

Listening Guide

[1] You will explore how various worldviews answer Frankl's two important questions. But before you do so, take a moment and answer them for yourself. Why am I here?

[2] What difference does it (or do I) make?

Monotheism and Meaning

[3] Summarize the monotheistic answer to the questions: Why am I here? What difference does it (or do I) make?

[4] How does the monotheist's answers resonate with your own answers?

Deism and Meaning

[5] If a deist were to pursue the project Frankl's book *Man's Search for Meaning* suggests, how would she proceed?

[6] Would you find a deistic approach to a search for meaning more or less satisfying than a monotheistic approach?

Naturalism and Meaning

[7] As you consider your own “world” and its current situation, do you think a naturalist approach to the search for meaning is being successfully worked out? Why or why not?

Nihilism and Meaning

[8] If you had to choose between a naturalist and a nihilist approach to finding meaning, which would you choose? Why?

Existentialist and Meaning

[9] If you were limited to the existentialist approach to “subjectively invent” your own “reason for being,” how would you define that reason?

Pantheism and Meaning

[10] How satisfying and helpful do you find this approach to answering Frankl’s two questions?

New Consciousness and Meaning

[11] How satisfying would a person’s answer to these crucial “meaning” questions be to one who answered them in an altered state of consciousness after he returned to his normal state of consciousness? Why?

[12] What does the last sentence of this paragraph say is the bottom-line question that values help us answer?

Monotheism and Ethics

[13] How are these three religions similar in the way they find a basis for their ethical values?

[14] How are they different?

Deism and Ethics

[15] What kind of ethic would a person define by watching the natural world of animals? Consider at least two positive and two negative “lessons from nature.”

Naturalism and Ethics

[16] Can you think of any moral values that transcend culture?

[17] Can you think of any that are culturally specific?

[18] In what ways do you agree and/or disagree with this view?

Nihilism and Ethics

[19] What do you think true nihilists would use to replace the traditional values they destroyed? Would it be a world without values or do you think nihilists provide some basis for forming values?

Existentialism and Ethics

[20] If you were an existentialist teaching someone how to be an effective parent, what would you say about teaching morals and ethics?

Pantheism and Ethics

[21] Playing the role of a pantheist, explain to a five-year-old child why he should not harm his newborn baby sister—and do so in a way that doesn't violate his "own particular nature."

New Consciousness and Ethics

[22] Restate this ethical approach in your own words.

[23] How confident are you in what your ultimate future holds?

[24] What do you base your answer on?

Monotheism and the Future

[25] How are these three views similar?

[26] How are they different?

Deism and the Future

[27] Do you see any points where you disagree with the deist view?

[28] Can you see any point(s) of agreement?

Naturalism and the Future

[29] Do you ever wonder if this is true?

[30] If this view were true, would it change your daily life from the way it is now? If so, how?

Nihilism and the Future

[31] How would you explain the difference(s) between the nihilist and the naturalist views?

Existentialism and the Future

[32] How would an existentialist talk about hope?

[33] What would he say about working hard to prepare for the future?

Pantheism and the Future

[34] How is the pantheistic view of “transcending to become one with the universe” different from the monotheistic view of the future?

[35] How would the two views differ in the way they influence life now?

New Consciousness and the Future

[36] Brain research tends to support the view that our minds have much more capacity than we use.

[37] Do you agree that it is possible, by altering the brain with drugs, to open your mind to new ideas?

[38] How does 1 Corinthians 2:1-13 provide an alternate way for a person to open his mind to ideas beyond the brain's normal functions?

Reflection

Record one new fact or insight you discovered in this lesson.

Application

For the purpose of this exercise, let's define "ethics" as our defined code of right and wrong (what we say about how we should behave) and define "morality" as our lived code of right and wrong (how we actually behave). Then do the following:

1. For a few days, keep a record of how your ethics and morality match. Consciously focus on how often your moral behaviors are intentionally guided by a clearly defined ethic. Behaviors such as how you treat people, how you answer questions, how you drive, spend money, and so on. To what extent is your morality (your actions) consciously guided by your ethics (what you claim as your values)?
2. After a few days of matching ethics and morals, ask yourself what ethics are actually guiding your behaviors.
3. Review this lesson and identify at what points each or any of the worldview options were at work in your life.