



**Reaching,  
Restoring,  
Raising Up**

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**We're on the Web!**  
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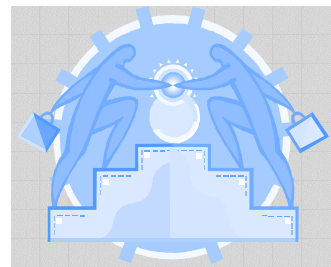
**L.I.F.E. Group Questions—Fellowship-Formed for God's Family**

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. Think of some characteristics of a healthy family. Have you ever been in a church that was like that, and what do you think made it that way?
2. Since joining a church is a voluntary commitment, why do you think that commitment is so important to cultivating genuine fellowship with others at Celebration?
3. Of the 3 things you can't get on your own at church (companionship, comfort, counsel) which one is most important to you right now, and why? How can you help bring this to pass?
4. When you begin to serve alongside others, what does it do for your sense of connection with them? As a group, where could you serve in order to build stronger ties with one another?
5. How much a part of your life has making sacrifices for other members of the body become? When is it easiest, and when is it most difficult? Pray with one another for improvement.
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**



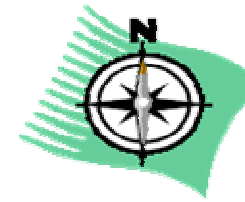
**ADULT BIBLE FELLOWSHIPS  
- CONNECTING AROUND THE WORD -**

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
			3rd Fl/Gym	College	Ayres-Getchell-Hopkins

Feb 1, 2004

**40 Days of Purpose**

**Celebration Fellowship**



Volume 1, Issue 4  
February 1, 2004

**Inside this issue:**

Reading Guide	2
Table Discussion Questions	3
Life Group Questions	4

**Discipleship—Created to Become Like Christ (For Next Week)**

Who did you want to be like when you grew up—your Dad or Mom, or a movie hero, or your big brother or sister? The truth is we all look forward to growing up and being who we were meant to be. The Bible tells us that God has purposed that every Christian grow up to look just like His Son, Jesus. He embodied every fruit of the Spirit, and every character quality that God wants for His people. The greatest of these was the love He showed to His Father, and to others. But becoming like Christ is not natural for

us. That's why God does His part to bring this to pass: He gives us the desire to be like Christ, gives us His Spirit and His Word to fulfill this desire, and uses the very circumstances of our lives as a setting to become like Him. But, (and this is huge), we have an indispensable role to play in this process. We must "work out" our salvation; that is we must take all the resources God has given us to become like Christ and choose to utilize them as we try to follow Him in our everyday lives. We must assimilate His Word,



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

rely on His Spirit through prayer, give and receive support with other believers, respond wisely to problems and temptation, and be patient. When we join God in this process we will grow up to be like Christ.

**A Look Back—Worship, the 1st Purpose**

**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

As one philosopher has said, mankind is incurably religious. That is to say that we all worship something—whether the true God, or a false god, or money, or sex, or even ourselves. We have to have something to which we give ourselves, no matter what it is. The question is, what is the very best thing to worship, the very best thing to which we can commit our lives. The answer from God's Word is clear—we are to worship God, and nothing else—"you shall have no other gods before me". But how do we actually do this? We do it the same way we worship anything else—by loving Him with all of our being. Worship is simply an expression of our love back to God, and there are four different aspects of our being that we are to engage in this love. First, as Jesus said, we are to love the Lord our God with all our heart. The heart is the very core of our being, the place from which every decision, thought, atti-

tude and action proceeds. The heart of worship is truly heart-felt worship—it comes out of the deepest part of our being. If it is superficial it is not real. Unfortunately, because of the effects of sin, we don't even know ourselves well enough to wholeheartedly love God. We only give as much of ourselves as we know at the time in our heartfelt love. So, love from the heart grows over time, and we are obligated to discover more and more of who we are so we can love the Lord with all our heart. Secondly, we must love God passionately, or with all our soul. The soul is our life, the place of our will and emotions. In this context Jesus told us to love God with the part of us that feels and decides, to love Him with passion. We must allow ourselves to "feel" our love for Him if we are to worship Him as He desires. This may mean verbally saying "thank you" or "I love you" in order for His love to really "move" us. Whatever it

takes, true worship must be passionate. And then, the kind of worship God desires is love with all the mind. It must be intelligent, grounded in and governed by the truth. We must worship God for who He really is, not for who we imagine Him to be. This means that some of the time we must use the Word to focus on Him, and let this lead us to focus on Him all of the time. In fact we are urged to seek the Lord's face continually. Finally, we are to love the Lord with all our strength, or practically. This means worship encompasses all of our lives, not just our thought life, our devotional life, or our church life. We are to express our love to God in everything we do, 24-7-365. This means that even the most routine events of life can be mini-worship services for us—if we see Him in all we do. We must "practice the presence of God" in every activity. So, we must love God with all our being, thus fulfilling His first purpose for us.

Reading Guide for Days 22-28—Discipleship

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

Day 22—Created to Become Like Christ

- 1. Who does God want us to look (be) like (pp171-2) and what does He provide to fulfill that potential (pp174-6)?
2. How can you cooperate with the Holy Spirit in developing Christlikeness (p175), and where do you need to start?

Day 23—How We Grow

- 3. After becoming a Christian where does the process of discipleship begin, and what does it involve (p179)?
4. What is God's part in our spiritual growth (p180), and what is our part (p181)? Why is changing our "autopilot", or the way we think, so critical to progress (pp181-3)?

Day 24—Transformed by Truth

- 5. Why are the Scriptures the only reliable authority for us (p187)? Identify one way to live by them today—be specific (p192)?
6. Of the 5 activities for assimilating God's Word into our lives (pp188-190), which one will you begin to do today?

Day 25—Transformed by Trouble

- 7. What are some ways that problems can help us grow spiritually (pp193-4)?
8. How should we respond to problems (pp197-199), and which one do you need to focus on applying today?

Day 26—Growing Through Temptation

- 9. Why process does God use to develop the fruit of the Spirit in our lives (p202)? Can you think of some examples of that in your life, and how have you responded?
10. How does temptation work (pp203-4), and how can it be overcome (p204-7)? Consider analyzing the pattern of a recurring sin (p206), and changing it today.

Day 27—Defeating Temptation

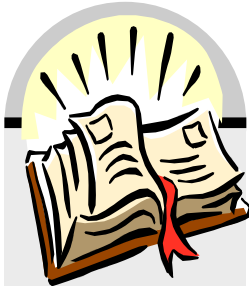
- 11. Why is the principle of "replacement" (p211) so critical for defeating temptation? Think of how you can apply this specifically to an area of temptation this week.
12. How do revealing your struggle to supportive person or group, and recognizing your vulnerability go hand in hand? How does this help us resist the Devil (pp214-5)?

Day 28—It Takes Time

- 13. How do you feel about the fact that spiritual maturity takes time (p217-9)? Why is this a cause for optimism?
14. Of the 5 reasons why it takes so long to grow (pp219-21), which one hits you hardest, and why? What would be the best way to "not get in a hurry" for you today (pp221-3)?

Notes

Handwritten notes area with horizontal lines for writing.



"In a small group, the Body of Christ is real and tangible even when God seems distant."

Table Discussion Questions for Feb 8

Connect

- 1. Share with your group one thing you have learned so far, and one way that you have applied it to your life.
2. Think of a time when you had a "spiritual growth spurt" and tell your group why you think that happened.
3. Review memory verse (Philippians 2:5). After repeating it share something God has taught you this week through it.

Video Outline

"continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose." Philippians 2:12-13 (NIV)

- Work in
•Work out

A. Three Tools God Uses to Make You Like Jesus

- 1. The first tool God uses to make you like Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_.—2 Timothy 3:16-17
2. The second tool God uses to make you like Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_.—2 Corinthians 3:18
3. The third tool God uses to make you like Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_.—Romans 8:28-29

B. Three Choices That Will Help You Become More Like Jesus

- 1. You can choose \_\_\_\_\_.—Psalm 119:9-11
2. You can choose to \_\_\_\_\_ on God's Spirit moment by moment.—John 15:4-5
3. You can choose to \_\_\_\_\_ to your circumstances the way Jesus would.—James 1:2-4

Grow

- 1. How do you think most people define spiritual maturity? What does it really mean to be spiritually mature (p171), and what are some of the things that God uses to make us that way (pp174-176)?
2. How do you feel about the concept that God's ultimate goal for your life is not comfort, but character development (p173)? How does this help explain why we still have problems after we become Christians?
3. What is the difference between "working out" our salvation, and "working for" it (p180-1)? What are some of the things we can do to "work it out"? (p181-183, chapter 24), and where do you need to apply this?
4. From this week's reading, what suggestion for overcoming temptation stood out to you to you the most (pp204-216)?
5. What is one thing from your reading this week that God impressed you with?

Serve & Share

- 1. Take the Purpose Driven Life Health Plan and select one purpose in which you need to grow, and write down one action step you could take to grow in that purpose. Share that with a person at your table.
2. How can your circumstances right now provide you with a unique opportunity to share the Lord with a family member or a friend? Write down that person's name and pray for an opportunity to share with them this week.

Worship

- 1. Pray some short prayers of thanksgiving for what God is doing in your life right now to make you more like Jesus (it's okay to pass if you feel it necessary).
2. Share prayer requests and praises with one another and write these on your Prayer and Praise sheet.
3. Pray in pairs this week—for the ability to follow through on your action step, and to apply the principles for responding to problems and overcoming temptation found in this week's study. Be as specific as you can.



Memory Verse

"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus." Philippians 2:5 (NIV)