



**Reaching,
Restoring,
Raising Up**

1140 Morrison Dr
Fort Worth, TX 76120-3426

Phone: 817-451-5513
Email: allan@celebrationnet.com

We're on the Web!
Www. Celebrationnet.com

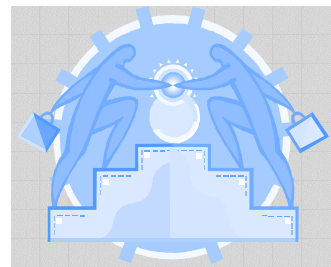
L.I.F.E. Group Questions—Response to the King (Isaiah 6:1-8)

Our L.I.F.E. Groups that meet in homes use the following questions from the sermon for discussion and application. To find a group pick up a L.I.F.E. Group brochure in the Welcome Center.

1. Let different members mention the various things that demand your time, and cause you the most stress. Which ones are most important?
2. What did C.S. Lewis mean when he said “the only thing Christianity cannot be is moderately important”? Talk about how Christianity “fits in” with your everyday life.
- 3.
6. Talk about anything else that impressed you from the message if you have time.

**You Can Join an ABF Anytime — Find
Yours Below and Join Us!**

**40 Days Classes—Locations,
Times, Descriptions**



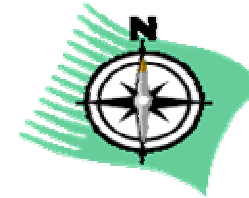
**ADULT BIBLE FELLOWSHIPS
- CONNECTING AROUND THE WORD -**

9:00			10:45		
Rm101	40s-50s	Young-Fendley	Rm 101	30s-50s	Bower-Devereaux
Rm 104	40s-50s	Christensen- Hasler	Rm 104	Open	Hixson-Sturgill
Rm 112	30s-40s	Waller-Norwood	Rm 112	Women	Byrum-Gardiner
Rm 201	30s	Hughes-Work	Rm 201	20s	Jones-Norwood
Rm 203	Singles	Knox-Graham	Rm 202	30s	Miller-Butler
Rm 204	30s-40s	Sims-Bentzel	Rm 203	Singles	Reynolds
Rm 205	20s	Hey-Lux	Rm 204	20s	Alexy-Hopkins
Rm 206	40s-50s	McBrayer-Wicks	Rm 205	Open	Regis-Hubbard
Rm 207	40s	Crary-Elswick	Rm 206	30s	Heritier-Sharp
Rm 208	Women	Knox-Anderson	Rm 207	Open	Youngman-Byrum
			Rm 208	Open	Anderson—Robertson

Jan 11, 2004

40 Days of Purpose

Celebration Fellowship



Volume 1, Issue 1
January 11, 2004

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What On Earth Am I Here For?

As Thoreau said, “most men live lives of quiet desperation”, so they go through their lives trying to fill up the desperation with various pursuits. People try to find their “thing”, but that approach never fully works. The reason? We will never discover our purpose when we begin with ourselves (contrary to popular belief). Since God created us, in order to know “what on earth am I here for” we must begin with Him. In fact the 1st step to discovering our purpose in life is to acknowledge that’s “it’s not

about me”, but about God’s purpose for me. It’s comforting to know that we are not here by accident, but created for a reason. But, since most people don’t know this they are driven by various things like guilt, approval, fear, materialism and/or resentments. However, when we pursue God’s purpose our lives will have meaning, be simpler, have focus and motivation, and will prepare us for the longest part of our lives—eternity. We must see life from God’s perspective—it is a test, a trust and a tempo-



Real success comes by discovering God’s purposes for your life

rary assignment. All we do here prepares for eternity, so it makes sense to pursue God’s purpose for our lives. Ultimately that purpose is His glory—and that’s a purpose worth pursuing.

A Look Back—Free at Last (Galatians 5-6)

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- Worship—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- Fellowship—You were formed for God’s family
- Discipleship—You were created to become like Christ
- Ministry—You were shaped for serving God
- Evangelism—You were made for a mission

“Abby-normal” in Young Frankenstein knew what it felt like to be “free at last”, but as many Christians do with their freedom, he abused it. Paul desperately wanted the Galatians to walk in the freedom of Christ— which was the point of their freedom— but he wanted them to use it to serve others. In fact someone’s rules weren’t the issue; all that mattered was faith working through love. Yet, to maintain this freedom they had to stand firm, refusing to let anyone take it away (as the Judaizers were attempting to do). Because this was a constant danger, and it was not God or Paul’s idea, Paul was adamant that anyone who tried to do this be “cut off” from the fellowship. While this sounds harsh, the downside was huge—if someone returned to a “rules-based” approach to Christianity then Christ would be of no benefit to them. What He had done on the cross would have been wasted, practically speak-

ing. They would have fallen from “grace”, and would have been trying to “work” their way into God’s favor, an impossibility. The “grace” approach is that of faith in God’s promise of righteousness for us through Christ, and love expressed as the Spirit works through us. This results in freedom, but when this freedom is used selfishly Christians bite, devour and consume one another. Since our sinful nature, called the flesh, still fights against our new nature from God, trying to lead us to sin, the only way we can live in love is to allow God’s Spirit to work through us. When we look at our attitudes, words and actions we will know whether we are walking in the Spirit or the flesh. The deeds of the flesh (Gal 5:19-21) and the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23) are easy to see, and when we find ourselves carrying out the desire of the flesh we must repent, and choose to follow Christ in the Spirit again. One of

the ways Christ’s law of love is expressed is through restoring those who have fallen, with an attitude of gentleness and humility since we can fall ourselves. Another way is by sharing with those who have blessed us, and doing good to all as we have opportunity. When we “sow” this love, we will receive love in return; but when we sow selfishness, we will have nothing but ourselves. Our motive, though, must be as Paul’s—for the glory of Christ alone, rather than for personal glory as those who would have us follow their rules. In reality they are not committed to Christ, but to their own comfort and controlling others. In contrast Paul was so committed that he had the brand-marks (stigmata) of Christ on his body—scars from being persecuted. His only desire was that his followers walk in grace. He wanted them to experience the joy that he had in living for Christ, the joy of being “free at last”.

Reading Guide for Days 1-7

Begin each day asking God for understanding, and for how to apply what you discover to your life that day.

Day 1—It All Starts with God

1. Where do most people start in trying to discover a purpose for their lives (p19)?, but where must we start (p18), and why (p18)?
2. How can you discover your purpose (p20) and how can you remind yourself daily that life is about living for God and not for yourself?

Day 2—You Are Not an Accident

3. What does the truth "you are not an accident" mean to you?
4. Since God uniquely created everything about you, what unchangeable aspect of your life (personality, background, physical appearance, etc), are you struggling to accept?

Day 3—What Drives Your Life?

5. List the things that drive most people (pp27-29). Which of these drive you the most?
6. What are the 5 benefits of living a purpose-driven life (pp30-33) and which one would help you right now?

Day 4—Made to Last Forever

7. What are some reasons that it makes sense to live in the light of eternity (pp 36-40)?
8. If you knew that this day would be your last, how would you live it?

Day 5—Seeing Life From God's View

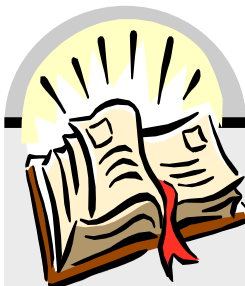
9. How do you picture life and why? What are the 3 ways the Bible pictures life (p42)?
10. What have been some of the biggest tests of your life and how did you respond to them? What are some of the greatest trusts God has given to you?

Day 6—Life Is a Temporary Assignment

11. What are some things that tempt you to get very attached to this world? Why does it *not* make sense to give in to these temptations (pp47-51)?
12. Write down some practical ways to remind yourself today that life on earth is a temporary assignment.

Day 7—The Reason for Everything

13. What is the ultimate goal of the universe (p53)? In your own words what is God's glory and where is it seen (pp53-55)?
14. How do we bring glory to God (pp55-56)? What are the first steps in that process (p58), and have you done this?



"We now must lean on God's promise of righteousness through faith in Christ."

Table Discussion Questions for January 18

Connect

1. Share about yourself and what brought you to Celebration.
2. In the 40 Days of Purpose what is one thing you hope God will do in your life?
3. Review memory verse. After repeating it share something God has taught you this week through it.

Video Outline

- I. The Consequences of Not Knowing Your Purpose
 1. Without knowing your purpose, life will seem _____. (Eccl 1:5-8)
 2. Without knowing your purpose, life will seem _____. (Eccl 1:8b-9)
 3. Without knowing your purpose, life will seem _____. (Eccl 1:15)
- II. The Benefits of Knowing Your Purpose
 1. Knowing the purpose of your life will give your life _____. (Phil 3:13)
 2. Knowing the purpose of your life will _____ your life (Phil 3:13, Is 26:3)
 3. Knowing the purpose of your life will increase _____ in your life. (Phil 3:14, Jer 29:11)
 4. Knowing the purpose of your life will _____. (Phil 3:14, Eccl 3:11a).

Grow

1. If you responded to God by praying that simple prayer, congratulations! Take a moment to share that with the group.
2. In Ecclesiastes 1 three consequences of not knowing your purpose are identified (life is tiresome, unfulfilling, uncontrollable). Review their meaning. Which of these do you identify with the most, and why?
3. What are some things upon which you have focused your life? If you could discover God's purpose how would it help focus your life?
4. What does Ecclesiastes 3:11 mean? How can we practically live on earth in preparation for eternity?
5. What is one thing from your reading this week that God impressed you with?

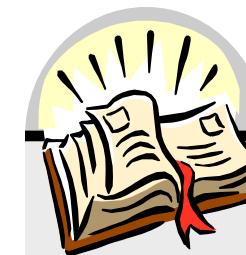
Serve & Share

1. Everyone choose one person at the table that they can pray for this week, and commit to doing that. Your table leader will provide everyone with a list of phone #s and emails next week.
2. Identify some people you can invite to be in 40 Days of Purpose with you next week.]

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Worship

1. Share prayer requests with one another.
2. Pray around the table—if anyone wants to pass, just say "pass" when it comes to your turn.



Memory Verse
For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)