

MESSAGE SUMMARY

You live in a world full of comfort, opportunity, and choices, yet you still feel restless and unsatisfied at times. That restlessness is not a mistake or a weakness; it is a clue. Scripture teaches that you were made for more than temporary success, pleasure, or achievement. God has placed eternity in your heart, which explains why nothing in this world fully satisfies.

In John 10:10, Jesus contrasts two voices and two ways of life. The thief offers substitutes that promise fulfillment but ultimately steal, kill, and destroy. Jesus offers life, not an upgraded version of your current life, but His own life given to you. This abundant *life* (zōē) is found in knowing God through Jesus Christ. When you receive His life by trusting in Him for salvation, your relationship with God is restored, your identity is secured, your desires begin to be reshaped, and your purpose is renewed.

MAIN POINTS

- 1. Your Longing Points to Eternity** (Ecclesiastes 3:11; Ecclesiastes 1:14) - Your longing is not the problem; it is evidence that you were created for more than this world can offer both in this life and the life to come.
- 2. The Problem Is Not Desire, but Direction** (Psalm 42:1–2) - You want the right thing (life), but you often look in the wrong places. Jesus created you, therefore He knows what is ultimately best for you.
- 3. Jesus Alone Gives Abundant Life** (John 10:10; Genesis 2:7; John 1:4) - You do not experience God by upgrading your life; you experience God by receiving His life and following Him. Believe and receive His grace, mercy and peace every day!
- 4. Abundant Life Is Found in Knowing & Following Jesus** (John 17:3; John 20:31) - Real life begins when you know Jesus and trust Him in every area of your life.
- 5. Four Promises of a Zōē Life** - 1. Reconciled Relationship (Romans 5:1), 2. Restored Identity (Ephesians 1:4–5), 3. Reordered Desires (Psalm 37:4), 4. Renewed Purpose (Ephesians 2:10) - Abundant life touches every part of who you are: relationship, identity, desires, and purpose.

Big Idea: We long for more because we've been made for more.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What does Jesus mean by “abundant life” in John 10:10?** *Possible Answer:* Abundant life is the fullness of life found in knowing & following God through Jesus, not a promise of comfort or success (John 10:10; John 17:3).
- 2. Why can’t temporary things satisfy the longing in your heart?** *Possible Answer:* God has placed eternity in your heart, so created things were never meant to replace the Creator. They cannot meet eternal needs (Ecclesiastes 3:11; Ecclesiastes 1:14).
- 3. Where do you most often look for “more” when you feel restless or empty?** *Possible Answer:* You may turn to success, relationships, comfort, or distractions instead of seeking God first (Psalm 42:1–2).
- 4. How might God be inviting you to receive His life instead of trying to upgrade your own?** *Possible Answer:* God may be calling you to surrender control, trust Jesus daily, and center your life on knowing & following Him (John 10:10; John 20:31).

GOSPEL CONNECTION

The abundant life Jesus offers begins with repentance and faith. Repentance means turning away from false sources of life: sin, self-reliance, and substitutes that cannot save. Faith means trusting Jesus as Savior and Lord, believing that His death and resurrection restore you to God and transform you more and more into Christlikeness this side of heaven.

If you are an unbeliever, Jesus invites you today to believe in Him and receive true life for the first time. If you are a believer, Jesus invites you to continue repenting of lesser loves and believing again that He alone is your life. The gospel is not just how you enter the Christian life; it is how you live in it. You were made for more, and that “more” is found in Jesus Christ alone.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Monday – Made for More

Key Verse: *"He has put eternity into man's heart..."* (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

Reflection: You often feel restless even when life seems full because God designed you for more than temporary things. That longing is not a flaw, it is evidence that you were created for eternity with Him. When you try to fill an eternal hunger with temporary success or temporary things & pleasures, it will always come up short...looking for bigger & better.

Application Question: Where do you notice a sense of restlessness or longing in your life right now? **Possible Answer:** I may feel restless in my work, relationships, or spiritual life because I am seeking fulfillment from created things instead of deeper communion with God (Eccl. 3:11).

Prayer Response: Lord, help me recognize that my longing is meant to lead me to You. Teach me to stop numbing my aches with temporary solutions and to trust You as my true source of life, in Jesus' Name, Amen (Ecclesiastes 3:11; Ecclesiastes 1:14).

Tuesday – The Right Desire, the Wrong Fuel

Key Verse: *"My soul thirsts for God, for the living God."* (Psalm 42:2)

Reflection: Your deepest desire has always been for God, even when you chase other things. The problem is not that you want too much, but that you often ask the wrong things to satisfy you. Only God can quench the thirst of your soul.

Application Question: What substitute do you most often turn to instead of God when you feel empty? **Possible Answer:** I may turn to entertainment, comfort, achievement, or approval, even though none of these can replace time with God (Ps. 42:1–2).

Prayer Response: Lord, reveal the ways I look to substitutes instead of You. Redirect my desires so that my soul learns to thirst for You above all else, in Jesus' Name, Amen (Psalm 42:1–2; C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, paraphrased).

Wednesday – Jesus Offers Real Life

Key Verse: *"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."* (John 10:10b)

Reflection: Jesus does not promise an easy life, but He does promise a full one. Abundant *life* (zōē) is not found in upgrading your circumstances but in receiving the life of Christ. This life is deep, rooted, and unshakable, even in hardship.

Application Question: How have you misunderstood "abundant life" in the past? **Possible Answer:** I may have thought abundant life meant comfort or success, instead of a deep, ongoing relationship with Jesus (John 10:10; John 17:3).

Prayer Response: Jesus, forgive me for redefining abundant life by worldly standards. Teach me to receive the life You offer and to trust You as my Shepherd, in Jesus' Name, Amen (John 10:10; John 1:4; Genesis 2:7).

Thursday – Knowing God Is Life

Key Verse: *"And this is eternal life, that they know you..."* (John 17:3 (ESV))

Reflection: Eternal life is not just something you receive after death; it begins when you placed your faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior. Life with God is relational, not transactional. Jesus invites you to know Him personally, not just know about Him.

Application Question: What helps you grow in truly knowing God, not just learning about Him? **Possible Answer:** Spending time in Scripture, prayer, and obedience helps me grow in relationship with God, not just information about Him (John 17:3).

Prayer Response: Father, draw me into a deeper relationship with You. Help me move beyond surface-level faith into daily trust and intimacy with You, in Jesus' Name, Amen (John 17:3, 20:31).

Friday – Living the Zōē Life

Key Verse: *"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works."* (Ephesians 2:10 (ESV))

Reflection: When you receive the life of Christ, that is eternal life, everything begins to change. God restores your relationship, reshapes your identity, reorders your desires, and renews your purpose. Life stops being about survival and becomes about calling. This is the work of the Holy Spirit, who transforms you more and more into Christlikeness as you draw near to Him.

Application Question: Which area of your life most needs to be reshaped by Christ's life in you? **Possible Answer:** My desires, identity, or purpose may need to be surrendered so God can redefine them according to His will (Ps. 37:4; Eph. 2:10).

Prayer Response: God, I surrender every part of my life to You. Shape my desires, anchor my identity, and guide my purpose so that I may walk in the life You created me to live, in Jesus' Name, Amen (Romans 5:1; Ephesians 1:4–5; Psalm 37:4; Ephesians 2:10; C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*).