

Discussion Guide: Center of Your Life

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42 (NIV)

May 4, 2002: "Center of Your Life" by Joe Bartemus, Pastor of Adult Education. Pastor Joe began his sermon by presenting several topics from which to choose for this sermon: How to get life all together, How to keep life from falling apart, or Renewing the center of life.

Preaching from Colossians 1:15-20, Joe provided a number of application points that can be used directly from the handout provided on the website. Download and print it out for your group discussion, or use the following as a guide.

Application Discussion:

Joe pointed out that people tend to focus on various things throughout various stages of their life: For example, for young people it is clothes, hair, looks and acceptance. As young adults it changes to singleness, marriage, education and career. As parents our focus shifts to raising our children, building our stuff and career. About mid-life many go through mid-life crises, focus on more stuff and change jobs. As we approach retirement our focus is on our 401k's and taking vacations. In our later years focus is on our health.

1. Take a few minutes and make a list of the things that are a priority in your life today.
2. If you took a circular piece of cardstock and drew a circle about the size of a silver dollar in the center and then drew lines from this inner circle to the outside like a piece of pie, where would you place your priorities. What would you place in the center? Share your vision with others in the group.
3. What would happen if you stuck a nail through one of the high priority sections and spun the circular cardstock around the nail? What does this simulate?
4. As we journey through life, what would happen if we centered our lives upon Jesus? What happens when we don't?

Last Wednesday night the Cross-Cultural Conference Preacher energetically proclaimed, what we need to do as disciples of Christ is to not ask, "What would Jesus do?" when we are confronted with problems and situations in life. [pause] What we need to do is, do what Jesus would do!

5. What is your approach to problems and situations in life? What would you like it to be?
6. What do we need to do to transition from asking to doing?
7. Is God pleased with what dwells at the center of your life?

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in Jesus. Colossian 1:19a