



# Sermon Growth Guide

**September 15, 2024**

**Who Cares? - “Meh”**

**Proverbs 26:14-16**

**Key Verse:** Proverbs 26:13 “A sluggard says, ‘There’s a lion in the road, a fierce lion roaming the street.’”

**Big Idea:** Finding Gospel Hope in a time of apathy.

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## Foundations

The term “meh” reflects a verbal shrug; a sign of indifference that many people are familiar with, and perhaps even use themselves. Our new series, Who Cares, aims to explore this contemporary slang term and its implications. At its core, “meh” embodies a sense of apathy. Consider the sluggard from Proverbs, who remains in bed like a door on its hinges, showing no inclination to rise. This state of bed-rotting exemplifies the essence of apathy.

Today’s culture is rife with apathy and loneliness, often stemming from our inclination towards instant gratification rather than engaging in the challenging work of personal growth and spiritual development. Are we opting for convenience over what fosters true goodness and flourishing? Have we become apathetic in our faith?

While some may equate the opposite of love with hate, a more fitting contrast is apathy—a profound lack of caring. Apathy impedes our ability to form deep connections with God and others. Jesus, as quoted in Matthew, commands, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” Mark and Luke expand this to include “with all your strength” and emphasize loving your neighbor as yourself. This kind of intense love stands in stark opposition to apathy.

## Understanding God’s Word

Read together Proverbs 26:4-16

Note that each proverb consists of two concise lines that convey a specific truth. Try rewriting one of these Proverbs in a contemporary context. According to Hassell Bullock in his commentary on the poetic books, Proverbs addresses both God’s sovereignty and human responsibility, aiming to create an orderly universe. Discuss how this might be evident in two or three of the Proverbs.

## Applying God’s Word

Are there “lions roaming” in your mind—unreal fears that prevent you from experiencing the joy God has for you? Are Satan’s lies blocking you from feeling the Lord’s love? Read 2 Timothy 1:7 together.

## Witnessing God’s Word

We have numerous opportunities to serve our community and fulfill our calling to be a beacon of Light and Life. Perhaps now is the time to explore a new area of service or invite a co-worker or book club member for coffee. It could also be a moment to create something meaningful and share it with a friend.