



Is life devoid of meaning? Several atheistic philosophers have argued that it is—so we must create some small meaning in our lives. But we aren’t wired that way, and it doesn’t last. What if we discover meaning in Jesus Christ, and this is better?

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) Describe how work, family, or achievement gives you some sense of meaning.

(2) What would provide meaning to your life if you lost your job, your family, or your achievements?

IS LIFE MEANINGLESS? Thomas Nagel ends his introductory philosophy textbook with this line: “Life may be not only meaningless but absurd.” Bertrand Russell said “only on the firm foundation of unyielding despair can the soul’s habitation be safely built.” **Read Ecc 9:9 & 11:8.** Why does it sound like the Bible agrees with these atheist philosophers?! What does “under the sun” mean?

NEED FOR MEANING. When it comes to living a life with no inherent meaning, Nathan said (1) We don’t want to live this way, (2) we don’t live this way, and (3) we can’t live this way. Discuss if you agree.

CAN WE CREATE MEANING THAT LASTS? Discuss how these things don’t give us lasting meaning:

- Possessions give us indigestion. **Read Ecc 5:10-12 & Luke 12:16-21.**
- Passions make us prodigal. **Read Ecc 5:7 & Luke 15:11-32.**
- Prestige leads to insignificance. **Read Ecc 5:13-15 & Phil 3:7-10.**

DISCOVERING MEANING. Read **Ecclesiastes chapter 12 & John 10:10.** What is the difference between “creating” meaning for ourselves and “discovering” meaning given by God? Compare creating meaning “under the sun” vs. discovering meaning “in the Son.”