

Senior Pastor: Kevin Flannery

“Where do you find your deepest satisfaction in life?”

Jeremiah 2:13

- I. **Ice breaker.** *Getting to know each other questions.* (10 minutes)
What have you done or experienced this week that brought you a great sense of satisfaction?
- II. **Read today’s scriptures** out loud, slowly, either in unison or using a designated reader and move into scripture quiet reflection. (3 minutes)

**My people have committed two sins:
They have forsaken me,
the spring of living water,
and have dug their own cisterns,
broken cisterns that cannot hold water. Jeremiah 2:13**

- II. **Scripture quiet reflection:** (5-10 minutes)

This is a time to personally reflect on this week’s scripture. Have a paper and pen available.

1. Read. Read through the passage silently.

2. Reflect. Notice any words or phrases that particularly draw your attention and stand out to you.

How do these words/phrases speak directly to you and your present situation? Write your insights.

3. Respond. As God has spoken to you in the Scripture, respond back to God in prayer. What do you want to say to God? What else does God want to say to you?

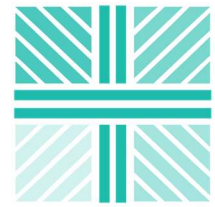
- III. **Sermon and Scripture Application Discussion. (20-30 minutes)**

- A. As you reflectively engaged the Scriptures, what stood out to you from these passages?
- B. Augustine said: “Without exception we all long for happiness. All agree that they want to be happy. They may all search for it in different ways, but all try their hardest to reach the same goal, that is, joy.” Kevin said that what dwells deep inside all of us is an instinct for soul-satisfaction.
 - Do you agree with these statements? If so, how has the desire for happiness shaped your story?
 - In what ways has the desire for happiness led you to deeper joy or perhaps in other ways to places that are dry and unsatisfying?
- C. Read the following scriptures to see examples of the concept of “desire” that run through the Bible.

“As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.” Ps 42: 1-2

“.....He (God) has also set eternity in the human heart;.....Ecc 3:11

 - Can you think of other places in the scriptures where human desire is expressed overtly or in a metaphor?
- D. How has sin short-circuited the desires of our heart, by looking to run away from God (broken cisterns) rather than toward Him (water)?



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- Almost anything can serve as a broken cistern (or a substitute for God). Review the following list and identify what tends to serve as a broken cistern for you, when not seeking God. Share one of your ‘cisterns’ to the degree that you are comfortable:
Social Media-Sports-Hobbies-Money-Stocks-Fitness-Video Games-Politics-Alcohol or other substances-Spending-Shopping-Cleaning-Sex-Porn-Amusement-TV-Food-Success-Relationships-Affirmation-Attention-Sleep-Procrastination-The success or happiness of others.

E. “Our central problem in life is that we are trying to find heart satisfaction in the wrong things. The pleasures of this world are too small. Since we are made for eternity, temporary things cannot fully and permanently satisfy”-KF

- Read the following quote by John Piper and discuss how he defines and explains sin:

“**Sin** is the suicidal abandonment of true happiness! In other words, the pursuit of our soul’s satisfaction—our joy and delight and happiness—is not sin. Sin is the exact opposite: pursuing happiness where no lasting happiness can be found. Sin is trying to quench our unquenchable soul-thirst any-where but in God. Or, more subtly, sin is pursuing satisfaction in the right direction, but with lukewarm, halfhearted affections.”

- Why might the idea of sin as “an abandonment of true happiness” sound strange or foreign to some?

F. If time allows review John 4:4-17 and Matthew 19: 16-22 and name how the key subjects of each text were attempting to live life on their own terms. What was each character looking to for satisfaction?

G. We have been hardwired with eternal desires, but our problem is that we try to satisfy our deepest yearnings with the wrong things. Pray for one another to get back on track by taking the following steps:

a. Recognize: this innate instinct for happiness for what it is: A Pointer!

b. Repent: for trying to satisfy this desire on your own terms. Repentance is found at the Cross in dying to self!

c. Reorient: Come to God, Who alone can satisfy.

“Come, all you who are thirsty,.....” Isaiah 55: 1