

Age of Opportunity

Lesson 1

(Lot of help from Tripp's book A Quest for More!)

BIG IDEA: You and I were created to be part of something **BIG** !

RHETORICAL QUESTION: *What would you consider to be the greatest parenting accomplishment that a parent of a teenager could attain?*

"There is woven inside each of us a **DESIRE** for something more – a **CRAVING** to be part of something **BIGGER**, **GREATER**, and more **PROFOUND** than our relatively meaningless day-by-day existence." (Tripp, A Quest for More, pg. 14)

- In street language, we want to know that our life is **IMPORTANT** in the grand scheme of things!
- Gen. 1 & 2 ... notice the **POSITIONING** of human beings!
How are humans different than the rest of God's creation?
- "We were never meant to be **SELF-FOCUSED** little kings ruling **MINISCULE** little kingdoms with a population of **ONE**." (Tripp, A Quest for More, pg. 17)
- Four implications from Gen. 1&2:
 1. **GOD'S** glory – we were made to be more connected with what is **ABOVE** us than **BELOW** us.
 2. **STEWARDSHIP** glory – we were created to do more than take care of **OURSELVES**.
 3. **COMMUNITY** glory – we were made to **LOVE** one another.

4. **TRUTH** glory – we were created to transcend the boundaries of our own **INTERPRETATIONS**, **THOUGHTS**, and **EXPERIENCES**.
- In a fallen world there is a powerful **PRESSURE** to constrict our life to the shape and size of our **LIFE**.

WHY DOES ANY OF THIS MATTER?

- While parenting teenagers, the enemy (Satan) will often tempt us ... and our teens ... with **SOMETHING** we think is more glorious than the glories for which we were created.
 1. Glory of success
 2. Glory of peer approval
 3. Glory of being served
 4. Glory of power
 5. Glory of being right
- Parents of teenagers tend to characterize their experience as **SURVIVOR** instead of **SHEPHERD**.
 1. "Terrible Twos" all over again!
 2. Romance
 3. Spiritual questions
 4. Approval
 5. Discernment
 6. Biology