

WHAT DOES GOD WANT?

Book by Michael Heiser

Group Study Book

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NON FI C D R T N

WHAT DOES GOD WANT?

This is a question that often goes not only unanswered for those who don't follow Jesus but can plague people who have been in the Church a long time.

Our world is searching for answers. One of the biggest questions is that of purpose. The stuff that we accumulate doesn't seem to cut it, and the philosophical answers of other options don't seem to pan out.

If we are honest, in many ways the Evangelical Church has done a poor job at times of not just preaching the good news, but even explaining the why behind it. Sure, we can talk about our issue of sin and need of a savior, but beyond that the answers seem shallow.

But when we look at the Bible, and see the amazing story that unfold before us, we begin to see not just the what, but the why. We may know that we have salvation, but it takes knowing the whole story to know why we need it in the first place. Beyond that, we sometimes relegate ourselves to just reading our Bibles, going to church on Sunday and trying to act pious when we can and think that is all to the Christian life, and mission of the Church.

By exploring the book "What Does God Want?" by Michael Heiser, we hope to not just understand, but comprehend what is the purpose of life and existence in an actionable way.

Let us begin!

WEEK 1

Introduction

As we begin our journey, we want to think about what we currently think the purpose of life is. Let's ask ourselves the title of the book, What Does God Want?

Based on what you already know, what do you think God wants? Be prepared to share your answer.

Start by reading the introduction together.

Questions to Discuss

1. Does life have a purpose? What do I currently believe is the purpose of life?
2. What have I heard from others concerning the purpose of life?
3. What surprised me or concerned me in the introduction?
4. According to the text, what does God want? How does this answer compare or contrast with my initial answer to the same question?
5. What does it mean to be religious? How do I define religion?
6. What additional questions do I have based on the Introduction?

WEEK 1 CONT'D.

Questions to Take Home

1. Will thinking about the Bible as a whole story change how I approach it? Why or why not?
2. Have I hesitated to seek an answer concerning the purpose of life because it's a religious question? Why or why not?
3. Have I settled for poor or no answers concerning the purpose of life because it is a religious question? Explain.
4. What do I hope to gain from this book study?

For Next Week:

Important Vocabulary:

Genesis:

Garden of Eden:

Read Chapters 1 & 2 p. 7-22

Be prepared to discuss the provided questions

Closing Prayer:

WEEK 2

Chapters 1 & 2

In these first two chapters, Heiser begins unfolding the story of how God wanted a family. And even after things went wrong, He still did what He could to have His family.

Let's explore what God's motivation for all of this is...love.

Questions to Discuss

1. Does how I see God change knowing that the emotions I feel and desires I have are based off of what He feels and desires?
2. What does it mean to image God?
3. What does it mean to have free will?
4. Talk about some of the similarities and differences between the 3 rebellions.
5. What does God do in response to these rebellions?
6. What about God's character (who He is) did I see in the reading?

Questions to Take Home

1. From the description of what it means to be an imager of God, what does that look like in my own life?
2. What are your thoughts on how God chose to show His persistent love?

WEEK 2 CONT'D.

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WEEK 3

Chapters 3 & 4

Betrayal ensues as we continue the story. But not all hope is lost, God has a plan to restore His creation and His imagers.

Questions to Discuss

1. What is a key reason God gave His law to Israel?
2. What were some issues with the kings?
3. Do you think there are other ways God could have responded?
4. How do you see God's primary purpose played out in how He came?
5. What about God's character (who He is) did I see in the reading?

Questions to Take Home

1. How am I sometimes like Israel?
2. What does Jesus' coming mean for me?

WEEK 4

Chapter 5

The plan has been put into motion. The falls have been overcome, and the work of God's redemption is happening.

Questions to Discuss

1. What was the impact of the Holy Spirit coming?
2. In Peter's sermon to the 3000, what parts of the story we already know are present?
3. What do you think the spiritual powers not having authority anymore mean?
4. How do you see the Kingdom of God being here, and at the same time not fully being here?
5. What about God's character (who He is) did I see in the reading?

Questions to Take Home

1. What would victory over depravity look like in my life?
2. How can the Holy Spirit empower you to be a part of God's Kingdom?

WEEK 5

Chapter 6

The work of redeeming God's creation will eventually happen. What will that look like?

Questions to Discuss

1. How do we see the dilemma of victory with evil still trying to win?
2. What will everything look like when evil is defeated?
3. What are my thoughts about what is in the summary and preview?
4. What about God's character (who He is) did I see in the reading?

Questions to Take Home

1. Am I looking to the end of the story for what I get, or who I will be?
2. How have I searched for identity that is supposed to be in Jesus?

WEEK 6

Chapter 7

We think of a lot of things when we hear the word 'Gospel'. What does it actually mean?

Questions to Discuss

1. Was how the Gospel was laid out surprise me?
2. How can we change how we talk about the Gospel so it really does sound like good news?
3. Why can it be hard to accept a free gift?
4. What about God's character (who He is) did I see in the reading?

Questions to Take Home

1. Has how I've seen the gospel affected whether I know I'm saved?
2. How does this impact how I see myself and others?

WEEK 7

Chapter 8

Now that we know the story, and God's plan, what does it mean to actually follow Him?

Questions to Discuss

1. Have we ever thought being a follower of Jesus is so He will love us?
2. Why does it help having an eternal perspective?
3. How does following Jesus impact ourselves, and others?
4. What about God's character (who He is) did I see in the reading?

Questions to Take Home

1. How will I see being a follower of Jesus moving forward?
2. How will this change how I see other people?

WEEK 8

Chapter 9

The difficult question can be we can know what something is, but how do we actually do it?

Questions to Discuss

1. Of the list of things that disciples do, what do we do best, what can we improve at?
2. How does seeing the Church as a family change how we interact with others?
3. What would the world look like if the Church focused on just these things?

Questions to Take Home

1. What part of being a disciple do I need to grow the most in?
2. Do I know someone that I could reach to be a disciple of Jesus?

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