



We all want fulfillment, contentment, and to feel satisfied. We seek it through the right job, the right toys, or the right human relationships, but satisfaction seems so elusive. Jesus offers a better way through rightly ordered loves.

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) Did your kids get into the “6-7” craze last year?

(2) What is your favorite Snickers “not satisfied” commercial?

6 & 7. In Revelation, the number “7” appears often to symbolize completeness. **Name or list how often “7” appears there.** For some commentators, “6” often represents coming just shy, or lacking completeness. In **John 4**, Jesus sits down at the 6th hour and talks to a woman in her 6th relationship. He offers her living water so she will never thirst again. Samaria was a place where 5 kinds of foreign people worshipped idols (**2 Kings 17**) before falling under Roman rule. How might this story suggest Jesus offers completeness?

WHAT WE WANT. Nathan said “we want sustained joy rooted in something imperishable.” Wallace Stevens wrote “In contentment I still feel the need for an imperishable bliss.” Do you agree?

NOTHING ON EARTH SATISFIES. Read **Ecclesiastes 1:8; 2:11, 17, 20; 5:0; 6:7.** How do we usually seek satisfaction? The author of Ecclesiastes says everything he tried left him dissatisfied. Why do you think contentment and satisfaction seem so elusive?

A BETTER WAY. Read **1 Corinthians 12:31 & 13:13.** Why is “love” a more excellent way (to think and to live)?

LOVE GOD FIRST. Read **Matthew 22:36-40.** Why is the greatest commandment to love God? How is this similar to “investing in something greater than yourself?” How is this different from secular things to ground your love in?

LOVE NEIGHBOR, INVEST IN PEOPLE. Read **Matthew 22:36-40.** Why is the second greatest commandment to love your neighbor? How is this similar to “investing in people and relationships?” How is this different from rooting your hopes in other people?

USE THINGS, BUT DON’T LOVE THINGS. What does it look like to “love things and use people”? How can one move toward “loving people and using things”? How can loving things rob you of your joy?

GOD ALONE SATISFIES. Psalm 17:15; 65:4; 81:16; 90:14; 103:5; 107:9; 145:16; Prov 19:23; Isa 58:11; Jer 31:14, 25; Matt 5:6.