

# Seasons

THE GOSPEL THROUGHOUT LIFE'S STAGES

OCTOBER 17



## Sermon Outline

### Key verse

*Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in them."*

Ecclesiastes 12:1

### 3 Ways to clarify your identity

1. What God has done for you (your salvation)

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Romans 5:8

2. What God has done through you (your ministry)

*Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.*

1 Timothy 4:12

3. What God has done in you (your story)

*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

Romans 12:2

## ADOLESCENCE: THE AGE OF MATURITY

### Opening Thought

Adolescence is a time of energy and maturity. It is a season of growth and development. Teens and young adults are discovering who they are in Christ and learning about their identity as a child of God. This happens within the safety of a caring family unit and community as we venture into the world, grapple with our identity, and learn to rely on God's grace.

### Icebreakers

- What were the big fashion trends when you were in high school?
- What age were you when you chose to follow Jesus?

### Discussion

- What are the best parts of this season (teen & young adult age). What are the worst parts?
- Read Luke 18:18-30. What is your reaction to this story? (SORRY for the young man – he couldn't help that he was rich; DISAPPOINTED in him – he walked away from Jesus; UPSET – Jesus should not have been so hard on him! FRUSTRATED – do I have to give up everything too?)
- What can we learn from this passage? (teachers: if you have time allow for observations and discussion here)  
EXAMPLES: dangers of greed, commitment to Christ must be total, giving is a part of discipleship, following Jesus means we have to sacrifice, eternal life is more important than earthly life, we can only be saved by grace and not our own doing
- Today John shared three ways to clarify your identity. Which of these is the most obvious in your life? Which one needs to be highlighted more?

### Closing

- Is the Lord calling you to invest in a younger person? Are you willing to come into this unique season in the life of a tween, a teen, or a young adult?
- What is one way that the Lord wants to grow you? (generosity, thought life, entering a discipleship relationship, freedom from shame, finding a place to serve)