



The God We Wish We Knew Week Two

Opening Prayer:

God, help us to learn more about who you are. Help us to be open to however you may be leading us.

Talk It Over:

This week talk we looked at the idea that God is a life-giver — not a life-taker or a life-diminisher. We have a God who is interested in making our life better.

- Have you seen someone teach or model the idea that following Jesus will somehow decrease the “fun quotient” or richness of life? Tell us about that experience. Share what you learned or took away from that experience.
- In your own life have you experienced a season where it felt like God was a life-taker or life-diminisher? What was that experience like? What led to that season? Where are you now in the process?

Read Psalm 36:9 (New Century Version) and James 1:17

The Bible clearly teaches life is meant to be seen as a gift we respect and enjoy. But at EastLake Church we place value on pointing people to Jesus and respecting their freedom to come to conclusions on their own. By experiencing Jesus and engaging scripture, reading from Christian thinkers, and having honest conversations we trust how we see and understand God (or our theology) will inform how we see life (or our ideology).

- In what ways have you personally seen that God is a life-giver?
- What scriptures, ideas, books, conversations, sermons, or resources have led to you understanding God is a life-giver?

Read John 10:10 (Voice)

A life connected to Jesus is meant to bring greater vitality and meaning. Scripture makes it clear, God is not trying to “rob us of something”. In fact, God wants to help us live a rich and full life.

- In your own words, how would you describe a life of joy and abundance?
- In what ways has following Jesus helped you have a richer life? In what ways would your life be less full or rich if you weren't following Jesus?

Important Note: Being connected to Jesus doesn't mean life will be easier, more comfortable, that their will be an absence of trouble, or a lack of conflict. Next week we will talk more about this topic so don't miss out.

Read (Galatians 5:22-23)

The Bible tells us that once we cross the line of faith, the Holy Spirit begins to transform us from the inside out. The spirit of God is working in us produces character traits that God himself exhibits and helps us become a more true version of ourself. **(Continued on next page.)**

- Looking at your current life and the traits listed in Galatians, what trait would you most like to grow this season?

Read 1 John 5:13 (Voice) and John 11:25 (Voice)

The Bible tells us we are a never-ending spiritual being created by God. John Ortberg describes our soul in this way, “an unceasing spiritual being with an eternal destiny in God’s great universe – that is who we are, that is why we were created, and that is the promise we hold.”

- How much have you been taught about the topic of “soul”? What are your initial feelings or thoughts on the topic? Feel free to share negative, positive, or neutral things here. We are simply looking to have a conversation about a topic our culture don’t discuss often.
- How much have you been taught about heaven? What was your primary and early understandings of heaven? What ideas do you have about heaven now?

Read 1 Corinthians 2:9 (New Living Translation)

Silently reflect and engage with God on the following things. Before you get started, remember that our God meets us with love and grace.

- What good things in your life can you be grateful for? Thank God for those things.
- Consider the question: Are you experiencing the full and rich life Jesus promised? Invite God to meet you in the struggles and stresses you are facing. If you need guidance, ask God to help you calibrate according to his promises.

Share about your experience if you are comfortable.

Closing Prayer:

God, you are a life-giver who desires to give a rich and full life. Please help us to be aware of your generous invitation to experience a life of abundance.