asia, thanks to our friends M & L.

G. **NEPAL** - Property for RO

1. As I think you know, we had *found property to purchase* in Nepal.
2. What you *prob don't know* is that we were able to get our funds into the Nepali bank, & **closed on** 1/4 of the property. And Tuesday we travel over there to close on the rest & *finalize paperwork on the legal side*.
 - a) We also funded all the children to go to school (some are even in *Private Christian School*). We have numbers & names of each child.

b) We also trained 72 adults in *computer training, mobile phone repair, pickle training*. [so we not only need to REFLECT back but also RESET]

IV. Slide3 RESET *it's not a yearly reboot, but a daily one!*

A. I found Moses had some rich insight 3300 yrs ago on how to do this.

1. Psalm 90, the oldest of the Psalms.

B. Moses spent 40 years in Egypt preparing to be called to ministry. 40 years in the desert preparing to carry out ministry. And 40 years in the desert carrying it out. *But he never got out of the desert!*

1. This was a disappointment to him. He had some failures in his life like we all do, *but he went the distance God required, and the distance he couldn't go* (promised land) ... he saw by faith.

C. Moses answers: *What is the secret to making life count?*

D. Slide4 PONDER GOD'S ETERNALITY (1,2) READ

E. The bible declares God is the Creator of all the universe, but also that God Himself is *not created*.

1. There is a crucial distinction between the Creator & the creation. Also, it is impossible for something to create itself. [call this the *self-existence of God*]
a) *From everlasting to everlasting You are God.*

F. Slide5 PONDER MAN'S BREVIETY (3-6) READ

G. *What's Moses saying here?* God doesn't measure time by human standards.

1. We must adjust ourselves to His way of time & not expect Him to *live by ours*.

H. (re-read vs.6) The band Kansas nailed vs.6 in 1978, *Then all we are is dust in the wind* [actually was paraphrased from Eccl.1:14 *I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind*].

I. Slide6 PONDER MAN'S DEPRAVITY (7-12) READ

J. Life is futile *apart from God because of its* shortness and uncertainty and God's wrath on our sin.

K. Today we don't # our **days** ... we # our **years** (birthdays).

1. **Number your days** means, *live one day at a time*. *Not guaranteed tomorrow.*
Give us this day our daily bread.

L. We all count something - A's on report card. Video-game scores. Wins/loses. How many *likes* you have. How many *friends* you have.

1. **But** we often go through life counting the *wrong* things!
2. **Count** the *days, hours, minutes, moments* ... as we do not have an unlimited amount of them. (statistically in CA I have **16 yrs** left) *top3 HI,NY,CA 78/83*

M. **Time** is broken up into: *millenniums, centuries, decades - years, months, weeks - days, hours, minutes, and seconds* for the benefit of man.

1. If time was 1-long-endless-day, *if we made a mistake, if we sinned, the whole would be messed up!*
2. **God's great mercy** broke time into small increments if we mess up today, *tomorrow we will have a brand new, fresh day to start over again.* (His mercy is new ... how often? ... every morning)
3. This day has a purpose. The gift of this 24 hours has a design. *Will we heed the design?*

N. How do you make this the greatest year? **Ask** this, *What will I do with TODAY?*

O. Slide7 PONDER GOD'S CHARITY (13-17) READ

P. Moses prays for *a reversal* of what has gone before.

1. Earlier he asked *return man to dust* (v.3). **Now** Moses says to **God**, **return** to *forgive have pity on your servants* (13) **and return** to show Your *favor* (17).

Q. The new year ought to drive me deeper into the arms of God - enjoying His embrace, longing for His return, and longing for *His kingdom to come and His will to be done - on earth as it is in heaven.*

V. Slide8a **REJOICE** in the journey, in what God has for us, this upcoming year.

A. CM no matter where you find yourself **this year**, *God will be there*. No matter how strong the storms hit this year *God will always be there for us*.

B. Slide8b CM for us corporately we will be Emphasizing **Fellowship in 2024**:

C. Heb.10:25 tells us *not to neglect meeting together*. This **doesn't** mean only that we *gather at church services*, but that we are *devoted to relationship with one another*.

1. In the **church-wide survey** last year, you told us that *you want to be more connected with each other*. The Board has decided to make **fellowship a strategic focus for a season**. It is our heart that each person at CM is able to participate in godly relationships.

D. Slide8c What do we @ CM mean by fellowship? - *The common life shared among disciples of Jesus in which we reflect our relational God, leading to a deeper connection with God & w/each other through loving, caring, & worshiping together*

E. Also, I will be **highlighting Fellowship** once a month from the pulpit.

1. Eg. We will start a **2 minute greeting** next week on Sundays.

a) (after worship. No, you won't be able to get into *deep relationships* in 2 min - but you will at least be able to *get a name & a little bit about them vs. "Hi!"*)

F. **Prayer: Lord**, *our entire Christian life* might be thought of as *a lifelong determination, to make and walk out, New Creation - Every Day - Resolutions!*

1. God we will **not** lean on our **willpower**, but on the power **You** provide us in **Your HS**.

2. God you have **saved** us by **Your grace**. **Your mercy** is for us. **Your pardon** is for you. **Your grace** is for us. **Your power** is for us.

3. God this year we will **focus** on what **You've done**, **not on** what we can't do

- a) We will focus on Your power, not on our weakness.
- b) We will focus on Your strength, not on our frailty.
- c) We will focus on Your goodness, not on our badness.

G. Keywords: Rejoice, Reflect,