

Why Does My Life Matter? – Seventh Grade

In this session, we want to ensure a few things happen. We want to unpack the idea of imago dei, the reality that we are made in the image of God, bearing His imprint. Not only were we created in the image of God, but we were also redeemed from the sin nature that distorts that image. The Church, the people of God that have been made new in Christ, together now continue to image God to the world around us. The Church is made up so that every single person, no matter how “important” they are by worldly standards, is absolutely essential to the mission of the church. Our lives, though they may not seem like the lives of heroes in movies and books, matter profoundly. They matter because of Who’s we are. And because of Who’s we are, we have immense purpose.

Introducing the Subject

We want to give students time to talk about and process what they already know and think about the question, “why does my life matter?”. We want to encourage as much honesty and transparency as possibly during this time!

-If you had to look back on human history, who would you say are some people who have mattered the most?

-Why did those people matter so much?

-Where do you see the people around you get their sense of worth from?

-What makes someone “important” by our culture’s standards?

-If someone asked you, “why does your life matter?”, what would you tell them?

Scripture Study

As you transition to the Scripture Study portion of this session, remind students that Scripture is where we turn for truth. We want to continually reiterate that we study Scripture not just for the “Christian take” on a matter, but God’s revealed word, given to us out of love for our good.

-Read Isaiah 43: 1-7 together.

-What stood out to you?

-What does God say He has done for His people in that first verse?

-What does God command His people to do in that first verse?

-How does God describe His people in this passage?

-What all does God say He will do for His people?

-Why does He say He will do these things?

-Explain that in this passage, God tells His people how He will take care of them, He tells them to not be afraid, because they are His, He made them, and He loves them. They are precious to Him.

Practical Application

We want to use this time to help students internalize the truths they just read in Scripture. This session doesn't have many action steps, instead, we just want to help move their understanding of self-worth from the head to the heart.

-According to the world, what makes someone important?

-Think of an art piece, what makes super expensive art so expensive? *(The identity of the artist)*

-According to the Bible, what makes people so important? *(Who made them!)*

-There is a difference in earned worth and inherent worth. Things like antiques earn worth as they become more and more rare. They get more valuable the more unique they are. Things like stocks and bonds gain value over time as the companies they represent become more and more successful. But according to the God who created us, there is nothing we need to do to gain worthiness, there is nothing we could ever do to lose the worth we already have.

-Have you ever felt worthless? Or maybe like you were worth less than someone else? What made you feel like that?

-Have you ever tried to make your life matter? What do you think you could do or be that would make your life matter?

-According to God, what makes your life matter? How could you live life differently if you really trusted in what God said about you? *(You could live from a sense of worth and not for a sense of worth. That means you can still do things that make a difference in the world but you can do it with confidence and joy as opposed to worry, anxiety, and striving.)*