

Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of November 1, 2015

Ecclesiastes 3:11

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

¹¹ He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

New International Version (NIV)

¹¹ *He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.*

Connection Questions:

1. Psychology and psychiatry are sciences that focus on the development of the mind. How do psychology and psychiatry differ?

2. Can you give examples of people's lives that have been enriched through counseling with a psychiatrist or a licensed counselor?

3. From the Christian perspective, we believe that life is more than the gray matter in our heads. We believe the primary focus of human advancement is experienced through the development of the soul through a relationship with God. Describe the differences you see between psychology, psychiatry, and the Christian faith.

4. Sigmund Freud felt Christianity was a neurosis or a crutch; he believed that through self-reflection, one would hopefully grow out of the need for Christianity. How has Freud's approach discouraged psychology, psychiatry and religion working together?

5. Do you think that the study of genetics has anything in common with religion? Explain.

6. The writer of Ecclesiastes in 3:11 says that God gives us a past, present, and future. How can psychiatry, psychology, and religion work together to know our story in a more holistic way that could enhance our human development? How have you seen psychology and faith intertwined to enrich someone's life?

7. Augustine says our hearts are restless until they find their rest in God. If this is true, why do we need anything other than our faith in God to develop as a person?

8. Sunday was All Saints Day; we recognized members of our church who entered God's eternal kingdom this year. How does knowledge of our past assist us in our faith development?