



WHY? The Question That Changes Lives And Guides Success

#newpointechurch

Week 1

1 of 1

December 30, 2018

Bottom Line: "Why?" changes lives and guides success.

Icebreaker: Give every member a chance to answer one of these questions: Why did your parents choose the name they gave you? Why do you have the job you have? Why do you live where you live?

Key Verse: *Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise.* Ephesians 5:15

Two places you can generally discover transparent information about people are Hollywood and the Bible. Hollywood movie scripts are famous for their bold "realism" about people, and the biblical record is equally famous for showing its characters warts and all. Their subject matter is handled differently most of the time, but they talk about the same three things most of the time: love, time, and death. That's what Will Smith's character mentioned about people in the film clip from *Collateral Beauty*. "We long to love, we wish we had more time, and we fear death."

The Bible records information about people in just the same way. We were created for love. We long for it. People will do almost anything for love and are desperate without it. Mother Teresa described this hunger: "The greatest disease in the West today is not TB or leprosy; it is being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for. We can cure physical diseases with medicine, but the only cure for loneliness, despair, and hopelessness is love. There are many in the world who are dying for a piece of bread but there are many more dying for a little love. The poverty in the West is a different kind of poverty—it is not only a poverty of loneliness but also of spirituality. There's a hunger for love, as there is a hunger for God." She then said, "I am a little pencil in the hand of a writing God who is sending a love letter to the world." That was not only her why, but the why for every true follower of Jesus Christ.

We are compelled to love because of the love of God. We are compelled to live with urgency because our time is short, and so is everyone else's time. There will be an end to this life. No matter how long we live, it rarely seems long enough, and then death comes to all of us. Death is the ultimate enemy without Jesus. Everyone fears it. We have the answer. It's why we're here.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

"We're here to connect. Love, time, death. Now these three things connect every single human being on earth. We long to love, we wish we had more time, and we fear death" (*Collateral Beauty*).

Discuss. How true do you believe this is of you? Of the people in your circle of friends? Of people in general?

If you had to define your "why" for who you are: why you get up in the morning, why you do what you do, what would you say has been true?

Considering today's truth, how do you feel about your "why" today? Do you need a better why? What makes a "why" big enough?

The right "why" is still worthless without urgency. How would you define urgency? Is your "why" urgent enough?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

We love because God loves people. What difference does love make in relating to people? How do you communicate love to people you really don't even know?

"The trouble is, you think you have time." This quote is attributed to a famous religious leader. Who do you think it might be? The quote is attributed to Buddha. How does this wisdom apply to Christ-followers?

"Time is free, but it's priceless. You can't own it, but you can use it. You can't keep it, but you can spend it. Once you've lost it you can never get it back" (Harvey MacKay). Discuss.

"One thing we have in common. We all die. And we believe that everyone will spend forever somewhere." Discuss—do you believe that? If so, how does it inform your "why"? How does it motivate you?

NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

- 1) Make a list of people in your “why”—pray for them daily in 2019.
- 2) If you need a better “why,” there is no better time than now to get one. Do it as the new year begins.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: “Why?” changes lives and guides success.

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| Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Why did you give yourself this rating? | | | | | | | | | | |
| What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating? | | | | | | | | | | |
| Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person? | | | | | | | | | | |
| What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating? | | | | | | | | | | |
| At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week? | | | | | | | | | | |

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: 2 Corinthians 5:14-16

Tuesday: 1 John 4:19-21

Wednesday: John 9:4

Thursday: Hebrews 9:27-28

Friday: 1 Corinthians 15:58

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.
(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)