



Listen to the music. “Satisfy My Soul.” “Heart and Soul.” “Soul Survivor.” We know we are more than flesh and bones. We thirst for something deeper. Something richer. Something more. God put that in you. You were made for something more. It’s your true identity.

These questions are intended to deepen your experience of the message. Use them for your personal or family study time, or with an open Bible as you share the good news with your neighbor.

Group Ice-Breakers:

(1) “Do you think people are generally happier than they were 50 years ago? How about 100 years ago? Why or why not?”

(2) “Think of popular songs with the word ‘soul’ in the title. What do they mean?”

**SOMETHING MORE.** Read Psalm 42:1 & 43:5. James Bryan Smith says, “our soul is the most essential, precious thing about us” but “our soul is something we are the least aware of, least concerned about, until our lives begin to fall apart.” Is this true? Share ways you (or your world) may feel like soul is “cast down” or “in turmoil.”

**PROBLEMS WITH ‘SELF.’** Self is focused on bodies in isolation. Soul is concerned with connection and integration. Augustine said, “God has made us for Himself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in Him.” Discuss how a story that begins with “you are an accident” will lead to a different view of yourself than one that begins with “you were intended to live with God forever.”

**LIVING SOUL.** Read Genesis 2:7 (in different translations). What in this verse is the same as all other animals (have different group members look up Genesis 1:21, 24, 30; 2:19; 6:17; 7:15; 7:22; Ecc 3:19-21)? What is unique or special about humans (see Gen 1:26-28; Isa 54:16; Ezek 37:1-13; Jn 20:22)?

**SOUL: A UNITED WHOLE.** N. T. Wright says ‘soul’ in Scripture regularly means “the whole human being, seen from the point of view of one’s inner life.” In other words, the total you. Discuss how this brings comfort when our bodies and memories and abilities change, and we begin to wonder what it means to be “me.”

**IMAGE & LIKENESS OF GOD.** Read Genesis 1:26-28. Virtually all Christian thinkers have claimed every human being has the image of God. But in Christ, by the renewing power of the Spirit, we grow more and more into His likeness. Discuss how to see God in every person while also appreciating what makes those in Christ different.

**THE SOUL’S LONGING.** Thomas Aquinas said we are not condemned so much “for” our sins as we are “by” our sins. The point is that whatever fights against the good, true, and beautiful actually makes things bad for us. We were intended for goodness, truth, and beauty. Our soul’s cry out for a connection with God. Discuss this thought.