

FOUR CUPS

THE PROMISE OF A LIFE FULFILLED

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FOUR CUPS
Part 4: The Cup of Praise

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

The promises of God come with guaranteed results; He never breaks His promises. Our lives, and the use of our gifts, therefore should serve to give God praise.

[John 10.10, AMP]

The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it in abundance, to the full, till it overflows.

[Exodus 6.6-7]

Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the LORD, **and I will bring you out** from under the burdens of the Egyptians. **I will deliver you** from slavery to them, and **I will redeem you** with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment and **I will take you to be my people.**

1st Cup: "I will bring you out of Egypt."

2nd Cup: "I will deliver you from bondage."

3rd Cup: "I will redeem you." (restore to your intended purpose)

4th Cup: "I will claim you as my own people."

[Galatians 1.10]

Obviously, **I'm not trying to win the approval of people**, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant.

Reasons Why People Don't Live a Life of Fulfillment

1. We let our past cripple us.
2. We allow culture to define us. [Romans 12.1-2]
3. We try to do it alone.

Fulfillment comes from a life of serving; when you lose your "why," you lose your "way."

Passion burns after everyone else is bored; holy passion remains.

Halal = to celebrate, to rave, to rejoice (to shine, to make a show or be on display; to express praise that cannot be contained)

[Exodus 6.7]

I will take you as my own PEOPLE. (plural)

People = a tribe, a congregation, a community, a flock

[Deuteronomy 7.6]

*For you are a **holy people, who belong to the LORD** your God. Of all the people on earth, the LORD your God has chosen you to be his own special treasure.*

[Deuteronomy 14.2]

*For you are **a holy people to the LORD** your God...chosen to be his treasured possession.*

[1 Peter 2.9-10]

*But **you are a chosen people**, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now **you are the people of God**.*

[Ephesians 2.20-21]

***Together, we are his house**, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord.*

[1 Corinthians 3.16]

*Don't you realize that **all of you together are the temple of God** and that the Spirit of God lives in you?*

[Proverbs 18.1]

A man who isolates himself, to focus solely on his own desires, disregards any sense of sound judgment.

[Ecclesiastes 3.11, AMP]

*He has made everything beautiful in its time. **He also has planted eternity in men's hearts** and minds [a divinely implanted sense of a purpose working through the ages which nothing under the sun but God alone can satisfy].*

Three Ways to Drink the Cup of Praise

1. Intentionally **connect** with the body of Christ = local church membership
2. **Feed** your God-given passion
3. **Serve** others with your unique gifts and abilities

[Psalm 37.4]

Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He will give you the desires and secret petitions of your heart.

[1 Corinthians 12.19, MSG]

For no matter how significant you are, it is only because of what you are a part of.

It's not the information that's the challenge; it's the activation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some reasons that people isolate themselves? Why are those in isolation often easier targets?
2. How are personal fulfillment and serving others connected? What are some things you do in service to others that bring you great joy and a sense of satisfaction?
3. In God's Word, he states that we are a "chosen people." Why do you think He set us apart? What work has God established for those who believe in Him?
4. What are some areas that, even this week, you can ask God to give you eternal perspective about? Pray for one another for grace to serve and work eternally-minded.