

PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE PLUS

SEVEN WEEK DISCIPLESHIP SUMMER, 2010

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WEEK 1

INTRODUCTION

FINDING YOUR PURPOSE

1. It starts with God
2. You're not an accident
3. What drives your life?
4. Made to last forever
5. See life from God's view
6. Life is a temporary assignment
7. God is the reason for everything

1 IT STARTS WITH GOD

◎ **It's not about us**

“Self help is no help at all. Self sacrifice is the way, my way, to finding yourself, your true self.”
Matt 16:25 MSG

◎ **You find your purpose not through speculation but revelation.**

“It is in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we heard of Christ and got our hopes up, He had his eye on us ,had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose He is working out in everything and everyone.

Eph 1:11 MSG

2 YOU'RE NOT AN ACCIDENT

- ◎ The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your love, O LORD, endures forever— do not abandon the works of your hands.

Psalm 138:8a NIV

- ◎ You know me inside and out, you know every bone in my body; You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit, how I was sculpted from nothing into something.

Psalm 139:15 MSG

2 YOU'RE NOT AN ACCIDENT CONT'D

- ◉ You saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe. Every day was recorded in your Book.!

Psalm 139:16 LB

- ◉ ²⁸And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. ³¹What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Romans 8:28-31 NIV

3

WHAT DRIVES YOUR LIFE?

- ◉ "You, LORD, give perfect peace to those who keep their purpose firm and put their trust in you."

Isaiah 26:3 TEV

- ◉ Guilt
- ◉ Resentment and Anger
- ◉ Pleasure
- ◉ Competition
- ◉ Religion
- ◉ Fear
- ◉ Materialism
- ◉ Need for approval
- ◉ God's Principles

4 MADE TO LAST FOREVER

- ◉ When this tent we live in-our body here on earth-is torn down, God will have a house in heaven for us to live in a home He Himself has made, which will last forever.

II Corinthians 5:1 TEV

- ◉ I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done.

Philippians 3:7 NLT

4 MADE TO LAST FOREVER CONT'D

- ⦿ No mere man has ever seen, heard or even imagined what wonderful things God has ready for those who love the Lord.

I Corinthians 2:9 LB

- ⦿ “Realizing that every moment we spend in these earthly bodies is time spent away from our eternal home in heaven with Jesus.”

II Corinthians 5:6 LB

5 SEE LIFE FROM GOD'S VIEW

⦿ **Life on earth is a test**

³Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. ⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

Romans 5:3-6 NIV

6 SEE LIFE FROM GOD'S VIEW CONT'D

○ **Life on earth is a trust**

- the world and all that is in it belong to the Lord; the earth and all who live on it are His”

Psalm 24:1 TEV

- ¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual^[a] act of worship. ²Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:1-2

7 LIFE IS A TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT

- “If you call God your father, live your time as temporary residents on earth.”

I Peter 1:17 GWT

- ¹⁹Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 3:19-20

THE REASON FOR EVERYTHING

- ◉ The reason for everything is God's glory. God's glory is the expression of His goodness and all of His other intrinsic and eternal qualities. We express His glory by worshipping Him by loving other believers, by becoming like Him, by serving others with our gifts, by loving others, by telling them about Him

WEEK 2: YOU WERE PLANNED FOR GOD'S PLEASURE

1. Planned for God's pleasure.
2. What makes God smile.
3. The heart of worship.
4. Developing your friendship with God.
5. Worship that pleases God.
6. When God seems distant.

PLANNED FOR GOD'S PLEASURE

⦿ **Bringing pleasure to God is called worship.**

- “The Lord is pleased only with those who worship him and trust him.” Psalm 147: 11 (CEV)
- Anthropologists have noted that worship is a universal urge, hardwired by God into the very fiber of our being. Worship is as natural as eating or breathing. If we fail to worship God we always find the substitute even if it ends up being ourselves.

PLANNED FOR GOD'S PLEASURE CONT.

- ◉ **Worship is far more than music.**
 - Every part of a church service is an act of worship.
 - Worship is not contained to just a church service, it is a lifestyle.
- ◉ **Worship is not for your benefit.**
 - When we worship, our goal is not to bring pleasure to ourselves but to God.
 - Isaiah 29: 13 (NIV) “These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up of only rules taught by men.

PLANNED FOR GOD'S PLEASURE CONT.

- ◉ **Worship is not a part of your life, it is your life.**
 - Psalm 34: 1 teaches us that, “I will bless the Lord at all time, His praise shall continually be in my mouth.”
 - I Corinthians 10: 31 says, “So whatever you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”
 - Romans 12: 1 (MSG) says, “Take your everyday ordinary life-your sleeping, eating, going to work, and walking around life-and place it before God as an offering.”

PLANNED FOR GOD'S PLEASURE CONT.

- Work becomes worship when you dedicate it to God and perform it with an awareness of His presence.

WHAT MAKES GOD SMILE

- **The smile of God is the goal of your life.**
 - Whatever makes him smile is called worship.
- **God Smiles when we love Him supremely.**
 - Matthew 22: 37-38 says, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.”
 - Hosea 6: 6 (LV) says, “I don’t want your sacrifices-I want your love; I don’t want your offerings- I want you to know me.”

WHAT MAKES GOD SMILE CONT.

- ◉ **God smiles when we trust him completely.**
 - Trusting is an act of Worship.
 - Hebrews 11: 6 says, “Without faith it is impossible to please God.”
 - Psalm 147: 11 says, “He takes pleasure in those that honor him, in those who trust in His constant love.”
- ◉ **God smiles when we obey Him wholeheartedly.**
- ◉ **God smiles when we praise and thank Him continually.**
- ◉ **God smiles when we use our abilities.**

THE HEART OF WORSHIP

- ◉ The heart of worship is surrender.
- ◉ Surrender is the act of giving ourselves to God not out of fear or duty, but love. Because He first loved us.
- ◉ Surrender is called many things; consecration, making Jesus your Lord, taking up your cross, dying to self, or yielding to the Spirit.
- ◉ Barriers to surrender are fear, pride, and confusion.
- ◉ The blessings of surrender are peace, freedom, and victory.

THE HEART OF WORSHIP CONT.

- ⦿ **Surrender is not the best way to live; it's the only way to live.**
 - All other approaches lead to frustration, disappointment, and self destruction.

DEVELOPING A FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD

- ⦿ **Through constant conversation.**
- ⦿ **Through constant meditation.**
 - Psalm 119: 97 (NIV) says, “ Oh how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long.”
 - Joshua 1: 8 says, “ Meditate on your word day and night.”
- ⦿ **Must be honest with God.**
 - Jesus is still the friend of Sinners.
 - Job 23: 12 (NIV) says, “You haven’t been honest with me or even about me-not the way my friend Job has...My friend Job will now pray for you and I will accept his prayer.”

DEVELOPING A FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD

- Bitterness is the greatest barrier to friendship with God.
- ◉ **Must obey God in faith.**
- ◉ **Must choose to value what God values.**
- ◉ **Must desire friendship with God more than anything else.**

WORSHIP THAT PLEASES GOD

- ◉ **God is pleased when our worship is accurate.**
- ◉ **God is pleased when our worship is authentic.**
- ◉ **God is pleased when our worship is thoughtful.**
- ◉ **God is pleased when our worship is practical.**
 - “Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.” Romans 12: 2

WHEN GOD SEEMS DISTANT

- ◉ **Tell God exactly how you feel.**
- ◉ **Focus on who God is in His unchanging nature.**
- ◉ **Trust God to keep His promises.**
- ◉ **Remember what God has already done for you.**

WEEK 3 YOU WERE FORMED FOR GOD'S FAMILY

- ◉ You were formed for God's Family
- ◉ What matters most
- ◉ A place to belong
- ◉ Experiencing life together
- ◉ Cultivating Community
- ◉ Restoring broken fellowship
- ◉ Protecting your church

DAY 1 YOU WERE FORMED FOR GOD'S FAMILY

- ◉ Because God is love He treasures relationships
 - ◉ Ephesians 1:5 , (His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave Him great pleasure)
NLT
- ◉ Benefits of being in God's family
 - ◉ Galatians 4:7, "Since you are His child everything He has belongs to you."
- ◉ **Baptism Identifies you with God's family**
- ◉ Life's greatest privilege is to be a part of God's family

DAY 2 WHAT MATTERS MOST

- ◉ Life with out love is really worthless
 - ◉ I Corinthians 13:3 MSG “No matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I am bankrupt with out love.”
- ◉ Love will last forever
 - ◉ I Corinthians 13 NIV, “These three things continue forever, faith, hope and love. The greatest of these is love.”
- ◉ We will be evaluated on our love
 - ◉ Matthew 25:40 NIV, “Truly I tell you just as you did to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to Me.”

WHAT MATTERS MOST CONT'D

- ◎ The best expression of love is time.
 - I John 3:18 TCV, “ My children our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action.”
- ◎ The best time to love is now
 - Galatians 6:10 NIV, “ Whenever we have the opportunity we should do good to everyone.”
 - Galatians 5:14 NIV ,” The entire law is summed up in a single command: Love your neighbor as yourself.”

DAY 3 A PLACE TO BELONG

- ⦿ A church family identifies you as a genuine believer
 - ⦿ John 13:35 “Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”
- ⦿ A church family moves you out of self centered isolation
- ⦿ A church family helps you develop spiritual muscle.
 - ⦿ I Corinthians 12:26 NCV , “ If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it or if one part of our body is honored, all the other parts share it’s honor.”
 - ⦿ Ephesians 4:16 , “As each part does it’s own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is growing, healthy and full of love.”

A PLACE TO BELONG

CONT'D

- ◉ The body of Christ needs you
 - ◉ I Corinthians 2:7 NIV , “ A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church.”
- ◉ You will share in Christ’s mission in the world
 - ◉ Ephesians 2:10 MSG, “ He creates each of us by Christ Jesus, to join Him in the work He does, the good work He has gotten ready for us to do, the work we had better be doing.”
- ◉ A church family will keep you from backsliding
 - ◉ Hebrews 3:13 NIV , “ Encourage one another daily... so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.”

DAY 4 EXPERIENCING LIFE TOGETHER

- ◉ In real fellowship people experience authenticity.
 - ◉ James 5:16 MSG ,” Make this your common practice; confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed.”
- ◉ In real fellowship people experience mutuality
 - ◉ Romans 1:12 NCV, “ I want us to help each other with the faith we have. Your faith will help me and my faith will help you.”
- ◉ In real fellowship people experience sympathy.

Sympathy is not giving advice or offering quick, cosmetic help; it is entering in and sharing the pain of others.

Philippians 3:10 NIV, “ I want to know the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His suffering”

EXPERIENCING LIFE TOGETHER

CONT'D

- ◉ In real fellowship people experience mercy
 - II Corinthians 2:27 CEV, “When people sin, you should forgive and comfort them, so they won’t give up in despair.”

DAY 5 CULTIVATING COMMUNITY

- ◉ Community requires commitment
 - ◉ Ephesians 4:3 NCV, “You are joined together with peace through the Spirit, so make every effort to continue together in this way.”
- ◉ Community takes honesty
 - ◉ Ephesians 4:15 NIV, “Speak the truth in love”
- ◉ Community takes humility
 - ◉ Philippians 2:3-4 NCV, “Give more honor to others than to yourself. Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others.”
- ◉ Community takes courtesy
- ◉ Community takes confidentiality
 - ◉ Proverbs 16:28 TEV, “Gossip is spread by wicked people; they stir up trouble and break up friendships.”

DAY 5 CULTIVATING COMMUNITY

- **Community takes frequency**
 - Hebrews 10:25 TEV, “Let us not give up the habit of meeting together as some are doing. Instead let us encourage one another.”

DAY 6

RESTORING BROKEN FELLOWSHIP

- ◉ Talk to God before talking to the person
- ◉ Always take the Initiative
- ◉ Sympathize with their feelings
- ◉ Confess your part of the conflict
- ◉ Attack the problem, not the person
- ◉ Cooperate as much as possible
- ◉ Emphasize reconciliation, not resolution

DAY 7

PROTECTING YOUR CHURCH

- ⦿ Focus on what we have in common, not differences.
- ⦿ Be realistic in your expectations.
- ⦿ Choose to encourage rather than criticize.
- ⦿ Refuse to listen to gossip.
- ⦿ Practice God's method for conflict resolution
- ⦿ Support your Pastor and Leaders

WEEK 4

YOU WERE CREATED TO BE LIKE CHRIST

- You were created to become like Christ
- How we grow
- Transformed by truth
- Transformed by trouble
- Facing and defeating temptation
- It takes time

DAY 1 CREATED TO BECOME LIKE CHRIST

- It's your destiny to become like Christ
- We must cooperate with the Holy Spirit's work
- God uses His Word, people and circumstances to mold us
- Becoming like Christ is a long, slow process

DAY 2 HOW WE GROW

◉ God's part and your part

- “Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose.”
Philippians 2:12-13 NIV

◉ Changing your auto pilot

- “Be careful how you think your life is shaped by your thoughts” Proverbs 4:23 TEV
- “Stop thinking like children. In regards to evil, be infants, but in your thinking be adults.” I
Corinthians 14:20 NIV

DAY 3

TRANSFORMED BY TRUTH

- **We must accept The Bible's authority**
 - “Every word of God is flawless.” Proverbs 30:5 NIV
 - “Everything in the scriptures is God's word. All of it is useful for teaching people and helping people and for correcting them and showing them how to live.” 2Timothy 3:16 CEV
- **We must assimilate the Bible's truth**
 - You must receive God's word.
 - You must read God's Word.
 - You must research God's Word.
 - You must remember God's Word.
 - You must reflect on God's Word.

DAY 3 CONT'D

- ⦿ We must apply the Bible's principles
 - “Do not just be hearers of the Word, but doers of the Word.” James 1:22 KJV
- ⦿ What stops us from doing God's Word
 - We get too busy
 - It's too painful
 - We don't have a plan

DAY 4 TRANSFORMED BY TROUBLE

- ◉ God has a purpose behind every problem
 - Romans 8:28, "We know that God causes everything to work together for the good for those who love God and are called according to His purpose."
 - Romans 5:3 "We rejoice in tribulation (trouble) because tribulation produces patience and patience character, and character hope." NIV
- ◉ Remember that God's plan is good
- ◉ Rejoice and give thanks
- ◉ Refuse to give up

○ How temptation works

- Satan identifies a desire inside of you.
- Satan tries to get you to doubt.
- Satan tries to deceive you about God.
- Finally you disobey God.

○ Overcoming temptation

- Refuse to be intimidated.
- Recognize your pattern of temptation and be prepared for it.
- Request God's help.
- Refocus your attention on something else.
- Reveal your struggle to a godly friends or support group.
- Resist the devil.
- Realize your vulnerability.

DAY 7

IT TAKES TIME

○ Why does it take so long?

- We are slow learners.
- We have a lot to learn.
- We are afraid to humbly face the truth about ourselves.
- Growth is often painful and scary.
- Habits take time to develop.

○ What to do?

- Believe God is working in your life even when you don't feel it.
- Keep a notebook or journal of lessons learned.
- Be patient with God and with yourself.
- Don't get discouraged.