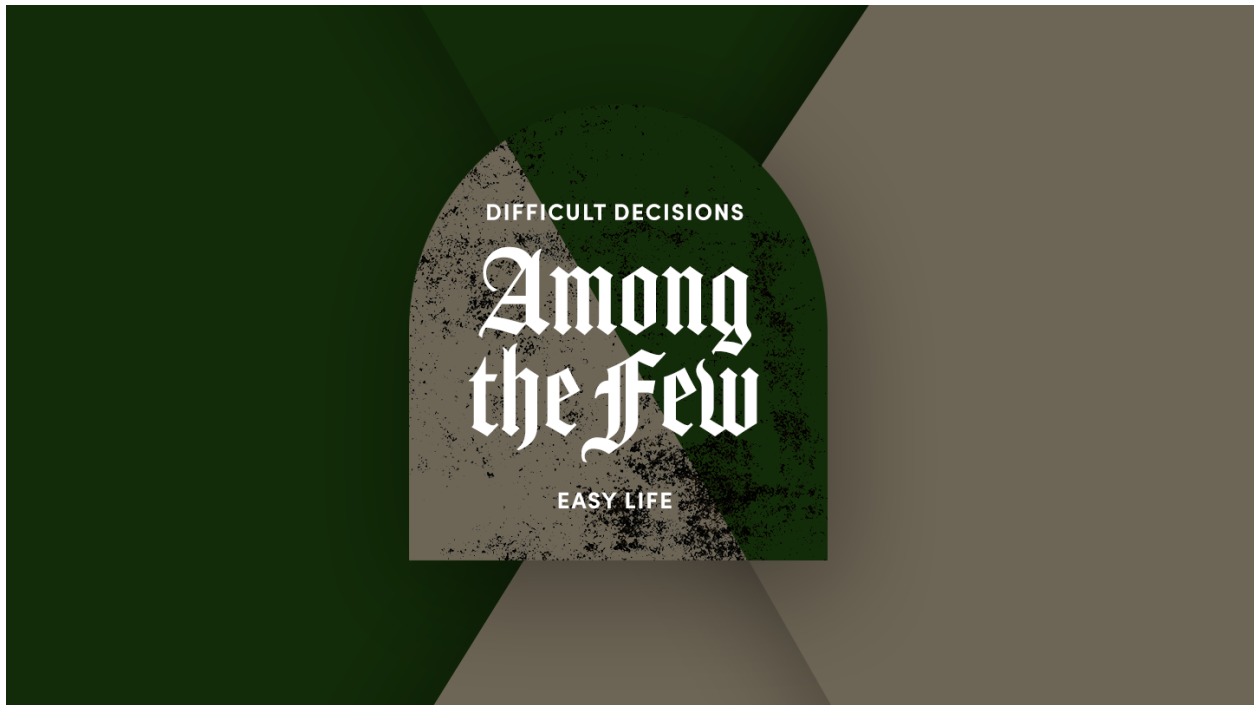


2022

AMONG THE FEW

Group Guide Week 2

Hard Decisions, Easy Life



Overview

There's a life we all want, free from unnecessary friction and full of peace. . If it's something we all want, why do so few people obtain it? The answer isn't really that complicated. The way to easy, well, it isn't easy. According to Jesus, it's the exact opposite. In this series, we'll discover it's the hard decisions along the way that, in the end, lead to an easy life.

Week Two

We purchase our futures with the decisions we make today. Depending on our life-approach, this could be good or bad news. So, how do we set ourselves up for success when it matters most? How do we future-proof against the lies of our enemy? We don't try to be wise alone. We journey with others. There truly is strength in numbers, and that strength allows us to bridge that difficult gap between beliefs and actions.

Key Points & Action items:

- Long-term spiritual gain is made by short-term wise decisions.
- We cannot make good and godly decisions consistently if we are alone.
- Our decisions speak louder than our beliefs
- purpose can be elusive at times and preference can be a dangerous substitute. (Add)
- some trouble we meet and some trouble we make.
- One of the largest traps that I believe the enemy lays in our path comes by allowing ourselves to be prideful enough to labor in ways that we know are ineffective.
- Men & Women who wind up in endless wars are either isolated or too insulated.

Group Guide Questions:

1. Last week's talk can be summarized but one of Ben's statements "Some trouble we meet, and some trouble we make. What are some examples you thought of when categorizing the trouble that finds you, and the trouble you put yourself in?"
2. When stress and anxiety overwhelm you, do you typically turn to things that haven't worked before but you're giving another chance to work?
3. One of the most common traps the enemy uses is a constant cycle- we allow our pride to rise in stressful situations that move us in the same circular direction that we know in the end won't work. But, when do you truly know if something "won't work" or "doesn't work?"

4. The enemy knows if he can keep us in a cycle, we'll never make progress ahead. Is it the change that scares you? Do you welcome change? Do you typically need time to prepare for change? Is it the feeling of failure with change that keeps you in the cycle? Give examples.
5. Throughout scripture we see that God honors the curiosity of his people in the middle of change and the unknown. For the majority of your life, do you find yourself fitting in the knowledgeable category, or in the curious category?
6. What is your definition of "Eternal Life"?
7. In reading the gospels, we see knowledgeable religious men ask Jesus what they must do to earn eternal life. We must remember, to them, Eternal Life wasn't just life after death, but how can they live life to the fullest as they currently walk the earth. So if you can keep all the commandments, you can define "loving your neighbor". Who is your neighbor? How far are you willing to go to truly love your neighbor?
8. Luke 10:30-35
Most of us know this to be a familiar story, but what are some things that still stick out to you, today, in reading?
What does it look like to "cross the street, to be curious about how you can help someone that is nothing like you?".
Who is that person/people to you today?
9. How often do we, as Christians, pass up that person in need? How often do you personally pass them up? How have these short term decisions to pass up loving people well affected you in the long term?
10. Lastly, how do our/your preferences get in the way of truly loving everyone, not just the people like us?

Resources and References:

- "London raises her head, shakes the debris of the night from her hair, and takes stock of the damage done. London has been hurt during the night. The sign of a great fighter in the ring is can he get up from the floor after being knocked down. London does this every morning."
 - "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'
- Luke 10:30-35(NIV)

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