

UNRAVELING

SEPTEMBER 3 - OCTOBER 16





LIFEGROUPS

Series: Unraveling

Bible Focus: Jeremiah 2:1-4, 20-32

Date: Sept. 10 & 11, 2016

—[LET'S TALK]—

- What is the most interesting conversation you've ever had with someone of different beliefs?

—[CHOOSE 1 SIDE]—

—[LET'S WARM UP]—

- What happens when someone loses something they've built their life around?
- What is it that you feel like you must have, or your sense of meaning is gone?

—[LET'S WARM UP]—

- Do you think most people are content or discontent with their lives? Why?
- How hard is it for you to be content in Christ? Why?

—[LET'S DIG]—

- Read Luke 12:16-34 and discuss the source of meaning in life.
 1. Why do we need a sense of meaning, purpose, and worth in our lives?
 2. What are some specific personal or cultural consequences when people search for meaning apart from God?
 3. What is it about God that makes Him the only source of meaning in our life?
 4. If God is the true source of meaning, and the consequences of other sources are so dire, why do we turn away from God?

—[LET'S DIG]—

- Read Matthew 9:9-13, John 8:2-11, Titus 2:11-14 and discuss God's grace and love.
 1. Why does God choose to love us so much that he'd send His son to die for us?
 2. How does God's love interact with sin and sinful people?
 3. What are the similarities and differences between tolerance and God's love?
 4. How does God's grace and love prevent us from chasing after idols and false gods?

—[LET'S ACT]—

- Speak Gospel love in the face of spiritual ugliness. This requires fairly significant vulnerability. With your LifeGroup, take a couple of minutes to write down one or two spiritual insecurities you have—points of spiritual weakness or ugliness. Break up into groups of two or three, and one at a time share what you have written. As each person shares, the others listening should respond with respect, encouragement, and speaking God's love over the person.



—[**SERMON REVIEW**]—

- Extra scriptures referenced: [Ezk 16:6-14] - [Lk 12:20] - [Eph 5:25-27]
- The passage from Jeremiah 2 is very graphic because God wants Israel to look in the mirror and see how they have prostituted themselves to other gods and how it makes Him feel!
- God sometimes uses sexual imagery to describe the spiritual relationship that exists between Him and us because there is a spiritual attraction that happens in our hearts that is every bit as powerful as any sexual attraction that we experience at a physical level.
- If we have not committed to reside in the arms of God, then we *will* find something or someone else to cling to. We cannot produce our own meaning, worth and value in life. It comes from someone or something else, be that God, or money, or good works, or relationships, etc.!
- When we cling to anything but God, we set ourselves up for trouble because eventually that thing will fail, go away, or be taken away. We avoid fatal spiritual attractions in three ways:
 1. Personalizing our understanding of sin: Don't give sin power by beating yourself up about it, thus focusing more and more on it. Rather, focus on God's reaction to sin.
 2. Remember grace: Constantly remind yourself that God chose to save you and love you simply because He wanted to.
 3. Take a long, hard look in the mirror: Stop covering up your spiritual ugliness. Take off the spiritual mask and see your true self. Then see that God loves you no matter what.
- The world is unraveling because people are embracing all except God to make themselves happier. We can stop the unraveling in our part of the world if we will be satisfied with Jesus.

—[**NOTES**]—
