

## Life: Its Importance and Meaning

By Scoty Warnick

Life moves fast. In the blink of an eye, people's entire existence passes by. Some may wonder, "What was it all for?"; "What was my purpose?"; "Was it a waste?" These questions were answered in Mitch Albom's *The Five People You Meet In Heaven*. The lessons taught by the book show us that there is more meaning to life than people perceive.

Mr. Rogers, a hero to kids and a recognizable TV personality, stated, "If you could only sense how important you are to the lives of those you meet; how important you can be to the people you may never even dream of. There is something of yourself that you leave at every meeting with another person." This quote goes hand-in-hand with the theme of our story. To know that lives are interconnected by ways imperceivable is quite amazing. These interactions can truly enlighten the way people think about their role in this world.

Of life's many mysteries, one question always goes unanswered: What's the meaning of life? Some devote their lives to salvation in hopes of a forgiving afterlife; some look to better themselves and to focus on number one; some try to experience all life has to offer by living life to the fullest; but some live small, simple lives the best way they know how. This was the way Eddie lived: a small, simple life that some people would say to be menial and pointless. Eddie died saving a little girl from an amusement park ride malfunction on his birthday. After Eddie dies, he is full of regret. Eddie wishes that he had done more with his life and would have lived life to the fullest rather than spending his days servicing the machines at Ruby Pier.

Eddie learned many lessons while he was in heaven. Eddie learned about forgiveness, sacrifice, connection, and, most importantly, meaning. Eddie learned to value his life when he learned of all the people he unknowingly affected. A small act of kindness all the way to the sacrifice of saving someone's life gives someone meaning; the way Eddie saved his platoon in the POW camp while he was at war

allowed his friends to go home and survive; the way Eddie loved his wife, even all the way up to his and her deaths gave his life love; the way Eddie looked after all the children at Ruby Pier making sure everyone was safe and sound made him very noble. At first glance, Eddie seems very ordinary, but that is what makes him extraordinary.

With every interaction with someone, people have the chance to make an impact. While the impact could be as little as some advice, it could also be as big as a life-changing decision. This is what makes every life as important as the next. People sometimes never know their impact on this world. Thankfully, people can get a clear message of this lesson through Mitch Albom's *The Five People You Meet In Heaven*.

In Mitch Albom's *The Five People You Meet In Heaven*, unforgettable lessons are taught, lessons that give serenity and peace to people who have none, lessons that give answers to if what we do in this world matter. So, when debating the meaning of life, think about all the people and things that us humans interact with. Think about all the lives that are changed by everyone. Everyone is connected, whether we know it or not. Cherish every moment, don't spend the time wondering if meaning in our lives has been proven, for it has, with the impact that people have on each other.