



**Reaching,
Restoring,
Raising Up**

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L.I.F.E. Group Questions—Ministry

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.

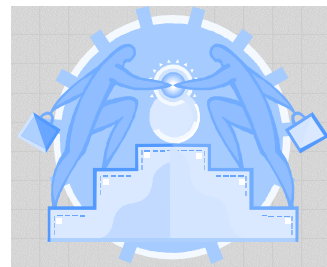
1. Talk about how your experience in serving has been in the past. What did you like about it, and what did you hate?
2. What do you consider yourself to be the most passionate about in the area of helping others or making a difference in life? How could you use that in church?
3. How would you describe a servant's heart? Why is it vital to have this if you are to be effective in service over the long haul?
4. At this point what do you think you are most gifted or able to do in church?
5. Take some time in groups of 3 or 4 to talk about, based on your personal understanding of one another, how you think each other could serve most effectively in the church.
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**



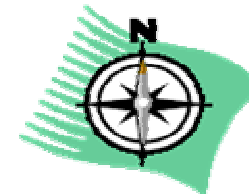
**ADULT BIBLE FELLOWSHIPS
- CONNECTING AROUND THE WORD -**

		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		
			3rd Fl/Gym	College	Ayres-Getchell-Hopkins		

Feb 15, 2004

40 Days of Purpose

Celebration Fellowship



Volume 1, Issue 6
February 15, 2004

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**Evangelism—Made For a Mission
(For Next Week)**

One of the first things we have to teach our kids is to share. Sadly, it is our human nature to hold onto the “good stuff” for ourselves. But God’s ways are not always ours; His way is to give, not to keep, as He demonstrated at the cross. In like manner we are to give away that which we have received, and that begins with the Good News of Jesus Christ. As part of the family of God we were made for a mission, to not only come to Jesus, but to go for Him. Our ministry in the church is to believers, but our

mission in the world is to unbelievers. Jesus gave us this commission so that we might continue His ministry, and in the process make our lives count for eternity. Each of us has a unique life message which includes the story of how we came to know Christ, and this message uniquely equips us to minister to those God sovereignly places in our paths. It is our responsibility to be prepared with our story, to be sensitive to those whom God leads our way, to build relationships with those who don’t know



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

Christ, and then to let them know how to receive what God has given us. This may take us to the ends of the earth, or it may happen in our own back yard. Either way, we are made for mission, to give away God’s love to others.

A Look Back—Discipleship, Becoming Christ-like

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

Although it isn’t always intentional, we become like those that we admire. Whether it’s a little brother who wants to be just like his “bubba”, or a young athlete who imitates their hero, it is natural to model our lives after someone else. The Bible tells us that we were all created to become like Christ, and this is real maturity. This process begins as we place our faith in Him for salvation, but progresses as we entrust our everyday lives to Him. God calls us to do our part, and He does His part. He gives us 3 tools to use as we find ourselves in various situations that will allow us to become conformed to the image of Christ. The first tool is His Word which instructs us; the second tool is His Spirit which empowers us; and the last is His people who encourage us. In each situation these tools must be utilized to make the most progress in becoming more like Christ. With these tools available for us, God then takes 3

tools of His own choosing to provide the opportunity for growth. The first of these that God uses is that of trials. As James 1:2-3 says trials, as tests for our faith, ultimately produce completeness or maturity. These trials are inevitable, coming about due to our own poor choices, the poor choices of others, or simply opportunities allowed by God to teach us to rely upon His Word, His Spirit and His people. These trials are unlimited and unpredictable, but when approached properly they enhance our purity, increase our endurance, and enlarge our present capacity. God also uses temptation in our lives to make us look like Jesus. While it is not a sin to be tempted (Jesus Himself was tempted), it is through temptation that we fall into sin. We are all tempted in many ways, and the process begins with a God-given desire. The problem comes when we try to fulfill that desire in our own way or in our own time, rather

than allowing God to meet it. But, when we consult God’s Word for instruction, cry out to His Spirit for empowerment, and confess our need to God’s people for encouragement, temptation can be overcome and our growth will continue. Finally, God uses the trespasses and wounds of others to conform us to Christ’s image. Whether they have said something against us, taken something from us, or done something to us, it is our responsibility to forgive them, letting go of the offense and placing them squarely into God’s hands. While this is difficult, through God’s Word, His Spirit and His people we can release others from our debt and move forward in our capacity to freely love others, even those who have wounded us. As we successfully use God’s tools to navigate trials, temptations and others’ trespasses against us, we find ourselves becoming more and more like Christ.

Reading Guide for Days 36-40—Evangelism

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

Day 36—Made for a Mission

1. What is every Christian's mission (p282)? Which of the 6 reasons listed in this chapter for fulfilling our mission makes the deepest impression on you, and why?
2. What does it require for us to fulfill God's mission for our life (p286)? What particular obstacle in your life most often keeps you from sharing the story of Jesus with others?

Day 37—Sharing Your Life Message

3. Write a brief overview of your testimony (pp290-91) under the 4 headings listed on p290.
4. Identify 2 or 3 life lessons you have learned, and 2 or 3 of your godly passions (pp291-293).

Day 38—Becoming a World-Class Christian

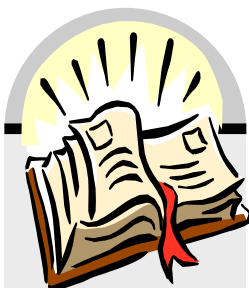
5. When you think of being a "missionary" what thoughts come into your head? How should we think of ourselves instead (p297-299), and what are some ways that you can personally carry the cause of Christ to the ends of the earth?
6. What are some ways to switch to "global" thinking (pp300-301)? What has mostly kept you from thinking this way in the past, and how will you overcome this?

Day 39—Balancing Your Life

7. What are the 4 ways to keep the 5 purposes in balance and active in your life (pp306-309)? Decide on how you will do these 4 things regularly and write them down. Daily ask God for strength to do these things.
8. How did Jesus carry out the 5 purposes in His life (p310), and what was His motive (p310)?

Day 40—Living With Purpose

9. Using the 5 questions on pp314-316 write your own life purpose statement. Do a quick rough draft before you refine it.
10. Think of 2 or 3 effects that living out your life purpose will have on your family, friends, work associates and church family.



"It has never been easier in history to fulfill your commission to go to the whole world."

Table Discussion Questions for Feb 22

Connect

1. Briefly talk about some discoveries you are making about your God-given "shape".
2. Review memory verse (1 Peter 4:10). After repeating it share something God has taught you this week through it.
3. Share about a time when you were lost as a child and what it was like. If no one has had that experience, talk about how you think it would feel to be lost like that. How is this similar to the feelings of those who don't know Jesus?

Video Outline

See Luke 5:17-26

Four Keys to Fulfilling God's Mission in the World

1. They became _____ for their hurting friend. (Romans 15:2)
2. They believed Jesus _____ their friend. (Hebrews 7:25)
3. They didn't just pray for their friend; they _____ him to Jesus. (Luke 14:23)
4. They didn't let difficulties _____ them. (2 Peter 3:9)

Bringing pleasure to God through worship,
Experiencing life together through fellowship,
Growing spiritually to be more like Christ through discipleship,
Serving the needs of others through ministry,
Sharing the Good News through evangelism...
God wants us to not only live purpose-driven _____;
He wants to grow purpose-driven _____.

Grow

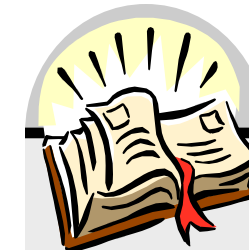
1. When you hear the word "evangelism" or think about sharing your faith, what images come to your mind? What is it really about?
2. What stood out to you about the story about the paralytic from Luke 5 that Rick talked about?
3. Is it easy or difficult for you to build relationships with those who don't know Christ? Why? Talk about some good ways to do this.
4. What are some of the needs of the people with whom you are close that demonstrate a deep spiritual hunger? How could you meet those needs and open a door of opportunity for sharing Christ with them?
5. What is one thing from your reading this week that God impressed you with?

Serve & Share

1. Pair up and share your life message (including testimony) with each other.
2. Go around the table and tell your "life purpose statement". If anyone is struggling with this, help them develop or refine it.
3. After the 40 Days of Purpose has concluded the groups will continue on Sunday mornings with the same format. The next study will be over the book of Philippians—James will be teaching from it, and groups will share this study together. If you would like to be part of this, indicate that on the table attendance sheet with a "yes" by your name. We'll be in touch.

Worship

1. Celebrate what each one has learned over these 6 weeks, and thank God for that.
2. Update your Prayer and Praise sheet and pray around the table for the needs on the sheet (it's okay to pass).



Memory Verse

"Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity."
Colossians 4:5 (NIV)