

# What is the meaning of life?

## discussion guide

based on **PASSAGE** (Linked to sermon of 29/1/17)  
which can be accessed at [www.stjamesbythepark.org/current-sermon-series](http://www.stjamesbythepark.org/current-sermon-series)

*This was the first in a short series "Life's big questions" – questions which everyone asks at some point, regardless of their faith background. The discussions will hopefully equip us to engage with our secular friends on some of these topics.*

Intro: In three words, what is the meaning of life?

Ecclesiastes tackles the question head on. Written by Solomon, King David's son and the wisest man on earth, it begins with despair, "everything is meaningless!" Ecclesiastes 1:2. As a group Ecclesiastes 3:1-14.

1. There is a time to..... How would you end that statement for you? What is it your time to do?
2. "He has also set eternity in the hearts of men" Eccles 3:11 What do you think this means?
3. According to Eccles 3:14 what is God's purpose for us? How, in daily life, can we live this out?

When thinking about the meaning of life, we need to consider both the here and now and the hereafter. Georgia brought 3 points out which are general principles for having meaning in life:

1. Purpose - Read Ephesians 1: 11-12. What is our purpose according to this and how can we fulfil it?
2. Value - Read Ps 139:13-16. How does it make you feel to know that God designed you and knows all about you?
3. Fulfilment - Read Colossians 2:9-10. What does possessing "fulness in Christ mean to you?

IF YOU WANT, FINISH WITH ONE QUESTION RELATED TO EACH OF "UP" "IN" and "OUT" AND SOME PRAYER POINTERS

**Up:** How can I worship God in my daily life?

**In:** What purpose does God have for my life?

**Out:** How can I share my understanding of "the meaning of life" with others in a meaningful way

**Pray:** For one another, that God will reveal his purposes and plans for one another, that God will reassure us of His love for us and design for our lives. Pray for those who don't have a faith in God or those who are unsure, that God will use people and circumstances to bring them close to Him.