

Jesus declared: "I am the resurrection and the LIFE. Whoever believes in me will live even though he dies."
John 11:25

There was a man named John Freyer who was young, single, and a pack rat. He had lots of stuff, and one day he decided to sell it all on eBay for \$1 each. He sold everything. Personal photographs (even undeveloped film), his used kitchen spatula, his winter coat (in winter), half a bottle of mouthwash—he even sold his sideburns, shaved and ziplocked. In the auction descriptions, he would put a bit of “life story” related to each object. To his surprise and delight, people were interested in buying these pieces of his life. One man bought his ashtray, even though the buyer didn’t smoke (he used it as a coin tray). Buyers would reach out to Freyer and try to meet him, or they would invite him to their houses to “visit” his former possessions. By the end of this experiment, Freyer’s “life” sold on eBay for about \$6,000. But Freyer didn’t do it for the money, obviously. So why did he do it? And why did so many strangers find value in his used junk? The heart of this story goes beyond the transfer of possessions and goods. Life is not found in an asset audit. Freyer did not come right out and say this, but I think he was searching for fulfillment in life, and he knew his belongings had meaning to him, but it was not owning them that brought him meaning. Life is most deeply felt in experiences and RELATIONSHIPS. And many would add that fulfillment comes from bringing happiness to others.

Searching for Meaning and Fulfillment According to a 2017 Pew research report, Americans are searching for a sense of fulfillment in life, and when asked, they often point to family life, a good career, meaningful friendships, and good health. But many people can have most or all of these things and still struggle with anxiety, depression, loneliness, and emptiness. Many of life’s “highs” are fleeting. So people alternate between high highs and low lows, going up and down. This is not just a modern day phenomenon. Jesus’s disciples were also searching for “life.” Like Freyer, they knew that a fulfilled life could not be found in collecting objects and possessions. There is something that humans long for that transcends the satisfactions of basic needs. (I love that memorable line from C. S. Lewis: “If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world.” According to John’s Gospel (aka, “The Gospel of Life”), humans can only find true fulfillment, abundant life, in Jesus Christ who is life himself. We will look at three key images of life in John next week:

1. Life on the Vine: Living in Community
2. Life is Light: Direction and Wisdom
3. Life is Bread and Water: Satisfaction and Peace

Read John's Gospel over the weekend.

Pray: Lord I put my trust in YOU. You are my everything, you are my life. My life is You! My hope is in You. Our salvation and deliverance is in You alone. Help me not to trust in possessions, systems and achievements in this world. Thank you for your faithfulness.

Declare: Psalm 20:5-8

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