

On Your Own – Take home questions to shape your life

As we try to become familiar with God's good life we are constantly battling the other screens that tell us there is a better life than God's. Central to those other screens is the on going attempt to steal our time, talents, and money. The problem is that it is so out in the open and a normal part of life we don't notice it. As these things are stolen from us we don't have what is needed to live out God's good life.

One author has pointed out a number of ways that these things are stolen from us. Look at his ideas and ask if any of your life has been stolen this way. Then, think about how the five screens of God can be used to fight back against this robbery.

1. Recreation is the ultimate source of fulfillment, not work (we are robbed of making a contribution to our society).
2. You need to buy stuff here and now to have a good life (we are robbed of having resources to make longterm investments that make the world a better place).
3. You aren't greedy, you are just a normal consumer.
4. Make sure you are secure financially, in status and power before you start giving yourself away.

Don't Miss

- No Evening Service May 16 and 30
- Celebration Picnic May 16
- Recovery Service May 23 6 p.m.
- Celebrating the Lord's Summer May 30 at morning services

EXPLORE THE STORY DISCOVER YOUR LIFE

evergreen ministries



Message Notes:

Five Screens

- Micah 6.8
- Isaiah 61.1
- Psalm 46.1
- Nahum 1
- Zephaniah 3

Unfamiliar

Filters (Luke 12,.15)

Rhythms

Exploring the Story, Discovering Your Life ***A Study for Small Groups and individuals***

Remembering

Look at your message notes: What part of the message made you wonder, want to know more, held particular meaning for your life, or just caught your attention?

Telling our Story, Building Community

Which screen do you sit in front of the most during the week?

Being Shaped by the Text Zephaniah 3

Screens

When you reflect on the five screens how do each of those screens turn attention away from us and on to others?



When has one of these five screens particularly grabbed and shaped the way you do life?

Pastor Larry said Sunday morning that the life described on God's screens seems largely unfamiliar to us. We are captured by other screens, other pictures of the good life.

- How familiar or unfamiliar are God's screens as you look at how you actually do life?
- Would those who observe your life agree with your assessment of the above?
- What are some examples of other screens in your life that compete with God's picture of the good life?

Filters

The Five Screens of the good life:

1. Good= Justice, Mercy, a humble walk.
2. We have been rescued by Christ: fear not, you are not forgotten we have come for you.
3. God is our refuge: to be loved and shaped is enough.
4. Celebrating and committed to God who turns ashes into beauty.
5. Committed to the community that God rejoices over and lives by his values.

These five screens are to be used as filters for how we do the rest of our lives. How might these filters impact:

- Raising kids?
- Playing and being involved in sports?
- Choosing priorities for our time?
- What we buy?

The five screens reflect God's ethic on life. Central to that ethic is giving, rather than taking. One person has said, "...the world's ethic is marked by taking, not by giving. The Christians community is to be a community of givers, a people having something to share with a person in need. Consider pay raise. Our first thought when we get a raise is we get better stuff, but to whom much is given, much will be required (Luke 12.48). For the Christian the first thought needs to be "more income equals increased giving, not increased living." We need to focus on eternal investments, give mammon away freely, Christians should be most generous because we own nothing, all is a gift from God to be handled responsibly, the only thing we own is our sin."

- Do the words of this quote (or part of these words) reflect the five screens of God's good life? Why or why not?
- How might a person's reaction to this quote reflect that greed and materialism have gotten hold of them, but as Pastor Larry said Sunday morning, they don't even realize it?

Which of the five screens is it going to be most important for you to keep in front of you to live the good life?

A Small Group project:

to change the rhythms of our lives it can be helpful to have the text constantly in front of us. One thing your small group can do to continue the pursuit of the good life together is to memorize Micah 6.8; Isaiah 61.1; Psalm 46.1; Nahum 1.1-2; and Zephaniah 3.17. Before you head out during the day you can say those verses and at your small group you can ask how they affected your choices during the week.