

FAKE NEWS



God just wants me to be happy.

FEB 3 | CHRIS STEVENS, LEAD PASTOR

The bombarding media around us is often telling us what God has to say, rather than listening to God Himself. This month, we're dispelling some myths that are floating out there and looking to scripture to discern what God truly has in store for us. It won't always be easy as we explore some of these cultural "facts," but we'll be looking to Christ, who is always good.

"God wants you to be happy" – scripture doesn't offer us this particular truth. It tells the story of a God who is humble, holy and in relationship with us. Our cultural emphasis on happiness creates a test for God that was never part of the conversation.

Our happiness doesn't come from what we experience, but from relationship with Him.



MESSAGE NOTES

Have you ever assumed that God wants:

- you to be happy?
- good things to happen in your life?
- you to prosper and do well?
- everything to work out for you?
- nothing bad to ever happen to you?

1 John 2:1-17

As our loving Father, God desires our holiness over our happiness.

2:3 – We don't come to know Him by being happy. We come to know Him through keeping His commands.

God is interested in communal wellbeing, not just your individual happiness.

2:4-6 – How did Jesus live? Sacrificially, for the benefit of others. Not in a way that ensured His own personal happiness at the expense of others.

The joy of the Lord is the true source of eternal happiness.

2:15-17 – God wants you focused on eternity, not with a love for this world.

Christ alone is the source of happiness, contentment and joy. Imagine a life lived holy, humble and heavenly-minded.

FAKE NEWS

Culture's Equation for Happiness:

HAPPINESS
=
better possessions
+
peaceful
circumstances
+
thrilling experiences
+
the right
relationship
+
the perfect
appearance



10 Year Disciple

This series aims to help us take forward steps in developing the following 10 Year Disciple characteristic:

RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD:

→ The Bible as a guide for life and knowing God's character

Pick up a copy of The 10 Year Disciple Resource Guide from the Info Desk to learn more.

HOME GROUP MATERIALS

OPTION 1: SCRIPTURE

Read 1 John 2:1-17 and ask the following questions. Give a lot of time to each one before moving to the next.

- What do you notice? Are there any patterns or repetitions? What questions do you have?
- What would it have meant to the original audience?
- What is the transferrable truth for us today?

Conversation starters:

- What are some ways that you know God? What is the evidence in your life that you know Him?
- In what ways have you “loved the world”?

OPTION 2: UNPACKING HAPPINESS

The conversation around “happiness” is current in our world. What creates and causes happiness? How do we maintain it? What are the tenets of it?

Before turning to the text, consider some of these questions:

- Throughout the course of your life, how has your definition of happiness changed?
- How do you experience happiness? How do you know if you are happy?
- In the world around us, what are some of the ways happiness is “sold?”

Read 1 John 2:1-17.

- The text doesn't use the word “happiness.” Even so, how does it counter some of the lies our world tells us about happiness? How does it challenge the notion that we are, individually, the centre of the universe?
- How does community and relationship with others impact our understanding of happiness? How does this text help us be mindful of others?
- What are some places of repentance – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life (1 John 2: 16) – within the group?
- How have you relied on yourself, or trusted the lies of the world, to create happiness?



HOME GROUP MATERIALS

Conclude with a conversation about hope:

- What does hope look like? Where does it come from?
- How does living humbly, pursuing holiness and with heaven in mind look like in day-to-day life?
- Where can we celebrate God's work in our lives?

