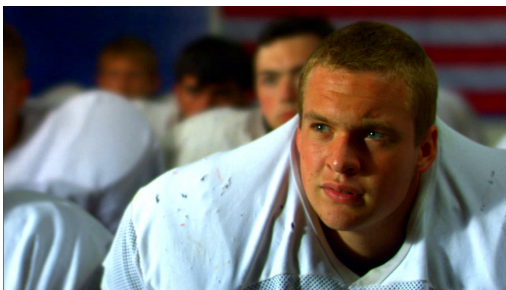


FACING THE GIANTS STUDY SERIES



“Live On Purpose”

Clip No. 6 ... Study by Stephen Kendrick



THE BIG QUESTION:

What does it mean to live for a higher purpose?

SCENE:

In the locker room, Coach Grant Taylor challenges his players with the concept of playing football for the same reason why they exist — to please God. By giving God their best, Grant explains, they can honor God on and off the field.

SCENE LENGTH:

3 minutes, 3 seconds

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

Purpose. Meaning. Vanity. Glory. Selfishness. Honor. Lifestyle.

BACKGROUND INFO:

After six years with a losing record, Coach Grant Taylor begins searching for the real purpose of his team. After studying Bible verses, he realizes their motives (and his) are self-centered and the rewards for which they are playing are short lived. He develops a new team philosophy and decides to share it with his Shiloh Christian Academy football team.

KEY STUDY SCRIPTURES: Revelation 4:11; Matthew 22:36-40; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:23

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did the players discover after their coach asked them about past championship winners?
2. Explain the significance of Grant's new team philosophy.
3. Why do people get upset or skeptical when you question their purpose for doing something?
4. What does the Bible say about God's purpose for creating us? (see Revelation 4:11)
5. How does Matthew 22:36-40 challenge us to live our lives?
6. When God looks at your life, does He see you living for His honor ... or your own?
7. What changes in your life would bring God the most honor?

Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31 (NASB)

TACKLING THE BIG QUESTION: So, what does it mean to live for a higher purpose?

God created you to please Him and live for Him. The purpose of the things we do should line up with this purpose for our lives. It is each person's responsibility to do things that honor Jesus Christ, with motives that honor God, using methods that honor Him. God's Word is given to us to help us learn how to do that.



FACING THE GIANTS

STUDY SERIES

TAKING IT FURTHER

“LIVE ON PURPOSE”

FURTHER STUDY

Solomon was considered the wisest man who ever lived, other than Jesus of course. As a young man, God offered Solomon whatever he wanted and he chose an understanding heart (see 1 Kings 3). Look at this description of Solomon in 1 Kings 4:32-34:

He also spoke 3,000 proverbs, and his songs were 1,005. He spoke of trees, from the cedar that is in Lebanon even to the hyssop that grows on the wall; he spoke also of animals and birds and creeping things and fish. Men came from all peoples to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom. (NASB)

Because of this, God was pleased to also give Solomon power, favor, and wealth. Unfortunately, instead of honoring the Lord, Solomon decided to focus on filling his mind with knowledge, enjoying the pleasures of women, spending his wealth, building great buildings, and making a name for himself. He became one of the wealthiest men to ever live. He fully pursued everything he wanted in order to discover what he could learn about life.

READ ECCLESIASTES 1 and 2

In the first chapters of Ecclesiastes, we see a number of different ways Solomon sought meaning and purpose for life. These included:

- Study and exploration. (1:12-14)
- Living both as a wise and understanding man, and as a foolish man. (1:17)
- Partaking in pleasure, laughter, and wine. (2:1-3)
- Building great buildings, and accomplishing great projects. (2:4-5)
- Enjoying gold, music, and the arts. (2:8)
- Denying himself no pleasure. (2:10)

At the end of his life, Solomon came to the conclusion that life apart from God's heavenly perspective was meaningless. His memoirs in the book of Ecclesiastes begin with describing life under the sun as, “Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.” (Ecclesiastes 1:2 NIV) All of these things were concluded as being meaningless.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- How do you see people today trying foolishly to find happiness and meaning the same way that Solomon did?
- How do God's eternal heavenly purposes for us give us meaning in life beyond temporary things? (see Revelations 4:11; Matthew 22:36-40; Ephesians 1)
- What types of things did Jesus say we should work for? (see Matthew 6:19-21)

UNDERSTANDING THE SIGNIFICANCE

By living life for his own pleasure and glory apart from the purposes and meaning found in God, Solomon discovered a valuable lesson. He shares it at the end of his book.

Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole [duty] of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 (NIV)

It was only in God and in fearing and worshiping God that Solomon came to find meaning. Where will you find it?