



Meaning OVER MANIC

I Corinthians 2:1-9

Life Group Guide 5 of 6

1) Start your group with the following questions.

What do you think of the confirmation process for Judge Kavanaugh?

(With respect for others who may significantly disagree with one another.)

Have you or anyone in your family ever dealt with addictions or been a part of one of the “twelve-step groups”¹ like AA, OA, NA, CODA, GA?

Do women and men have a different perspective on this issue?

2) Share joys and concerns. Then lead this prayer (which contains the “serenity prayer”) and pray the Lord’s Prayer.

Almighty God, we come to you, not in our own wisdom, nor in the strength of our own power, but seeking your wisdom and power today. When we are unsure, remind us that we have not yet seen all the wonders you have prepared for those who love you. Until then, grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference. In Christ we pray. Amen.

(Lord’s Prayer)

3) The Bible text for this week is **I Corinthians 2:1-9**. Read it around the table or circle a verse at a time.

Why is did Paul say he didn’t base his ideas on human wisdom?

What does it mean to “*know nothing but Jesus Christ crucified?*”

What are the limits of human wisdom / intelligence? Are there any?

Is our faith based on what we understand or something deeper?

What difference is there between “*the wisdom of this age?*” and the “*wisdom of God?*” Does it sometimes seem hidden or hard to understand? What can we do to understand God’s ways better?

Read I Corinthians 2:9: “*Eye has not seen, ear heard, or the human heart conceived, the blessings God has for those who love Him.*”

Do you believe that promise? Why? Why not?

What are some of those blessings?

4) In his message, Dr. Gardner, talked about Dr. Viktor Frankl’s “logotherapy” which has six basic principles. Discuss them:

- Understanding and accepting who we are.
- Being honest enough to confront our limitations.
- Making time for loving relationships and creativity.
- Creating a legacy, what we want our life to be about.
- Experiencing meaning, an antidote to suffering.
- This leads to self-transcendence and genuine spirituality.

Is this a description of what happens in our spiritual life?

Is there anything missing? What?

Is there anything unique to Christianity as a spiritual pathway?

5) Shauna Niequist in her book, Present over Perfect, talked about the addictive power of busyness:

“For a long time I used to think that if I maintained a manic pace and moved fast enough, the emptiness would never catch up with me.”

Have you ever had similar thoughts?

Can you “outrun” emptiness or meaninglessness?

6) In Dr. Gardner’s message said this:

“We do anything rather than make time to find the deeper meaning of life. Anything can become a drug - a way to anesthetize ourselves, to avoid dealing with our feelings and our deep needs. We overcommit ourselves to working out, binge-dieting, watching TV or the 24-hour news, working, shopping, volunteering, hyper-vigilant parenting or grand-parenting, anything to keep us from dealing with the void within.”

Is he right? What can help us take time to seek deeper meaning?

7) Preview the message title for the final sermon:

October 14 James 1:19-26 *Real over ‘Religious’*

8) Read the series descriptor for the Oct and Nov Series:

What do you do with life’s blessings? Is there life after struggling to live paycheck to paycheck? How can we manage what God has entrusted to us that we use our blessings to use for His purposes and for His Kingdom? Joins us for *Beyond Blessed*.

9) Announce the next Life Group and then close with this Bible verse from I Corinthians 2:9 as your closing prayer.

“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, or human hearts conceived, all the blessings God has prepared for those who love Him.”

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_twelve-step_groups