

# Welcome to Sum of the Parts – Session 1

Questions:

What are your expectations of your marriage?

What are your expectations of him/her?

Share with each other and revisit after session 3

## John 4 Jesus Talks With a Samaritan Woman

4 Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John— 2 although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. 3 So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee. 4 Now he had to go through Samaria. 5 So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. 7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" 8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.). 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.). 10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." 11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?" 13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." 15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water." 16 He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." 17 "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. 18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true." 19 "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. 20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

## John 4 Jesus Talks With a Samaritan Woman

21 "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth." 25 The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." 26 Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."

## Many Samaritans Believe

39 Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." 40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. 41 And because of his words many more became believers.

42 They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world"

Two points here:

Quote from Oswald Chambers: "There is only one master of the human heart – it is not religion – it is Jesus Christ."

With purpose comes the revelation

## John 1

### New International Version (NIV)

#### The Word Became Flesh

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

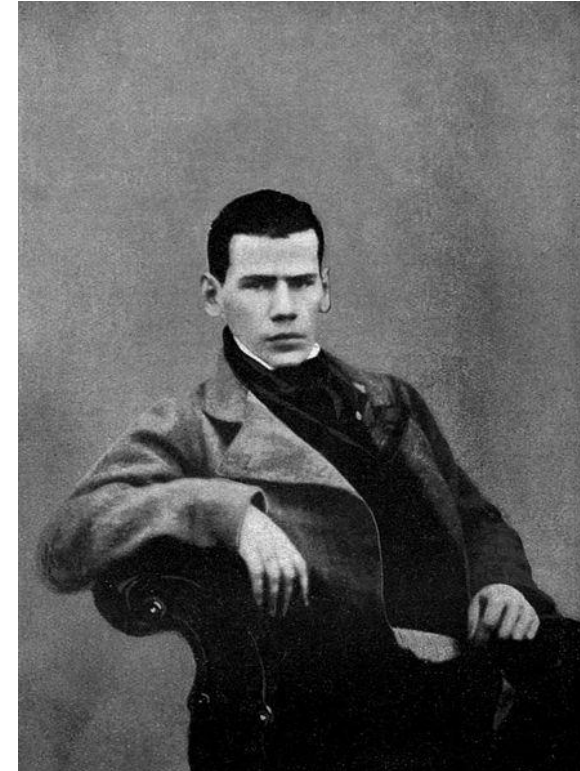
6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Small Group Study Question:

In his book [A Confession](#) by Leo Tolstoy, he writes that we (all of us) are too “intoxicated” (busy) with life and never fully assess the human condition and ask the important questions: What will become of my life and my work? What is the purpose of my life? What is my reason for living?



Leo Tolstoy at age 20, 1848

A giant of Russian literature; works include [War and Peace](#) and [Anna Karenina](#), [Hadji Murad](#) and [The Death of Ivan Ilyich](#).



Stephen Jay Gould

American paleontologist, evolutionary biologist, and historian of science

We are here because one odd group of fishes had a peculiar anatomy that could transform their legs and thus form terrestrial creatures. And we are here because comets struck the earth killing off dinosaurs and giving mammals a chance that they would not have otherwise – so thank you lucky stars in a literal sense. Because the earth never froze entirely during an ice age, you are here. Because a small and tenuous species rising out of Africa one quarter of a million years ago has managed to survive by hook and especially by crook, you are here. We may yearn for higher answers but none exist. This explanation, although **superficially troubling, if not terrifying**, is ultimately liberating . . . Since we must construct our meaning of life based on our wisdom and ethical sense. There is no other way.

The Myth of Sisyphus by  
Albert Camus



2<sup>nd</sup> Youngest person ever to  
win the Nobel Prize for  
Literature



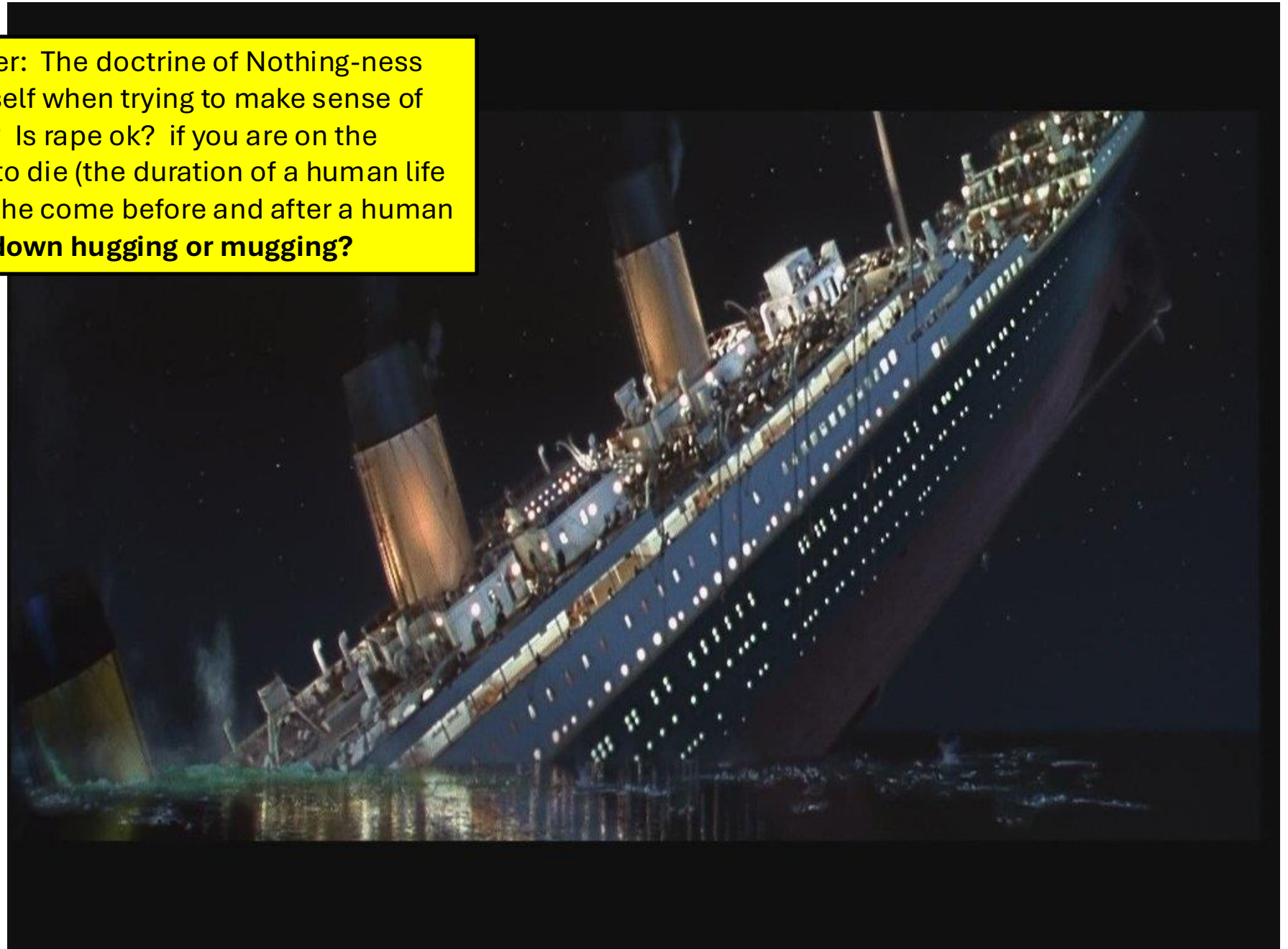
Carrying and re-carrying a rock up a hill for all eternity



Dr. Timothy Keller

**“Hell is having to engage in a pointless act from which nothing ever comes, except for the need to do it again.”**

Wisdom from Dr. Timothy Keller: The doctrine of Nothing-ness creates collisions within yourself when trying to make sense of right and wrong. If murder ok? Is rape ok? if you are on the Titanic and everyone is about to die (the duration of a human life relative to the oceans of time the come before and after a human life), **does it matter if you go down hugging or mugging?**





C. S. Lewis

"If there are no answers and no creator, there is nothing that is really true. When you are in love, you must remember that merely a chemical reaction in your brain is happening. There is no such thing as true love.

You may enjoy music, but you have to realize that it is only a biological reaction. Meanness, ugliness and cruelty are totally subjective and not real.

You may still believing in the sense in having a good time but just in so far until it becomes a very good time. Yet in so far as to push you out from cold and pure sensuality to into real warmth and enthusiasm and joy. To that extent you will be forced to feel the hopeless disharmony between your own emotions and universe in which you really live."

## Word = Logos = The reason for life

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Dr. Timothy Keller

total freedom = lack of meaning and significance

What if we found the reason for life? Why we were created? Why we were designed? And conformed to that and then honored that?

If there is a design, there is a designer. And if there is a designer, the logos has come. Not some abstract philosophical principle. **It is a person.** The designer has punched a hole into the world and he has descended. And you were built not to just honor some philosophical principle. But you were built to know and love this divine person. When you know him and when you serve him and you find out what he built you for, when you comply with it and submit yourself to him, you find out who you are. And you are now able to reach your potential.

What is a covenant relationship?

## Deuteronomy 29:

2 Moses summoned all the Israelites and said to them:

9 Carefully follow the terms of this covenant, so that you may prosper in everything you do. 10 All of you are standing today in the presence of the Lord your God—your leaders and chief men, your elders and officials, and all the other men of Israel, 11 together with your children and your wives, and the foreigners living in your camps who chop your wood and carry your water. 12 You are standing here in order to enter into a covenant with the Lord your God, a covenant the Lord is making with you this day and sealing with an oath, 13 to confirm you this day as his people, that he may be your God as he promised you and as he swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. 14 I am making this covenant, with its oath, not only with you 15 who are standing here with us today in the presence of the Lord our God but also with those who are not here today.

## There are only Two Types of Relationships

### Consumer Relationships

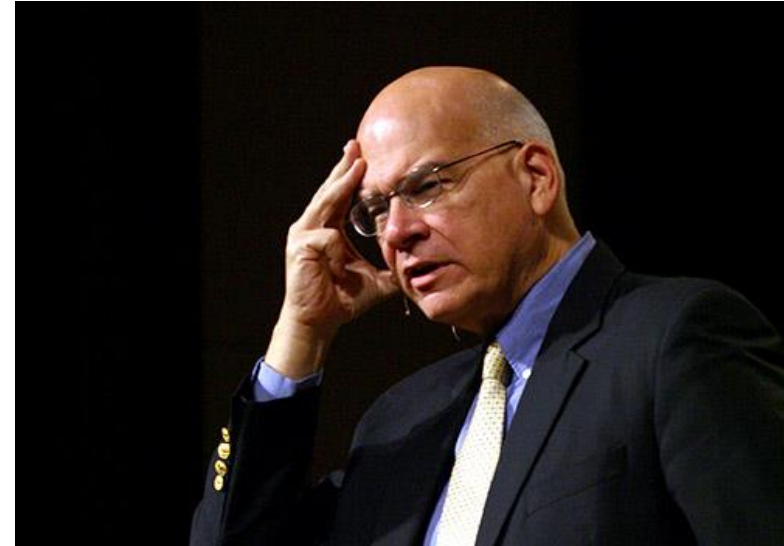
- I am in this thing as long as you are meeting my needs.
- Everything is ordered around the experiencing individual self.
- Everything is about the happiness and fulfilment of the individual self.
- Your fulfilment and happiness is an individual right and a means to an end vs. all other institutions and relationship.

### Covenant Relationships

- One of the last things Moses says just before he dies in Deut: “you need to be in covenant relationship with God.”
- The relationship is more important than my needs.
- “A relationship that is more loving than a merely legal relationship, yet more binding, enduring, and accountable than a merely personal relationship.”
- “It is a stunning blend of law and love. It is stunning because it is personal relationship made more loving and intimate because it is legal.”
- Through binding and mutual vows to be loving and faithful no matter the circumstances.
- Note profiled well in modern society.
- “The most profound, most joyful, most life changing, most deep, and glorious relationships are covenantal relationships”.

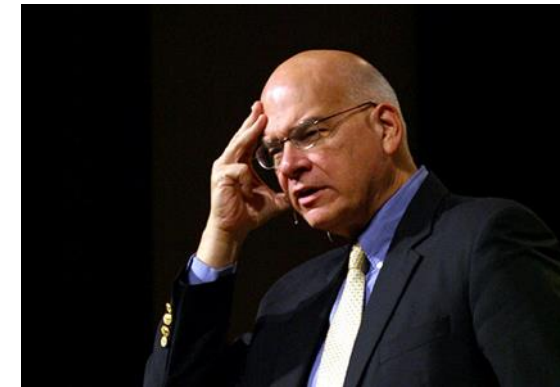
The main point by Dr. Timothy Keller:

“If the most profound, most joyful, most life changing, and glorious relationships are covenantal relationships, then your relationship with God has to be through and through a covenantal relationship. However, modern people have trouble mixing law and love together. The modern person say: I am spiritual but I am not religious. This means that I am spiritual and want a relationship with God, however, I do not want a covenantal relationship with God. . . . However, the bible says that that is impossible since the only relationship God wants is a covenantal relationship. In his relationship with Adam, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, etc., it is always a covenantal relationship.”



The main point by Dr. Timothy Keller:

This is answer to riddle: “If you understand this finally: It will lead you into paradoxical obedience (until you grasp covenant theology concept where you no longer look at the law as conditional or unconditionally). Once you understand that Jesus fulfilled the covenant at radical and infinite cost to himself, you can be loved unconditionally. You need to understand the laws of the covenant because Jesus died for them. But, when I fail in following the laws of the covenant (and I will fail), **I know there is no condemnation for those that are in Christ Jesus.** My obedience is way to thank God but it is not my away into God. Once you understand that Jesus completely filled the terms of the covenant with his perfect life. With his death he filled the curse of the covenant. And this leaves the blessing for you and for me and for anyone that lifts the empty hands of faith and asks for it. Jesus fulfilled the terms of the covenant so that we could be received unconditionally.”



Romans 8:1



Gen: 15

The Lord's Covenant With Abram

6 Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

7 He also said to him, "I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it."

**8 But Abram said, "Sovereign Lord, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?"**

9 So the Lord said to him, "Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon."

10 Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other;

**<sup>17</sup>When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces.** <sup>18</sup>On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates— <sup>19</sup>the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, <sup>20</sup>Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, <sup>21</sup>Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites."