

STUDY NOTES

THE WAYS OF GRACE

A Series At New City Church

newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message "Longing for Significance and Identity" on 9/29/19 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this study guide effectively, you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: ECCLESIASTES 2:1-11

TURNING OUR FLAWS TO GOD

The Enneagram offers nine mirrors for self-reflection. The goal of the Enneagram is to help you let go of the walls you've built because of sin and fear. It should guide you in learning to be comfortable with your flaws and turning them over to God! The Enneagram type 4 is "the individualist."

THE INDIVIDUALIST

People who identify with the individualist type are on a "search for self." They are often creative, intuitive, and expressive. They can be extremely compassionate because they are sensitive and intuitive toward others. Their key motivation is found in expressing themselves and surrounding themselves with beauty in order to maintain certain moods and feelings.

- *Do you know an individualist? What is it like interacting with that person?*
- *How have you seen the individualist's character traits used for good?*

THE INDIVIDUALIST IN LIGHT OF SIN

At their worst, the individualist can often be seen as elitist or "snobbish." They can be tempted to withdraw from others in order to keep their self-image.

The basic fear of the individualist is that they have no identity or personal significance.

- *How are we all like the individualist though our efforts in searching for significance?*
- *If we don't feel significant, how is it tempting to withdraw from others? How have you seen this happen in your life?*

The writer of Ecclesiastes desired to find significance in everything around the world. But he goes on to say that once you try all of it, you'll find that none of it brings the significance for which you long. This is especially difficult for the individualist to hear because they desire authenticity.

Sin made the authentic inauthentic.

- *Brian said, "There isn't anything in this world that is completely authentic." What does that statement mean to you?*
- *What are some things that you've found to be inauthentic?*

HOPE IN THE INAUTHENTIC

It can be easy to become melancholy when we look at the reality of the world. However, God provides hope for us. He is completely authentic. In him, we can find our identity. God created each of us uniquely for him. When we find our identity in him, it frees us up to enjoy the things that he has given us on this earth. **Read Ecclesiastes 3:14 and Ecclesiastes 2:12.**

- *When you find your identity in Jesus, how does that free you up to enjoy what God has given you?*
- *Pray with each other that we all find our identity in God alone.*