

One of the things that really hit me during Pastor Clay's teaching was the idea of learning to savor the season of life you're in. Over the years this has been really hard for me. I remember being in the midst of final exams thinking I couldn't wait until I had my degree. I dreamed of where I'd work and a future family. Later, I'd be in the middle of changing diapers and Barney reruns and was anxious for my kids to start school. Once they entered high school, we began to plan for college. Looking back, I see I was wasting a lot of the opportunities God had placed right in front of me. Instead of using them to grow, I used them to become frustrated, angry, and impatient.

Why does God want me to savor the season of life I'm in? Whether I'm in school, raising kids, or in a dead-end job, He is working to make me more like Jesus and wants to use me to bless others. When I'm focused on myself, I often miss the opportunity for God to use me. When I was in the midst of college classes, I should've had the attitude of thankfulness for the educational opportunity. Compassion International reports that an estimated 130 million of the world's 15- to 24- year-olds cannot read or write. Those young adults will have few opportunities because of their inability to read. When I was a young mom cleaning up peanut butter and jelly and spilled milk, I could've been thanking God for the abundance of food He was providing for my family. According to Compassion International, around three million children under the age of five die every year from malnutrition in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. My pantry is overflowing, and I cannot imagine living through the death of my child due to lack of food. When I turn sixty, I can choose to be grateful for reaching that milestone. According to The World Factbook, most Africans will never see their sixtieth birthday; and yet it is likely that I will live an additional twenty years.

It is clear that God is continually working to give me a new perspective – a God-sized focus – one that represents a small portion of His incredible character. Right now, I'm in a difficult phase of life, but Pastor Clay's teaching is challenging me to look for God in it. I know He is working and I'm amazed at His persistence and ability to work it together in my life. He wants to use me to reach my family, my community, and my world, and He wants to do the same in you. The question is . . . will we let Him?

Question to consider:

The Greatest Commandment is "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37, 39) God has allowed me to be in the season of life that I am in now. Even if it's difficult, what does it really look like for me to love God in the midst of where I'm at?

How is God using me in my family, my community, my school, my workplace, and my world?

Based on Pastor Clay's 7 points for relationships:

What does it look like for me to operate as a team with my . . . small group? . . . spouse? . . . co-workers? . . . classmates? . . . community? . . . friends?

How can I strive for intimacy in my . . . marriage? . . . workplace? . . . m^group? . . . community? . . . friendships? (Think of building relationships and being authentic and transparent with people.)

Can I find at least one thing each day to celebrate in my . . . marriage? . . . relationships? . . . school? . . . job? . . . community?

How is God helping me grow in this relationship or this situation?

Am I practicing forgiveness?

Am I savoring the season of life I'm in?

I need to develop strategies for coping with challenges. Have I taken the situation to God? He already knows the solution to the problem. Can I trust that He is in control, especially when I am not in control?

This month's memory verse: *This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live. (Deuteronomy 30:19 TNIV)*

Additional verses: *Ecclesiastes 3:9, Ephesians 5:22-33, Mark 11:22-25, Matthew 6:34, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

REMINDERS:

10.16 –The Gathering at the 5/6 BUILDING at 6pm!!!Mosaic Family III.

3rd:culture project moved to the 5thSunday...we need leaves!

How to build and keep God honoring parent-child relationships & vice versa

10.23 –The Gathering at the 5/6 BUILDING at 6pm!!!Mosaic Family IV.

How big and important is all of God's family? This Sunday we have a powerful reminder from our African missionaries (RAH) & newlyweds! Don't miss it

10.30 –FAMILY FALL FEST & RAKE N' RUN!!!We'll start our 5thSunday Family Night by serving a few families in our area who need their lawns raked. Meet in Senorita's parking lot (across from Spotted Cow) by 3pm with your rakes & gloves. Then after raking, we'll head out to Heritage Park for our Family Fall Fest