

Common Ground Café

Sermon Discussion Guide

Sunday, September 1, 2019



How to Rise Above Unsatisfying Living

Proverbs 10:23

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Pastor Tom included multiple passages in his sermon this week. Go ahead and have volunteers bookmark these passages so they can read these verses during class time.

Proverbs 10:23 | Nehemiah 8:9-12 | Proverbs 30:20 | 1 John 1:8-9
1 Corinthians 11:28 | Proverbs 30:12 | Proverbs 14:9
Proverbs 13:19 | Proverbs 26:11

Opening Question

What skills/observations/tricks do you use to determine if someone's apology is genuine?

Study the Book

Five Reasons We Stay Stuck in Sin:

1) We get a cheap pleasure from sin.

Read Proverbs 10:23

What does it mean that Satan rewards us even as he defeats us?
What are some examples?

We can rise above unsatisfying living by trading cheap pleasure for the joy of the Lord.

Read Nehemiah 8:9-12

Take some time to review the situation in Nehemiah 8. Flip through the book and look at study Bible notes. You can also have someone who is familiar with the book to summarize what is happening. Rhetorical Question: When was the last time you prayed for the joy of the Lord?

2) We won't name what we've done as sin.

Read Proverbs 30:20

The woman in this proverb ignores the sin she has committed.

Why is hard for us to claim our sin as sin? What might we call it instead of sin? (For example: I have an "issue" with...)

We can rise above unsatisfying living by taking a moral inventory of ourselves.

Read 1 John 1:8-9 & 1 Corinthians 11:28

How do we shift blame for our sin?

3) We measure ourselves by ourselves.

Read Proverbs 30:12

We can rise above unsatisfying living by measuring ourselves against Jesus.

What does it mean to measure ourselves against Jesus?

4) We won't confess our sin.

Read Proverbs 14:9

We can rise above unsatisfying living by admitting and fixing our mistakes.

The NIV translation says, “Fools mock at making amends for sin.” Not only do we need to confess our sin, but we need to fix our mistakes.

How might have you seen someone admit their sin but not fix it? What might they have done to fix their mistake?

5) We won't quit our sin.

Read Proverbs 13:19 & Proverbs 26:11

Admitting your sin is not a substitute for quitting your sin.

We can rise above unsatisfying living by putting our sins behind us.

Group Application Discussion

The fruit of the Spirit found in Galatians 5:22-23 is a great guideline for taking a moral inventory (along with the list of sins in the verses just before this list).

How can you use the fruit of the Spirit to take a moral inventory of yourself?

Live the Book (Personal Reflection and Application)

Take some time this week to take a moral inventory. Ask the Lord to reveal any sin that is in your life. Confess it. Fix it. Put it behind you.