



I. Family Ice breaker: Questions?

- What you do / where do you go that makes you "happy"?
- Can you think of an example you had recently?

II. Read Jeremiah 2:13 – together.

III. Questions & Applications for Discussion with your kids:

Jeremiah 2:13:

"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."

In Bible lands, a cistern was an artificial reservoir which was dug in the earth or hewn in the rock for the collection and storage of water. Cisterns were very important in the land of Israel because of the long dry season and the relatively few natural springs. But a broken cistern was practically worthless.

It might be helpful to have a deeper understanding of how a cistern worked to appreciate Jeremiah's metaphor more completely. "Palestine has three sources of water: the best is fresh running water, such as flows from a spring or stream, which is called "living water". Next comes ground water, such as might be collected in a well and last is runoff water collected in a cistern. A cistern was a pit hewn into the limestone and plastered to prevent seepage. A cistern also collects silt and mosquito larvae. Thus, in Jeremiah's image, not only have the Israelites traded the best of water supplies for the worst, but their cistern ins broken, with all its water leaked out and nothing but sludge remaining. Their covenant infidelity is not just ungrateful and unnatural; it is also foolish. It leaves them without help in the coming difficult days." (ESV Study Bible Footnote)

A. 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? What are your thoughts? What do you perceive as happiness?

B. **Imagine assembling a 100-piece puzzle. The middle piece of this puzzle is our human heart in the shape of a cross and it is missing! You are now left with 99 pieces. It sort of ruins the whole puzzle doesn't it? What do you usually do when you discover that a puzzle piece is missing? Yes! You look for it. You look under the couch, and under the cushions or you check the closet, or you check all the other puzzle boxes to see if it's in there, right?**



Until we find that missing piece, we will never be able to finish the puzzle. We will not be satisfied unless we find the “cross piece”. Pastor Kevin wants us to understand that we will not be able to find true Joy in our lives when we substitute the “cross” piece who is Jesus with other desires like: friends, sports, school, money, our loved ones, food, video games, social media, approval of others, etc.

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.” Psalm 42: 1-2**

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

- All these other “pieces” serve as a substitute for God, (*a broken cistern expressed in the Jeremiah verse*). **How has these desires of our heart, make us run away from God (broken cisterns) rather than toward Him (living water)?**

C. Pastor Kevin said that **‘Our central problem in life is that we are trying to find heart satisfaction in the wrong things. This world’s pleasures are too small. Since we are made for eternity, temporary things cannot fully and permanently satisfy.’**

- Read 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?

D. **Pastor Kevin said that we have been hardwired with eternal desires, but our problem is that we try to satisfy our deepest yearnings with the wrong earthly, temporary things. Pray for one another to get back on track by taking the following steps:**

1. **Recognize:** this natural instinct for happiness is a “pointer” to Jesus. He can only fulfill our heart’s desires.
2. **Repent:** for trying to satisfy this desire on your own terms.
3. **Reorient:** by coming to God, Who alone can satisfy. - “Come, all you who are thirsty,.....” Isaiah 55: 1

Additional Quotes that you might find helpful for Application:

Oswald Chambers: The man or woman who does not know God, demands an infinite satisfaction from other human beings which they cannot give. It springs from this one thing, the human heart must have satisfaction, but there is only one Being Who can satisfy the last abyss of the human heart, and that is the Lord Jesus Christ.

C. S. Lewis: If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.

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