

Overgate Values

- Look through the six pictures taken from the website of the Overgate Centre
 - and see whether people can guess the values they attach to each image!
 - **unique, fashion, family, chilled, learn, discover**
 - **how could each one be tied to a shopping centre?**

Live Life to the Max!

- Pepsi Max advert - sky-boarding - been there, seen that, boring!
 - **Pepsi Max... Wow! Like it! LOVE it! Pepsi Max... Live life to the Max!**
- *Asks the question: what is life all about?*
- Overgate says:
 - **unique, fashion, family, chilled, learn, discover**
 - **(and we can make it happen for you...)**
- Do we believe them?

Life: the Gift of Jesus

- First, obvious, thing to say - this life is a gift from Jesus.
- Its his to give an no one else's

Without Jesus we don't have life

- Context of John 10:10 is a criticism of some of the religious leaders of Jesus' own day, who had failed to lead the people of Israel to God:
 - result - **in the parable** - was robbers coming and stealing the sheep, destroying life
 - without the good shepherd - without Jesus - **there is no life**
- Still true today in our multi-faith world - without Jesus there is no real life
- **"I have come that you might have life - life in all its fullness!"**

Its a gift - not something we can earn

- This life is a gift of Jesus - its also a gift.
 - we don't get our kids to earn their Christmas presents - a month of tidy bedrooms and doing the washing up every Sunday earns one Power-Ranger (insert trendy toy!) on Christmas day!
- Gifts are freely given out of love - not earned
- But gifts have to be received!
 - we've all heard of the youngsters who spend more time playing with the cardboard box the mega-super-doooper-amazing-techno-toy came in, while the expensive and carefully chosen item is ignored!
 - **danger for us** - we can play with the wrappings of Christianity - the attendance at church, the good works, the nice smiles - and not get to know the true gift of life, nor the giver of that gift - Jesus Christ
- This true life, this full life, then, is a gift from Jesus - from him alone, one that needs to be accepted, and one that cannot be earned.

Life: its life with Jesus

- That's all very well - but what's this life all about. How do I tell the wrapping from the present?
- Fundamentally the characteristic of the life Jesus came to bring us is life in relationship with him.
 - in the shepherd/sheep language of the passage: **"I know my sheep and they know me"**
- This is how we can separate reality from wrapping - "Is this helping me get to

know Jesus better? Do I love him more? Do I follow him more closely?"

- Another implicit characteristic of this relationship, this life with Jesus, is that it is everlasting
- **SO:** we can look on the transient nature of this life, of life on earth, with a sense of perspective
 - physical death is not the end
 - there is meaning, purpose amidst all the hopelessness - the life you lead just now is no mere dead end on the way to an empty eternity
- "Who are you?" How do we define ourselves?
 - very large part of it is to do with relationships
 - who our parents are, who our brothers and sisters are, our wives/husbands, our children and grandchildren, our friends, our workmates
 - these **change over time** - from son/daughter of to wife/husband of and on to father/mother of
 - tragedy can uproot... failed friendships, broken marriages damage us
- **Ultimate meaning, real life, is found only in relationship with Jesus:**
 - that ever-lasting relationship that can never fail

Life: its life like Jesus

- Final characteristic of this life that Jesus came to give us, this life in all its fullness, is that its a Life like Jesus
- Who, of all people of every generation, of every nation, lived life to the full?
 - Jesus - and only Jesus - to the absolute limits of fullness
- This is where the rubber hits the road:
 - this life is given to us, its a life characterised by relationship with Jesus
 - but what will that mean in day to day living?
 - **what is a full life? What is life in all its fullness?**
 - is it like that Pepsi Ad - a series of thrills, buzzes, adrenalin highs?
 - or is it an **eternal Saturday afternoon at the Overgate?**
- No - its a life lived as God originally intended - and lived out by Jesus himself while he was here on earth
 - its a life full of love - joy - peace - patience - kindness - goodness - gentleness
 - faithfulness - self-control

So: Live Life to the Max!

- Jesus said:
 - **"I have come that you might have life - life in all its fullness!"**
 - lets accept the gift of life Jesus has given us - gratefully, joyfully
 - lets get to know the Lord, who has given us this life of relationship with himself
 - lets live a life that is like his - a life lived all its fullness!
- Lets live life to the Max - and not just to the Overgate!!

Where have we been taken in about what life is all about?

- where have we substituted shopping, consuming, obtaining, possessing for life with Christ?