

FINDING YOUR PURPOSE

TIPS TO A SUCCESSFUL GROUP

- 1. 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.

Unlocking Your Purpose: Fulfilling Your Calling

ICEBREAKER

Who is someone you admire—at church, in your family, or in your life—because of the way they use their gifts or passions to serve others?

INTRODUCTION

You were created on purpose, with purpose. God gave you spiritual gifts, natural abilities, and passions—not to sit on the sidelines, but to make a difference. Real fulfillment doesn't come from success or comfort—it comes from living out what God made you to do. Today, we'll help you connect the dots between your gifts, passions, and purpose so you can take

your next step and live it out. When you say yes to His calling, even in small ways, you'll experience the joy and meaning that comes from living aligned with God's plan.

READ |

Think of it like this:

- Your **spiritual gifts** are your power *tools*.
- Your **natural abilities** are your *skills*.
- Your **passions** are your *fuel*.

When all three are aligned and surrendered to God, they can become powerful instruments for healing, justice, hope, and love.

Paul was highly educated, bold, and passionate about truth. God used that to spread the gospel across the known world. Esther was beautiful, brave, and used her voice and courage to save her people "for such a time as this." Even Jesus, a carpenter, used everyday stories to teach God's truths. God can use your gifts, abilities and passions when you surrender them to Him to be used for His purposes.

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord...

— Colossians 3:23 (NIV)

Turn to page 5 and review your *Spiritual Gifts, Natural Abilities and Passions*. Which of your spiritual gifts or abilities could align with a passion God has put on your heart?

(E.g. You're passionate about youth, gifted in encouragement, and naturally a good listener → That might point toward mentoring students. Or, you love creating order, have the gift of administration, and are good at organizing → That could lead to planning events or supporting ministry teams behind the scenes.)

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Your "purpose" isn't just a job title or a ministry position. You may live out multiple roles in your life—parent, teacher, volunteer, business leader, artist, student, servant—but your **core calling remains the same**: Love God. Love people. (*Matthew 22:37–39*)

We often chase the "big thing" God wants us to do. But the greatest commandment is **relational**. If you're using your gifts without love, you're missing the point.

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal... If I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

— 1 Corinthians 13:1–2 (NIV)

You don't have to fix the world—but you are called to be Jesus' hands and feet in it. Whether it's holding babies so parents can attend church, making new people feel welcome, checking in on a lonely neighbor, helping someone with budgeting, or serving behind the scenes to keep things running—**God gave you that passion to reflect His love in practical ways.**

Are there places where you sense God might want to use you, but you've been holding back because of fear, busyness, or feeling inadequate? How can looking at it from a perspective of using your gifts out of love change how you step into your calling?

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You're not on your own in this. God isn't asking you to have your whole future planned out. He's not waiting for you to feel fully prepared. He's simply asking for you to say, "yes, I'll serve you." The Holy Spirit is your guide—not a silent observer. He leads you, equips you, and opens doors you couldn't open on your own.

Your role? **Take your next step of obedience, even if it's just one step.**

"[Jesus said] Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."
— John 3:17 (NIV)

Obedience brings blessings. Sometimes that step looks like showing up. Sometimes it's saying no to something good so you can say yes to what He's asking you to do. Sometimes it's scary—but every time, it's worth it. And as you obey God in the small things, He'll trust you with more. That's how His plans and purposes unfold: one obedient step at a time.

What would it look like to take one small step of obedience—using your gifts, passions and abilities not just for everyday tasks, but for God's purposes? (E.g. helping an elder with errands, serving in a kids' classroom, checking in on someone who is isolated, or volunteering on a team.)

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

- As a group, discuss if you will continue meeting together in your small group for the next series.
- **Pray** over the *God's Purposes for My Life* page. Ask God to highlight what stands out and to clarify where He's already moving in your heart.
- **Ask:** "Where can I take one small step of faith?"
- **Listen:** What's pulling at your heart? What keeps coming up in your mind?

- **Act:** Choose a *practical* place to move forward—whether it’s serving, learning more, reaching out, or simply saying “yes” to a nudge from the Holy Spirit.
- **Bonus:** Find someone in your group who’s willing to check in with you this week and help you stay accountable to the goals you shared.

Now that you know your Purpose...
TEST DRIVE A MINISTRY!

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



CLOSE IN PRAYER:

Father God, thank You for not just saving us, but designing us to be a part of Your plan. Sometimes we struggle with obedience, or trust, or overcoming obstacles, but help us to wholeheartedly surrender and learn to trust You with *all* circumstances. We want to be instruments of Your perfect and good will, so teach us to humbly walk in step with You and open our eyes to the good You have planned for us and others. In Jesus’ name, 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:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight. — Proverbs 3:5–6 (NIV)

Day 2:

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

— Romans 12:1 (NIV)

Day 3:

Jesus replied, "All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them." — John 14:23 (NLT)

Day 4:

His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"

— Matthew 25:21 (NIV)

Day 5:

Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

— Luke 9:23 (NIV)