



SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

Sermon: **“The Purpose of Life” (Matthew 6:33)**

Date: **January 20, 2019**

Last week we studied Matthew 6:25-34 and we learned about the sin of anxiety. Jesus commanded three times in this text, “Do not be anxious,” and then gave us seven compelling reasons why we need not be anxious. This week, we return to this passage to zero in on verse 33 which says, *“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”* Not only is this the key to fighting anxiety, it’s the key that unlocks the purpose of our lives. We were created by our Creator to seek first his kingdom and his righteousness. That ought to be our highest priority as Christians. When we seek after anything else, we will be anxious and left wanting. But when we seek after that which we were created to seek after—the kingdom of God and his righteousness—not only will we be content, but God will give us everything we need.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read Matthew 6:25-34 and ensure that you’ve listened to Sunday’s sermon.
 - a. Verse 33 begins with the word “But”. What is the significance of this word? What is verse 33 being contrasted with?
 - b. What does it mean to “seek” after something?
 - c. Read Colossians 3:1. What does this verse teach us and how does it relate to Matthew 6:33?
 - d. What are some things that our world tends to seek after instead of the righteousness of God?
 - e. Define “his kingdom” and “his righteousness” and explain how they are related to each other.
 - f. In his sermon, Pastor Jacob read the following quote from Charles Spurgeon, *“We are knights of the red cross, and our bloodless battles are against all things that degrade our fellow-men, whether they be causes social, political, or religious. We fight for everything that is good, true, and just.”* What does Spurgeon mean by this? Do you agree with him? Why or why not?



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- g. When we seek after the righteousness of God, what is the result?
- h. What does Jesus mean by “all these things”?
- i. How does the Lord’s Prayer in verses 9-13 reflect the order of priorities given in verse 33?

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. What are some things that the world seeks after instead of the righteousness of God? What are some things (good or bad) that Christians are tempted to seek after instead of the righteousness of God?
3. Why do we find these things tempting to seek after instead of God? Give reasons why and discuss how God and his righteousness are better able to satisfy the very desires of our hearts that lead us to seek after these lesser things.
4. Why does seeking after “all these things” lead to worry and anxiety? On the other hand, why does seeking after God’s kingdom and righteousness lead to contentment and peace?
5. If we don’t spend daily time with the Lord in Bible reading and prayer, can we truly seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness? Why or why not? How might our spiritual disciplines in the Word and in prayer be a gauge to measure our priorities?
6. What are some practical ways that we can prioritize God and his righteousness each and every day?

Accountability Question

Is there anything in your life that you are prioritizing ahead of God? How can you seek first after God instead of that lesser thing?