

Albion Park Uniting & Shellharbour City Regional Church

H2O Study/Reflection Questions

Week 5 - Mirage

1. Have you ever believed that a certain *thing* – a car, job, person – would fulfil you if only you could get it?
If you did get it, what was it like?
Was it everything you imagined it would be, or was there something missing?
2. Do you believe that if, like Solomon, you had just about everything you wanted that you, too, would end up saying: “Meaningless! Meaningless!” (Ecclesiastes 1:2)
Why or why not?

3. In your experience, what can *possessions* do for you, and what can't they do for you?

POSSIBLE ANSWERS:

- CAN provide comfort, status, respect, impress people
- CANNOT guarantee good health, buy love, protect from death

In what ways have you experienced the CAN and CANNOT of *possessions*?

4. In your experience, what can *achievement* give you, and what can't it give you?

POSSIBLE ANSWERS:

- CAN provide a sense of accomplishment and significance, a good reputation
- CANNOT provide an ongoing thrill, result in others loving us, grant eternal life

In what ways have you experienced the CAN and CANNOT of accomplishment?

5. How about *relationships*?

What have you found that they can do for you and what can't they do for you?

POSSIBLE ANSWERS:

- CAN make us feel deeply loved, special, wanted; provide a sense of community
- CANNOT last forever (people die or leave); satisfy the deepest part of us

In what ways have you experienced the CAN and CANNOT of *relationships*?

6. How would you complete the following sentence (be as honest as you can):

If only I had _____, then I'd be happy.

7. The **purposes** Jesus offers us are to know God and live with Him forever as well as to participate in the mission of helping others know God and live with Him forever. How would you compare those purposes with the usual purposes people pursue in life, such as getting rich, raising happy kids, building a big business, even finding a cure for cancer?

8. How about the **security** Jesus offers?

He says He can guarantee that those who come to Him will never perish, that He can grant them eternal life (see John 3:16).

Do you think that there is such a thing as life after death and, if so, what do you think it is like?

What do you think of Jesus' offer to give ongoing life?

9. Jesus also claims that He offers **unconditional love**.

That is, He loves everyone regardless of what they are like.

How does that compare with the kind of love you have experienced in the world?

Does unconditional love mean "anything goes" and everyone finally gets to heaven no matter what?

Why?

10. Is what you are pursuing in an effort to make yourself happy poisoning your life in some way?

Are you trying to quench your thirst with something other than the *Living Water* offered by Jesus?

11. Psychologists tell us that every human being needs **purpose** (Adler), **security** (Jung), and **love** (Freud).

In what ways can *possessions*, *achievement* and *relationships* be like **mirages** that promise purpose, security and love but, ultimately prove unfulfilling or even false?

What **mirages** exist in your life (right now)?

*** Try to make time to read the following passages from the Bible during the week:

- Ecclesiastes 1:1-3, 8
- Romans 8:35-39
- Ecclesiastes 2:1-11
- Revelation 22:17

What stands out for you?

What challenges you?

What unsettles or disturbs you?

What gives you hope?

How would you explain to someone what Jesus' promise of **eternal life** means?

