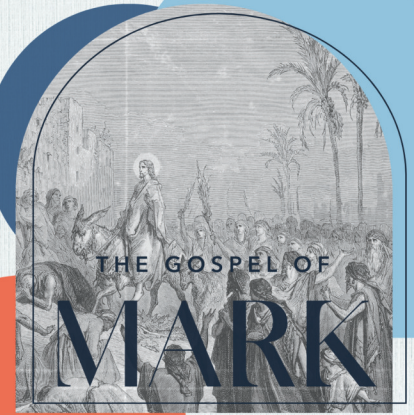


MARCH 10, 2024

THE MEANING OF LIFE

Pastor Roger Poupart // Mark 12:28-34



PREPARE YOUR HEART & MIND

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.



28 One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, "What commandment is the foremost of all?" 29 Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord; 30 and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." 32 The scribe said to Him, "Right, Teacher; You have truly stated that He is One, and there is no one else besides Him; 33 and to love Him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as himself, is much more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." 34 When Jesus saw that he had answered intelligently, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that, no one would venture to ask Him any more questions.



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REFLECT/CONNECT

Use these questions for a time of individual reflection or to connect with others in meaningful conversation.

- In what ways were you encouraged by last week's study?

- What are common rituals or routines practiced in the church today?

These questions are designed as a guide for individual study and to foster spiritual conversation with a group of people.

GROW IN THE WORD

- 01.** A scribe approached Jesus and asked him about the greatest commandment. Jesus answered with an Old Testament quotation affirming the utmost importance of loving God fully. Jesus continued and explained that the second most important command was to love your neighbor as yourself (v. 28-31).
 - How would you describe what it means to love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength?

- Why do you think Jesus added a second commandment when the scribe only asked about the first? See also Matthew 22:40; 1 John 4:7-8.

- What is the clear order of our affections as commanded by Jesus? Read Psalm 139:23-24; seek God and ask him to rightly order your affections.

02. The scribe affirmed Jesus' response. He acknowledged that loving God fully and loving neighbor as self were more important than offerings and sacrifices. Jesus commended the scribe, recognizing his understanding of the kingdom of God (v. 32-34).

- What did this scribe understand about the kingdom of God that the other religious leaders missed? See also Micah 6:6-8; Hosea 6:6.

GROW IN THE WORD

- How can you ensure that your religious rituals or routines serve to deepen your love for God, self, and neighbor rather than to fulfill mere obligations or empty practices? Consider James 1:22-25; Romans 12:1-2.

- What can you do to cultivate the type of love and affection for God, self, and neighbor described in this passage?

UPCOMING EVENTS

JOURNEY TO EASTER

Reading Guide, Playlist, and More!

Join us as we prepare our hearts for Easter by sitting in the heaviness of Christ being betrayed, forsaken, and punished in our place. Find the reading guide and service information online and grab a card in the Foyer so you can invite someone to join you!

STORY OF SCRIPTURE

May 17 - 18 | \$79 Per Person | Fellowship Hall

At the Story of Scripture event you'll learn about the threads that weave all of Scripture together, find renewed confidence that God knows what He's doing, and most of all, see how you can trust Him in the chaos of life. Learn more and register online or in our mobile app.

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Pray to begin your group time. Remind the group why you are meeting: to connect in meaningful relationships, to grow spiritually, and to engage in the life and work of the church together. Reflect on the values you want to share as a group (i.e. confidentiality, authenticity, grace).

CONNECT (30-40 MIN)

You can use these suggestions to foster connection and build community in your group. You can break your group into smaller parts if needed, pick a question to discuss, and let each member get to know one another.

- Spend a few minutes catching up with one another. Share updates from previous prayer requests or recent highs and lows. Feel free to also pick an icebreaker.
- Discuss the second question Reflect/Connect section of the passage guide and give each person a chance to respond.

GROW (30-40 MIN)

Gather back as a big group if you broke up earlier and have one person pray over your time discussing God's word. As you discuss, don't worry if there are questions left unanswered or unresolved. Reach out to ministry leaders or pastors for any needed clarification.

- Discuss the first two questions of each section.
- Read any cross-references together and discuss.

ENGAGE (30-40 MIN)

Reflect on the biblical truth God revealed to you this week and discuss a plan of action to apply what you have learned. Gather in smaller groups of 2-4 again. Discuss your plan of action and pray for one another.

- Spend time reflecting on the last question of the passage guide. Pray and invite God to lead as you discuss application together.
- Close the group time by sharing prayer requests and praying for one another.