



Beyond Comparison: *Discovering Growth in Your Unique Season*

Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-12

Listen to the Message 'Beyond Comparison: Discovering Growth in Your Unique Season (18th February 2024) at www.elim.family/media

Life is often a whirlwind, leaving us feeling overwhelmed and comparing ourselves to others. This sermon encourages us to take a step back and embrace the concept of "seasons" in life, mirroring the natural world's changing cycles.

The first key is **recognizing your current season**. Whether it's raising young children, navigating career demands, or experiencing loss, every season has its unique joys and challenges. Comparing ourselves to someone in a different season is like comparing apples and oranges.

The second key is **setting priorities based on your season**. Are you in a season of building your family foundation? Then prioritizing quality time with them might outweigh extensive extracurricular commitments. Conversely, a season focused on career advancement might require temporary adjustments to other areas. Remember, there's no "one size fits all" approach.

Finally, the sermon reminds us that **seasons change**. Don't get stuck in a winter mindset, yearning for spring. While embracing your current reality, remember that growth and new opportunities lie ahead. Ask God to reveal how you can "enlarge, stretch, strengthen, and lengthen" within your season, trusting that He understands your journey and has a purpose for each stage.

By recognizing the season you're in, setting intentional priorities, and embracing God's timing, you can find unexpected joy, purpose, and growth in each stage of your life's journey.

Questions for reflection:

1. **Season Awareness:** What season of life are you currently in? What are some key characteristics and challenges of this season?
2. **Comparison Trap:** Are you comparing your season to others who are in different stages? How does this affect your perspective and choices?
3. **Priorities Check:** What are your top 3 priorities in your current season? Do these priorities reflect your values and faith?

4. **Contentment and Joy:** What are some things you appreciate and find joy in within your current season? How can you cultivate more gratitude?
5. **Unrealistic Expectations:** Are you setting realistic expectations for yourself, and others given your current season? Where might you need to adjust?
6. **Growth Opportunities:** What opportunities for growth and learning exist within your current season? How can you stretch yourself without breaking?
7. **Faith Integration:** How can you integrate your faith and relationship with God more deeply into your current season? What practices could support this?
8. **Hidden Blessings:** What hidden blessings or unexpected benefits might your current season offer? How can you open yourself to discovering them?
9. **Season of Service:** How can you serve others and contribute to the world in a meaningful way within your current season?

Group Discussion Prompts:

- Share with the group a challenge you are facing in your current season and explore potential solutions together.
- Discuss specific actions you can take to adjust your priorities and live more fully in your current season.
- Brainstorm ways to support each other in navigating different seasons of life with faith and encouragement.

If you have never accepted Jesus as your personal saviour and you would like to move from the margins to having a relationship with Him. Please speak to one of the pastors or leadership team, we would love to pray with you. Alternatively, go to www.elim.family/ihavedecided to find out more about giving your life to Jesus.