



**Reaching,
Restoring,
Raising Up**

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L.I.F.E. Group Questions—Worship-Planned for God's Pleasure

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.

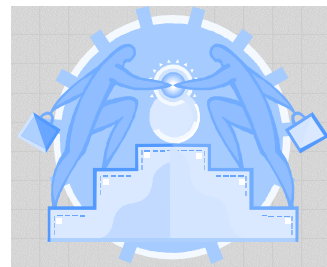
1. How do you really define love, and why is it the most genuine expression of our worship of God?
2. How "heart-felt" is your love for the Lord right now, and how do you gauge that? Has it increased much over the last few years, and why do you think that is so?
3. Take some time as a group to say "thank you" aloud to the Lord for specific blessings. Then sing together, "I love you, Lord" if you know the song. Discuss how you felt after doing this.
4. How often do you meditate on Scripture? Share how you do this with the group.
5. What are some ways to love the Lord with our actions? What is the difference between loving Him with our strength, and loving Him with *all* our strength?
6. Talk about anything else that impressed you from the message if you have time.

We're on the Web!

Www. Celebrationnet.com

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

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



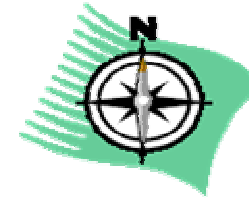
**ADULT BIBLE FELLOWSHIPS
- CONNECTING AROUND THE WORD -**

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 25, 2004

40 Days of Purpose

Celebration Fellowship



Volume 1, Issue 3
January 25, 2004

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Fellowship—Formed for God's Family

Christians are called to "do life together" as Deitrich Bonhoeffer, the German Christian who took a stand for Christ against the Nazi regime, talked about. God didn't design us to "go it alone", but rather we have been "formed for His family". However, this truth is ignored by most of God's people. The idea often promoted is that mature believers are those who can stand alone, and don't need to be "propped up" by others. But, this is not a biblical concept; rather, those who are strong are those who are

interdependent with other believers—they allow God's strength in their lives to support others, and they receive God's strength from others to enable them to glorify God in the world. This mutual support begins with a public identification with Christ through water baptism, and then with a commitment to a local body, which is called church membership. Having done this we all know upon whom we can depend. We then cultivate these relationships by showing love to one another and spending time with



Real success comes by fulfilling God's purposes for your life.

each other. We allow our differences to grow us, and we protect one another by restoring broken relationships and resolving conflict. As we "do life together" we come to understand that we were formed for God's family.

A Look Back—What on Earth am I Here For?

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

Everyone desires to know the purpose of their life—the popularity of horoscopes and fortune cookies confirm this. But how do we find out our purpose? Basically there are only 2 approaches—we either devise our own purpose, or we discover God's purpose for our lives. The first of these is the philosophical approach—throughout history people have tried to develop a philosophy of life that gives it meaning. The purpose of some is to simply survive, while the purpose of others is to "grab for all the gusto" they can get. Others find meaning by the possessions they acquire, while others make the most of their lives through various self-help approaches. The saddest human approach, although really the most honest, is that of the atheist; they actually acknowledge that they are trying to find meaning apart from God since they don't believe He exists. But all of these attempts are dead-end

streets, because God created us. As Bertrand Russell, an atheist, said "unless you assume a God, the question of life's purpose is meaningless". The second approach, based on the fact that we are God's creation, is to discover His purpose for our lives. Because God has placed eternity in our hearts we sense that there is more to life than just this existence. While we often simply try to survive, or even to achieve earthly success, intuitively we realize that these approaches to life are inadequate. A true sense of significance comes when we begin to live life in the light of our eternal existence, and to try to please God who created us in His eternal image. We find that the first step to discovering God's purpose for our lives is to receive His gift of salvation by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ; the next step is to try to live in such a way that our actions please God. The first determines our future existence,

while the second dictates our future rewards. When we begin to live for Him, in light of eternity, then our life has purpose. But where do we gain the knowledge of this type of life? By going to the owner's manual, the Bible. As it says, the beginning of wisdom is the fear, or reverence, of the Lord. When we believe that all truth comes from Him, and that He is the One to whom we will ultimately give an accounting of our life, then we live our lives with a purpose. Interestingly, in the Bible many of the characters lives were transformed over a 40 day period—Noah, Moses, the Hebrew spies in Canaan, the disciples after the resurrection, to name a few. Over these "40 days of purpose" we, too, have the chance to be transformed by God's purposes. As George Herbert said, "it's never too late to be who you might have been." It's never too late to discover and live God's purpose for us.

