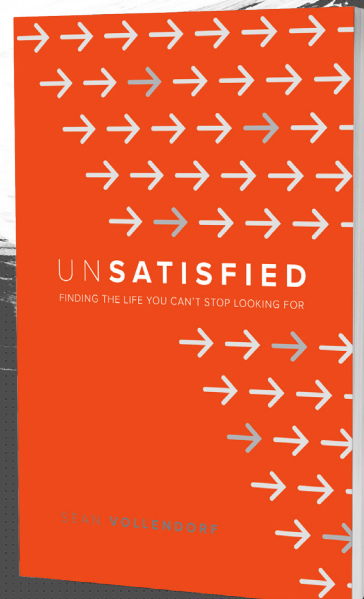




CAMPUS
MINISTRY
TODAY

UNSATISFIED CONVERSATION STARTERS

created by
Sean
Vollendorf and
Jared Tomblin



Unsatisfied Conversation Starters

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Whether we consciously know it or not, we're all looking to be fulfilled, to be satisfied. We live in a generation with easy access to mind-blowing experiences, endless entertainment, and all the worldly pleasures our hearts could desire. *Unsatisfied* explores this search for satisfaction, taking students on a simple, personal, and often hilarious journey from feeling an unnamed hunger to fulfillment through a relationship with Jesus.

An excellent book to give non-believers and young believers to keep the conversation going after gospel appointments or over winter or summer break. Copy a few of the questions each week into an email or text, staying in conversation with students who you are encouraging to read the book. These conversation starters also make it easy to use *Unsatisfied* in an investigative small group or book club.

Chapters 1-2

- Tell about a time when you wanted something you didn't have.
- Did you end up getting it?
- How long did the satisfaction of getting it last?
- What is the definition of satisfaction given in the book (p. 7)?
- Do you agree with this definition?
- Have you noticed most people are either consciously or subconsciously on a search for fulfillment?
- When did you first realize the search for satisfaction seemed impossible to complete? Was there an experience that helped you see this?
- Have you ever seen anyone who "suffered" from wealth fatigue syndrome? (p. 12) Describe them (without using their name).
- Why is it that some people have everything materially but don't seem to have fulfillment?
- What do you think of Frank Pittman's quote? Do you agree? Why or why not? (p. 12)
- Why do you think Solomon, the richest man who ever lived, concluded "Everything is meaningless, a chasing after the wind"? (p. 15)

- Jesus said “Life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.” (p. 17)
- What do you think Jesus meant by the word “life”? If life does not consist in an abundance of possessions, what are the things you think life does consist in?

Chapters 3-4

- Have you ever experienced something that was incredible at first but you grew bored with it over time? Tell about it.
- Have you heard of the law of diminishing returns before? How would you describe it in your own words? Have you seen it in action? (p. 24)
- Do you remember the first time you heard about (or saw) pornography? What went through your mind?
- Have you ever heard of sexual attention deficit disorder? Can you see how that could happen? (p. 23)
- Why do you think it is that no pleasure leaves us permanently satisfied?
- Look up Jeremiah 2:13 (p. 27)
 My people have committed two sins:
 They have forsaken me,
 the spring of living water,
 and have dug their own cisterns,
 broken cisterns that cannot hold water.
- What do you think it means when God says that people have dug their own broken cisterns that cannot hold water? What are some examples of this?
- Why do you think God describes Himself here as the “spring of living water”?
- How are you seeking after satisfaction through performance?
- What is one way you know you can find true satisfaction?

Chapter 5-6

- When was a time you tried to be accepted by a certain group of people, and how did that go?
- Why are people so consumed with having the right appearance? (p. 38)
- Why will searching for a certain look not satisfy us? (pp. 38-39)
- Why as people do we feel the need to be needed? (p. 44)
- How can looking to someone else for satisfaction leave us empty? (p. 44)
- How can the feeling of being rejected by others put us in a dangerous mindset? (p. 44)

- How can our drive to be accepted by others hurt our relationship with Christ? (p. 46)
- How can things from our past play a role in our future? (p. 47)
- If satisfaction isn't found in pleasing others, then where is satisfaction found?

Chapter 7-8

- When was a time you felt physically thirsty, and what did you do to satisfy your thirst?
- What deeper thirst do you think the author is talking about? (p. 51)
- What are some of the sources or outlets college students use to try to satisfy their spiritual thirst? (p. 51)
- Why are we turning to these things instead of something that can truly satisfy us?
- How can being desperately thirsty hurt our walk with Jesus? (p. 52)
- Psalm 42:1-2 says "As a deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God." What does this mean?
- What would our lives look like if we satisfied our souls with God instead of the endless sources we are trying to find satisfaction in? (p. 53)
- What does having rest in Jesus look like? (p. 56)
- Knowing that things around you won't satisfy you in the long haul, how can you begin trusting your Creator? What action steps would you need to take?
- How can our misconceptions lead to a misunderstanding of who God truly is?
- Reflect on the last two questions. What endless sources are you chasing and what misconceptions are driving you to chase those sources?

Chapter 9-10

- Do you think God is a God of telling people not to do things? Why or why not?
- Have you ever thought of God as an on-demand God? (p. 64)
- How can having an on-demand view of God hurt our relationship with Him? (p. 65)
- Do you think following Jesus means missing out on fun things? (p. 69)
- What are some fun things we tend to think Jesus might want to keep us from? (p. 70)
- What does Jesus mean "I have come so that people may have life, and have it to the full?" (p. 71)
- How do you think you can experience nourishing fun? (p. 72)

- Have you ever had regrets that were tied to something you did the night before? Care to share about any? (p. 73)
- Reflect on the things that God is telling you not to do. Do you feel He is trying to protect you or keep you from enjoying all that life has to offer? How might He be protecting you? (p.73)

Chapter 11-12

- Have you ever created something with your own hands? Tell about it.
- Do you think Jesus and science coexist? (p. 78)
- Do you think the author is right in saying: “When it comes to our souls and eternity I think there’s only one source we can trust, Jesus.” Why or why not? (p. 80)
- Does science point us to a creator? Why or why not? (p. 81)
- How is our relationship with Jesus similar to a marriage? (p. 84)
- Does the design of something prove that Jesus exists? Why? (p. 86)
- Do you think physics points us to a designer? Why? (p. 88)
- If God is real and not make-believe, and you found out you could know Him in a satisfying, close relationship, would you want to? (p. 90)
- Challenge: Investigate more into why you believe in Jesus or why you are hesitant to believe in Him.

Chapter 13-14

- Do you think God can be all powerful and good at the same time? (p. 91)
- Are you the only one in control of your life? (p. 93)
- What do you think about this question: If God is all powerful, why does He allow horrible things to happen? (p. 94)
- Why do you think bad things happen not only in this world but also to good people? (p. 97)
- What do you think the difference is between clean and perfectly clean? (p. 100)
- In what ways have you seen God’s Word clean up your life? How does this make you feel? (p.102)
- What activities are you scared to give up and why? (p.104)
- What would a close personal relationship with Christ look like for you? (p.105)
- Challenge: Give up one area of your life that God is wanting to clean up.

Chapter 15-16

- When was a time you turned to something or someone looking for fulfillment and how did that turn out?
- What are your thoughts about God being jealous for us? (p. 110)
- How can worshipping something or someone besides God hurt our relationship with Him? (p.112)
- Why do people feel a need to do good things to gain God's favor? (p. 115)
- What does the statement "God is Love" mean to you? (p. 117)
- Have you ever experienced God's unconditional love? How? (p. 118)
- How do you know God loves you? (p.119)
- How can you receive God's love? (p. 121)
- Challenge: Share God's love with someone this week.

Chapter 17-19

- What words would you use to describe God?
- Why do you think the things about God that you think? What experiences or sources have shaped the picture you have in your head of who God is?
- If God wanted to show you who He was, how do you think He could?
- Do you think you have done too many things wrong for God to forgive you? (p. 129)
- What would you need to do to take a second chance with Christ? (p.130)
- In what area of your life do you need Jesus to shine his light for you to gain clarity? (p. 135)
- Are there any areas of your life that you need Jesus to forgive you and make you clean? (p. 136)
- Look into your heart. Are you chasing after things that are unsatisfying? Is it time you stop chasing and enter into a relationship with Jesus? What is keeping you from accepting the offer of a new life that Jesus is offering you?