



MADE FOR
MISSION
DISCOVERING THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH GOD CREATED YOU

SERIES OVERVIEW: Made for Mission

“Opportunities”

Preacher: Pastor Eugene Kim

June 2, 2019

[Series Sermon Recordings](#)

[Discipleship Resources](#)

SUGGESTED SUPPLIES

Note cards (or paper) and pens.

QUESTIONS?

Email Abby

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PLEASE NOTE! Sermon questions will go on break at the end of this series (Sunday 6/2) through the summer. They will return in September. Over the summer, broader questions will be available.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

HOW TO USE: *The three sections below (opening, sermon content questions, and application) represent the three connections we emphasize at Highrock: connecting to **God’s People**, connecting to **God Personally**, and connecting to **God’s Purposes**. Select at least one question from each section or create questions that are more specific to your group.*

WEEKLY CHECK IN

Use a few minutes at the beginning of your time to follow up on any action items shared from last week. Was there a **next step or application** challenge that they took on this past week? What did they learn about themselves and following Jesus?

CONNECTION QUESTIONS

Choose ONE of these that fits your group, or modify it so that it will fit your group better. These can make great **opening questions** or **ending questions**. If you have had a really in-depth conversation, ending on a light note can help transition to concluding your time together on a less intense question.

1. When you think about the words stillness, silence, slowing- how do you respond? Do they make you uncomfortable? Do they seem out of reach? Do they create longing?
2. What does this narrative look like for you? What do you feel like you are missing out on? What do you wish you had time for?
 - a. **Sermon Reference:** *“It doesn’t matter how gifted or passionate or experienced we are, if we don’t see and respond to the opportunities in front of us, we’re going to miss out. And the reality is most of us probably feel like we’re missing out on a lot! Maybe you’ve been tracking with us throughout this series and you’ve felt encouraged and challenged by some of the truths we’ve explored. But you might be thinking, “this all sounds great, but who’s got time for that?!”*”

SERMON QUESTIONS

Use a **couple of the questions** below or make up your own. You can always begin with: “Do you have any questions about what you heard in the sermon this week?” Or, “What stood out to you from the Pastor’s sermon?”

1. Has there been a time when you have been “asleep” like this and missed an opportunity to be present to someone?
 - a. What does it feel like to be on the other side of this interaction? Have you felt missed by someone when you were looking to connect?
 - i. **Sermon Reference:** But here was this woman I just met, expressing genuine interest in the thing I am most passionate about in life, something I have trained for years to talk about, I literally tell people about Jesus for a living, but all I could do was give the most awkward bare minimum answers to her questions. I just wanted to get back to reading my book about how to reach people more effectively with the Gospel! They say opportunity knocks. Well, opportunity was smacking me in the face repeatedly, and I missed it. I blew it. Because I was just not present in that moment. I was too busy to pay attention. Have you ever missed an opportunity like that before?
2. Are you busy? What comes to mind when you hear the words: new opportunities, time, schedule, busyness?
 - a. How does business become an excuse or easy out from engaging with others and with God?
 - b. Do you ever find yourself creating/ staying busy as a way of avoiding or numbing? Is it easier to stay busy than slow down and consider change/ transformation?
 - c. What does your self care look like? How might you distinguish between what cares for your soul and what is creating a distraction?
 - d. If you were to dream about having margin- what would you want to do with it? What would it look like to dream with God about what you might need to let go of (margin) to be able to take hold of?
 - i. **Sermon Reference:** “Many of us would love to be on mission. We’d love to do something important, to make a difference and bless others. But so many of us already feel depleted and burnt out. We have no margin. And it seems like any margin we do have gets spent on our feeble attempts at self-care: mindlessly scrolling through social media, spending more time looking for a show to watch on Netflix than actually watching a show, catching up on sleep, or searching our calendars for the next time we can just get away from it all.”
3. Pastor Eugene shared about three things which keep us from being aware of God’s presence with us (cynicism, self-absorption, lack of presence). What do each of these look like in your life right now? Is there one you seem to default to more than others?
 - a. **Sermon Reference:** “How can we join in what God is doing all around us when... First, in our low expectations, we don’t even expect him to show up. That’s our **cynicism**. Second, we’re too **self-absorbed** to see beyond our own wants and needs. That’s our **self-centeredness**. And third, we don’t slow down long enough to pay attention to God and be present in the moment He’s calling us to. That’s our **lack of presence**.”
4. Where might you be asleep or without hope? How might God be calling to wake up? What does hope look like to you right now? Share what light in the darkness means to you.
 - a. **Sermon Reference:** “In the Scripture passage that was read for us earlier, it includes these powerful words which I absolutely love. And I want all of us to hear them today: **[Ephesians 5:14]** “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” I believe there is a message of hope God wants each of us to hear. A call, an invitation to something more. But we might need to check our hearts and see if we’re really open to that.”
5. What changes have you been waiting for? What have you been waiting to have margin for?

- a. How might God be inviting you to change your posture and turn on your light so that you might see your opportunities differently?
 - b. How do you distinguish the difference between pursuing opportunities on your own- by your own will vs. those which you are partnering with God and following God's invitation?
 - i. **Sermon Reference:** *"We might be waiting for some kind of change in our circumstances, some kind of golden opportunity so that we can finally join God on mission. But what if that's not how it works? What if it's not our circumstances that need to change? What if WE need to change so that we can start to see our circumstances as the opportunities already there and waiting for us?"*
6. Discuss what it means that God's light is never apart from you and God's presence is IN you. How is this truth light in the darkness to you?
- a. **Sermon Reference:** *"And the apostle Paul writes something here that's so full of hope and power that we need to spend some time allowing it to sink in. (Ephesians 5:8) He says, "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light." Notice he doesn't say you'll have light or you will see the light. He says, you ARE light. If God is light and we're children of light, what does that make us? Light! What does that mean? Light in the Bible is used as a powerful metaphor for God's radiance, his presence. It symbolizes life and power, (Ephesians 5:9) goodness, righteousness, and truth."*
7. What are some actions, thoughts, habits, which alert you that you are trying to numb or escape?
- a. **Sermon Reference:** *"I know what most of you are thinking. What are these shameful things the disobedient do in secret? Well, it's the stuff we all do when we've forgotten who we are. We're selfish and self-indulgent. And our self-centeredness prevents us from seeing the needs of others all around us. Instead, we pursue fruitless deeds, going from one thing to the next, always trying to do more and get more."*
8. How would you describe your own lightbulb, dark, burned out, dim, bright? (you can choose different descriptions for different areas of your life) . Are there areas where you feel hopeless right now? How might your areas of darkness paint how you see others and interact with those around you? How might the light of Christ be hope to you that you could be light to others?
- a. What are you facing right now that is impacting how you see things? Hope might not change your circumstances, but it could change how you experience them- what does that mean to you?
 - b. How does seeing ourselves as children of God impact the way we see the world and live?
 - i. **Sermon Reference:** *"I've shared many times this quote from Richard Rohr, "People don't see things as they are. They see things as THEY are." If we're darkness, we'll see everything around us as darkness. We'll see hopelessness and despair. We'll say, that's just the way things are. I can't change things. But if we're light, we'll see everything around us as light! We'll see hope and possibility and opportunity. We'll say, I can't do everything, but I can do something. I can make a difference here." Do you see why we've got to start here? We have to start with hope.*
9. Read and discuss what stands out to you from the scripture passage for this sermon: **Ephesians 5:8-17** *"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said: "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is."*

APPLICATION/S

1. When has someone been the light of Christ to you in a time of need or a time of hopelessness? What did that light do for your sense of hope that situation? How does their example inspire you to be shine God’s light to others?
 - a. Who is someone in your life God may be inviting you to serve right now?
2. This week, practice slowing down and creating margin. What can you say no to so that you can create more margin within your day, your heart, your mind to be present to others and to God?
 - a. Pastor Eugene reminded us that God is always present, always ready to act in the world. How does this help us see the opportunities that we have to serve and love others? Where might this have a practical application in your life?
3. We can get caught up in programs and all the exciting things going on in our lives, even at church. But there is the risk that we miss caring for those who were at the heart of Jesus’ ministry. Where are there opportunities in your life to “see the unseen”? to look beyond ourselves? (ex. Pastor Eugene mentioned the Neighbors to Neighbors ministry as a powerful way to serve others, but which is currently sustained by only a few people).
 - a. **Sermon Reference:** “If we’re going to be a church that follows Jesus, then we have to do the things Jesus did. And Jesus always went to the marginalized and the invisible in society. He always seemed to hang out with the outcasts, the sick, and the poor. And it wasn’t just a project, or charity, or volunteer work. He loved them and welcomed them into his fellowship. I believe this is something we need to continue wrestling with as a church. But I don’t see it as something discouraging, like poor us, we’re not doing enough. I see it as an opportunity! God has work for us to do!”

CLOSING

Summarize the key points of your discussion and encourage people to **share one action step** they could take during the next week based on what they have shared. **Take time to pray together.** Write those down and start next week by checking in with how it went, or better yet, check in during the week!

RESOURCES

SERMON SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

Ephesians 5:8-17

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said:

*“Wake up, sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”*

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.

SCRIPTURE STUDY: 5Cs

If you are interested in studying the scripture more deeply, one method is to use the 5 Cs. Read through the passage and move through each C. The goal is not to move through them quickly, but to really consider each section. If you wanted to study the passage together, you, as the leader should take some time beforehand to complete the Cs and it can be helpful to have group

members come prepared with the first 3 already considered. Then, as a group, you can briefly talk over some of the points and have a longer conversation about curiosities and conclusions. This study tool will be posted within all of the discussion questions.

- **Context:** What is the literary context of the passage? What comes before? After? Context within whole book? Relation to main idea of section, book, testament, whole Bible?
- **Christ:** How is Jesus revealed here? If in OT, prefiguration, typology, prophecy, implications for Christ's person and work? How is he needed, anticipated, fulfilled?
- **Crux:** What is the main idea? Try and find a section of the text that states it and have reasons for why that is the main idea? How do the other points support it?
- **Curiosities:** What is surprising about this text? Controversial? Mysterious? Shocking?
- **Conclusions:** What are the implications for our lives? Application? How do we think, feel, and act in light of this text?

READING THE BIBLE

[Pastor Dave has provided a few suggestions](#) for Bible reading plans, daily devotionals, and Bible commentaries to help you understand God's Word as you familiarize yourself with it.