

WHAT'S YOUR PURPOSE?

WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU HERE FOR?

TIPS TO A SUCCESSFUL GROUP

- **MAKE GROUP A PRIORITY.** Communicate in advance when you will be unable to attend by either calling and/or texting your host or responding to the zoom email invitation by accepting or declining. This will help your host to plan accordingly especially if it is an in person small group gathering.

I Am Called By God

ICEBREAKER

When it comes to talking on the phone, would you rather text or make a phone call?

INTRODUCTION

When we use the word “call,” we all probably think about talking on the phone. Some of us dread it when the phone rings. Others of us love to sit and chat for hours. But the Bible has a very different definition of “calling.” It’s not something we do but who we are designed by God to be. In this series, we will all have an opportunity to dig deeper into who we are and what our purpose in life is all about. Today, let’s see what it means when we say we are “**called**” by God.

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What's your purpose in life? Why are you here? These are often the biggest questions we ask ourselves in life. The Bible offers hundreds of answers. But it can sometimes be confusing or even intimidating to find out. Read the following verse together:

*We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been **called** according to His purpose.* Romans 8:28 (NIV)

Most of the time we read the first part – that God is working out everything in our lives – and think that's the main idea of the passage. But if you keep reading, you find a word that unlocks your true purpose in life – “**called**.”

In the Greek, the word is *kaleo*, which sounds a lot like “call.” It's used over 100 times in the Bible and almost always about our purpose. In the Latin, the word is *voce* or *vocare*, where we get our words “voice” and “vocal” from meaning to speak or vocalize. The word “vocation” comes from these Latin words. The bottom line is you and I are **called** by God to fulfill very specific purposes for life.

There is a big difference between a job and a vocation. A job is something you do to earn money. A **vocation** is all about your passions, your spiritual gifts, talents, and your **calling** from God. Your job is part of God's plan for your life, however, your vocation is not your purpose in life. It's part of God's purpose but it's not God's sole purpose for you.

The common misconception many have is that your calling is your career. To be clear, your calling is far more significant than just your job.

If you are unsure what God's calling is on your life, (which most are) what do you hope to learn about yourself and your calling over the next six weeks?

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The Bible is the story of God calling people. He called Abraham out to leave his home town and eventually become the "Father of many nations." (Genesis 17:5) He called Moses to do something he didn't think he could and lead the Israelite nation (Exodus 14). He called Paul to move from being a Pharisee to becoming an apostle, church planter and missionary (Acts 9:15).

God says that He planned what He wanted you to do before you were born.

*I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope He has given to **those He called**.*

Ephesians 1:18 (NLT)

God has a calling for you! When you understand God's calling for you, it does a few things. First of all, it opens your eyes. Not just your physical eyes, but your spiritual eyes. You begin to see that your life has purpose. You're not here by accident. Next, it fills you with hope because your life has a calling from God. You are excited about the future. You can't wait to see God move in your life and the life of others in small and big ways. Also, when you understand your calling, you begin to see how God has woven the pieces of your life together. He takes your experiences in life and your passions, gifts and talents to equip you for His calling. God is so excited to help you discover your calling. He's going to teach you why He put you here on earth!

Understanding God's will and purpose for your life is critical. Why do you think this is so?

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Let's get a clear overview of what the Bible says about our calling. We will review eight things we need to know.

- 1. My Calling is a GIFT FROM GOD.**
- 2. I Am Called to SERVE GOD'S PURPOSES.**
- 3. God Chose My Calling BEFORE I WAS BORN.**

These first three all go hand-in-hand. The one theme is that God is in control of my calling. In fact, every aspect of your life is a result of God's grace. Read what the apostle Paul wrote to the believers in the church in Ephesus:

*God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. For we are **God's masterpiece**. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we **can do the good things He planned for us long ago**.*

Ephesians 2:8, 10 (NLT)

When God made you, He made a masterpiece! He created you into a masterpiece so you can **"do the good things"** He planned for your life before you were even born. Before you took your first breath, God planned His calling for your life! He formed you in your mother's womb with His calling on your life in mind. In other words, He planted in your heart talents, passions and spiritual gifts to help you fulfill His calling!

How does it make you feel to hear God calls you a Masterpiece and to learn that He gave you talents, passions and spiritual gifts to fulfill the "good works" He planned for you to complete before you go to Heaven?

READ I

The next two things about your calling also go hand-in-hand.

4. My SINS AND MY MISTAKES DON'T CHANGE MY CALLING

5. My CALLING IS PERMANENT

If you want more proof that these two statements are true, read the next verse together:

God doesn't take back the gifts He has given or disown the people He has chosen.

Romans 11:29 (CEV)

We all make mistakes. We all have regrets. But God doesn't. He called you. And He is the One who will help you fulfill your calling.

Your job may change. Your family situation may change. Your desires may change. But God's calling and the "good works" He planned for you to complete will never change.

How does it make you feel to know that your calling is permanent, regardless of your sins and mistakes?

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God created us for relationships and community. In order for our God-given assignment to be fulfilled through our calling, we must be connected to other people.

6. ***My Calling includes being CONNECTED TO OTHERS.***

Hebrews 3:1 says, "*Brothers and sisters, you are **holy partners** in a heavenly calling...*" You have a calling but you can't do it apart from being connected to a church family. That's why being part of a church is important to identifying and discovering our calling. We can't do life alone. Being connected in a community of believers will lead us to realizing and carrying out our calling.

How has being part of a church community and/or small group helped you to discover your calling? (Ex. I've discovered my passions, spiritual gifts and talents while serving and/or attending the Discover My Purpose workshop)

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The last two things about your calling are:

7. ***God Empowers Me to Do What He Calls Me to Do***

8. ***There's a Prize for Living Out My Calling***

For it is [not your strength, but it is] God who is effectively at work in you, both to will and to work [that is, strengthening, energizing, and creating in you the longing and the ability to fulfill His purposes] for His good pleasure.

Philippians 2:13 (AMP)

You do not have to live out God's calling and purposes on your own. Christ lives in you. Think about it, if Jesus lives in you (and He does), then you have His power and His desires working in you to help you fulfill each of the "good works" He planned for you to complete before you go to Heaven. When you fulfill your calling and complete the assignments He planned for you, scripture says you will be rewarded and honored greatly in Heaven.

Please review these last two things about your calling (#7 & #8). Which one means the most to you and why?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

We are just getting started! Your purpose in life is so impactful, not just to you but to others. That's why we will be spending the remaining five weeks on this topic. Will you commit to:

- Be here each week of this series
- Ask God to reveal to you what He has called you to do
- Sign up for **"Discover Your Purpose" Workshop** (S.H.A.P.E.)

**"Discover Your Purpose"
Workshop 2022**

August 24 & 31

6:30 pm via Zoom!

Scan the QR Code



ADDITIONAL ACTION STEPS (Optional):

- Each week, we encourage you to study God's word. We have provided SCRIPTURES for S.O.A.P. to help you get into the habit of spending time with God daily.

CLOSE IN PRAYER:

Dear Father, thank You for creating each of us with a specific calling. You saw who we are and what we would be, and You designed a purpose for each of us that fits perfectly. In Your wisdom, You decided what we would look like, sound like, and even think like. Help us discover our calling so we can be all that You would have us to be. In Jesus' name, amen.



Find Time to READ God's WORD

Reading God's Word daily re-patterns the way you think & transforms your mind. Doing your daily devotions is an excellent way to record, process, & share what God is teaching you on a personal level. We do this using S.O.A.P.

S - Scripture
O - Observation
A - Application
P - Prayer

Here's an example:

S: *Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "*
--Matthew 4:4 (NIV)

O: Jesus said that we can't live on food alone. Our life is sustained through His Word.

A: Just as food is important to me, God's Word is even more because it will sustain me and give me the strength to live out my life.

P: Jesus, thank You for reminding me that I need Your Word to give me the wisdom & strength to follow You. Help me to make time to spend with You daily. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

SCRIPTURES FOR S.O.A.P.

Day 1:

"I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles."

--Isaiah 42:6 (NIV)

Day 2:

I am writing to all who have been called by God the Father, who loves you and keeps you safe in the care of Jesus Christ. May God give you more and more mercy, peace, and love.

--Jude 1:1-2 (NLT)

Day 3:

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people to be His very own and to proclaim the wonderful deeds of the One who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

--1 Peter 2:9 (ISV)

Day 4:

He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of His own purpose and grace.

--2 Timothy 1:9 (NIV)

Day 5:

God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

--1 Corinthians 1:9 (NIV)