



Uncommon Meaning | Doug Wekenman | 10.5-6

Weekly Study

SHARE

Welcome to our 5th week of our Uncommon series! The “Uncommon” series has focused on living a life set apart for God by breaking free from the ordinary and stepping into a greater purpose. It began with throwing off distractions and sin to pursue God’s calling. Over the weeks, we’ve been challenged to embrace God’s plan, face life’s storms with courage, and live with an eternal perspective. The series highlights that true meaning and fulfillment come not from worldly success, but from pursuing God’s mission with an uncommon spirit of sacrifice and purpose.

This week, we explore “Uncommon Meaning” in a world that increasingly questions the purpose of life. As we see in today’s culture, many people experience a sense of meaninglessness, sometimes referred to as nihilism, where they feel life has no point. However, we are called to live with a deeper sense of purpose, rooted in God’s plan. As you reflect on your week, think about the moments where you may have felt either purposeful or aimless. How has God been speaking into those moments?

- What are some ways you’ve experienced meaning or lack of meaning in your daily life recently?**

- How do you handle feelings of meaninglessness when they arise?**

GROW

Read Ecclesiastes 3:9-13

In this verse, Solomon asks a profound question: *“What do workers gain from their toil?”* He reflects on the endless cycle of human effort and the seeming futility of it all. However, the passage takes a turn when Solomon acknowledges that God *“has made everything beautiful in*

its time” and has set *“eternity in the human heart.”* This passage shows that while we may feel like our daily work is insignificant, God is working in and through us to create something beautiful, even if we cannot fully see or understand it yet.

God has placed eternity within us, a deep yearning for something more than just what we experience in the physical world. While the world offers temporary pleasures and success, only God can give us true, lasting meaning. This eternal perspective changes everything, it turns the mundane into meaningful, and it helps us focus on the bigger picture of God’s plan for our lives.

- How does knowing that “eternity is set in your heart” change the way you approach life?**
- How can you begin to view situations through the lens of eternity?**
- How does understanding that God is making everything “beautiful in its time” give you hope, even when things seem meaningless?**

MOVE

Read Ecclesiastes 1:12-14 and 2:1-11

In these passages, Solomon reflects on his pursuit of knowledge, pleasure, and achievement, ultimately concluding that they are “meaningless, a chasing after the wind.” Despite having access to all the riches, wisdom, and pleasures of the world, Solomon found himself empty. His experiment in searching for meaning through worldly success and indulgence left him thirsty for something more substantial. He tried laughter, wine, great projects, wealth, and luxury, but in the end, it was all fleeting. Solomon’s conclusion speaks to many of us today who might feel like we are endlessly chasing after satisfaction that never lasts.

God invites us to step away from this cycle of temporary pleasures and pursue a life of deeper purpose. While Solomon realized that none of these pursuits provided ultimate meaning, he also hinted that only God could fill that void. By seeking God’s purpose and aligning our lives with His plan, we find lasting joy and fulfillment that transcends the fleeting pleasures of this world.

- In what areas of your life are you chasing after temporary pleasures or accomplishments, and how has this pursuit left you feeling?**

- How can you start to shift your focus from the temporary satisfaction the world offers to the eternal purpose God has for your life?**
- What steps can you take this week to begin living with more intentionality, viewing even the mundane as part of God's greater story?**

P R A Y

As we conclude, let's come together in prayer, asking God to reveal areas where we need to find His meaning and purpose. Pray for each other, focusing on surrendering the areas where life feels routine or purposeless. This week, challenge yourself to reframe the small, everyday moments as part of God's bigger story for your life.