

FINDING YOUR PURPOSE

TIPS TO A SUCCESSFUL GROUP

- **CONFIDENTIALITY IS IMPORTANT.** Confidentiality is the key to building trust in relationships. Here are a few mottos to remember to be confidential: “What is said in small group, stays in small group.” **Nothing, nobody, never...** “*Share nothing, to nobody, never*” outside of the group. Additional tips on page 3.

Where Your Passions Meet God's Purposes

ICEBREAKER

If time, money, and responsibilities weren't an issue, what's one passion or interest you'd love to pursue full-time—and why? (Could be anything—music, mentoring, teaching, volunteering, cooking for others, etc.)

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever wondered why you're passionate about certain things like injustice, technology, encouraging others or mentoring youth? That's not random. God often plants passion in us as a clue to our calling. When your **spiritual gifts** (what you're empowered to do) combined with your **natural abilities** (the tools and strengths to accomplish it) intersect

with your **passions** (what you deeply care about), you begin to walk in your **God-given purposes**.

This week, we'll explore your God-given passions and how they can point you toward His greater purposes for your life.

READ |

We don't always recognize passion as something spiritual. It can feel like just a hobby, interest, or personality trait. But Scripture shows us something deeper. Your passions and interests can be God-given.

*For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him.
— Philippians 2:13 (NLT)*

That means your passion might be more than a personal interest—it could be a clue to your calling. Maybe you feel alive when solving complex problems, working with your hands, or supporting others from behind the scenes. You might be drawn to kids, to hospitality, to finances, or to tech, and not realize that God wired you that way for a reason.

What you're passionate about could be connected to what God wants to build through you. Passion isn't just about what excites you—it's often about what God has prepared for you to walk in.

What's one thing you've consistently enjoyed doing or felt drawn to that might be a clue to your God-given passion? (E.g., coordinating events, listening to people one-on-one, creating things, solving problems, working with kids, or helping others stay organized.)

READ |

Let's be honest—sometimes your passion and your gifting don't seem to match. You might care deeply about something but not feel particularly gifted in that area. Maybe you're passionate about supporting struggling families, but you're not a counselor—you're just great at organizing. That could be exactly what's needed. Or you care about teens but you don't feel "cool enough"—maybe your ability to encourage and show up consistently is what makes the difference in their lives. You don't have to be a preacher to impact people.

*Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin...
— Zechariah 4:10 (NLT)*

Sometimes God gives you passion before you know how to use it. Keep showing up with what you have—and He'll show you how you fit into His plans and purposes to build up His Kingdom.

Have you ever felt like your passion and your gifting didn't line up? What's one way you could still serve using what you do have? (E.g. You're drawn to help people in crisis but not sure what to say, so you drop off meals or send encouraging texts. Or, you care about spiritual growth but don't teach, so you host a small group or help with child care so others can attend.)

READ |

Sometimes passion doesn't start with excitement, but with pain. In scripture, Nehemiah was a cupbearer—a trusted position with access, but no obvious connection to rebuilding cities. But when he heard that Jerusalem's walls were in ruins, something in him broke. He didn't ignore the burden. He wept, fasted, and prayed.

When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.
— Nehemiah 1:4 (NIV)

He leaned into it, and that burden turned into a life-changing mission to rebuild the walls around Jerusalem. Sometimes, the thing that **breaks your heart** is actually the thing you're **born to help heal**. That's not just emotion—it's direction. It's the Spirit drawing your attention to something God cares deeply about and wants you to be a part of the solution.

PASSIONS LIST

The people I would like to help the most are (circle 2-3):

Infants	Children	Youth	College students
Teen moms	Single parents	Divorced	Widowed
Singles	Career women	Refugees	Hospitalized
Parents	Empty nesters	Homeless	Poor
Unemployed	Elderly	Disabled	Prisoners

Others: _____

Areas of interest and causes I feel most strongly about are (circle 2-3):

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Gardening | Youth Mentoring | Crafting/DIY | Sports |
| Family Support | Photography | Performing Arts | Life Coaching |
| Language Learning | Travel & Culture | Teaching | History |
| Technology | Animals | Social Justice | Cooking |
| Environmentalism | Games | Outdoors | Writing |
| Mental Wellness | Reading | Public Speaking | Local Politics |
| Music | Visual Arts | Home Repair | Fitness |
| Auto Maintenance | Cooking or Baking | Volunteering | Videography |

Others: _____

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

- **Choose** 6 areas total from each of the Passions List above that you feel most drawn to and write your top 6 on the “*God’s Purposes for My Life*” page (Page 5). **Then come back to this page (24) and discuss the following question with your group:**
- **GROUP DISCUSSION:** What is one issue, need, or group of people that stirs something in you—even just a little? (E.g. helping struggling couples, supporting people through grief, mentoring teens, or helping people manage money wisely)

***Now that you know your Passions...
TEST DRIVE A MINISTRY!***

Scan the QR code to find and try a ministry for 4 weeks!



CLOSE IN PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, thank You for revealing to us more about our purposes through the gifts, abilities, and passions You’ve given us. We ask that You continue to guide us on the path You have set for us and that we will follow with obedience and trust. Please equip us and prepare us, increase our passion for the people You’ve called us to, and open doors of opportunity for us to grow in our gifts. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.



Make Time to be in 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:

Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.

— Isaiah 1:17 (NIV)

Day 2:

The Lord has told you what is good, and this is what He requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

— Micah 6:8 (NLT)

Day 3:

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

— Romans 12:11 (NIV)

Day 4:

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

— Proverbs 31:8–9 (NIV)

Day 5:

Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done.

— Proverbs 19:17 (NIV)