



**Reaching,  
Restoring,  
Raising Up**

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**L.I.F.E. Group Questions—Mission**

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.

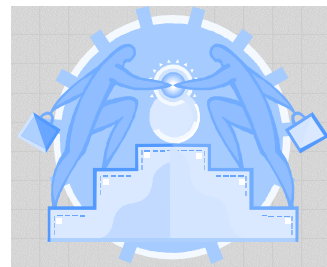
1. How involved are you right now in trying to share the story of Jesus with others? Why?
2. What do you think is unique about your life story that God could use to reach others?
3. What do you think Colossians 4:5 means when it says “be wise in the way you act towards outsiders”. Think of some specific strategies that you can employ.
4. Talk about some people you know whom you would like to see come to Christ. Take some time to pray for them in your group.
5. As a group what could you consider doing to take the message and ministry of Christ to someone—either near (local ministry) or far (missions)?
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**



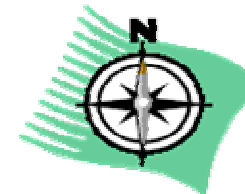
**ADULT BIBLE FELLOWSHIPS  
- CONNECTING AROUND THE WORD -**

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 22, 2004

**40 Days of Purpose**

**Celebration Fellowship**



Volume 1, Issue 7  
February 22, 2004

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**Developing Your Life's Purpose  
(For Next Week)**

The slogan “Just Do It” is part of our culture because it so resonates with our ongoing struggle—the tendency to say we believe in something while failing to follow through with action. But, as James 2:20 says, “faith without works is useless”. The application to *40 Days of Purpose*, with our new commitment to living out the 5 purposes, is obvious: we must act on these purposes if they are to matter. If worship is the first and highest purpose, then we must intentionally put a mechanism into place to worship

God 24-7-365, and we must decide to regularly get alone with the Father, with a specific time and place. With the purpose of fellowship, we need an action plan for connecting with other believers, and developing true community with them. We need to commit to church membership, and an ongoing small group experience because we must have an arena in which to express love. Otherwise, the purpose of fellowship purpose means nothing. The same is true for discipleship—we must structure our lives to



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

grow up into the image of Christ. The ministry purpose calls us to actually begin to serve, just as purposeful mission requires that we go out, putting feet to our faith. The next step, the one that matters, is to “just do it”.

**A Look Back—Ministry—Saved to Serve**

**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

We began this series with the thought, “Don't Waste Your Life”. The fourth purpose, ministry, fleshes out this concept in the arena of believers. We have two options with our lives—we can either spend them, wasting ourselves and our resources in the process, or we can invest them, multiplying the return on our lives. This is what Jesus did—He came not to be served, but to serve, and thus fulfilled the pathway to true greatness, which is servanthood. While serving others is an innate desire in all people, it conflicts directly with our selfish nature. In light of this the question is, “how do we become servants of others”; how can we overcome our selfishness and fulfill the higher desire of service to our fellow man? It begins with a decision to be available. Unfortunately since we pursue our selfish agendas we tend to fill up our day with things that matter to us. But, as Jesus' life illustrated, God inter-

rupts our schedule to enable us to minister to others. We must go with the opportunity and trust He will give us the time to finish what we were doing. Sometimes our inclination to compare ourselves with others hinders our service—we think someone else can do it better. Sadly, an even deeper issue is that our allegiance is split between the true Master, Jesus, and other false masters—like money, material possessions, etc. We give our time to the pursuit of these things and have no time to minister to those around us. We must deal with these three impediments to our availability if we are to successfully serve others. And then, we must have hearts filled with gratitude. As Thomas Jefferson said, “if the heart is right, the feet are swift”. This gratitude comes from a process of personal growth and recovery. We must own who we really are, and how we really behave, if we are to bring those character defects to God

and ask Him to change them. Once we bring this inventory to God, and surrender to Him, He begins to transform us from the inside out. When this genuinely happens we cannot help but give back to others. The heart that has truly changed, will naturally, out of gratitude to the Changer, want to minister to others. Finally, to become a servant, we must commit to be faithful; this is the one thing that is required of stewards, or servants. We have been entrusted with the grace of God and we must not selfishly hoard or abuse this grace. It has been given to us to pass on to others; however, this requires perseverance because serving is hard, although fulfilling work. So, an up-front commitment to remain faithful must be made. Again, Jesus set the example for us—He resolutely set His face toward the cross so that He could fulfill His ministry to us. If we are to avoid wasting our lives we can do no less.

## Reading Guide for Developing Your Life's Purpose

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

### What on Earth Am I Here For—Chapters 1-7

1. What ought to be our supreme goal in life (p55), and how do we accomplish this best (p55)? Why is it true that the glory of God is a human being fully alive, and what does this mean to you?
2. Why does seeing life as a test, a trust and a temporary assignment (pp 41-52) enable us to get the most out of this life, and out of eternity? How can you remember these truths on a daily basis?

### Worship—Planned for God's Pleasure—Chapters 8-14

3. What is worship essentially (p64), and how should the concept that we worship God for His benefit and not ours (p66) impact our lives? How can you make worship a part of your daily lifestyle?
4. What is the heart of worship (p77), and why do you think that is true? What keeps people from doing this (p78)? Which of these hindrances most often affects your worship of God?

### Fellowship—Formed for God's Family—Chapters 15-21

5. Why is the statement "life is all about love" true (p124-129)? How well are you doing in your love for others—especially to your family, your friends, and Christian family, and what steps can you take to grow more?
6. What is the difference between a church attender and a church member (p136)? Why is the commitment to membership so vital to growing in love for God and for others (pp132-137)?

### Discipleship—Created to Become Like Christ—Chapters 22-28

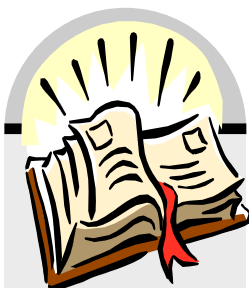
7. How do we actually become "like Christ" (pp174-178), and what are 3 activities that you think God wants you to focus on right now that will move you farther in this process?
8. How does God use temptation and trouble to develop us spiritually (p202)? How should you respond to temptation or trouble when you face them (using pp197-216 think of a "typical" situation and how you would specifically do this)?

### Ministry—Shaped for Serving God—Chapters 29-35

9. Since "service is not optional" (p233) what is holding you back from serving Him in some particular area? What can you do to overcome this?
10. Why is it true that "the only happy people are those who have learned how to serve" (p270)? In which area do you need to think more like a servant (pp265-270)?

### Evangelism—Made for a Mission—Chapters 36-40

11. Write out your life message (if you haven't already), and pray for an opportunity to share it with someone today.
12. How balanced between the 5 purposes is your life right now? Which one do you need to strengthen, and how will you do this?



"It is only in God that we discover our origin, our identity, our meaning, our purpose, our significance, and our destiny."

## Table Discussion Questions for Feb 22

### Connect—Big Group

1. Share some of the most surprising things that you have learned during 40 Days of Purpose.
2. Talk about which memory verses have been most meaningful at your tables, then appoint a spokesman to share that with the group. (Eph 2:10, Mark 12:30, Rom 12:5, Phil 2:5, 1 Pet 4:10, Col 4:5).

### Grow—Table Groups

1. Before you started 40 days what would you say drove your life? How has the 40 Days of Purpose changed that (what on earth are you here for)?
2. Purpose #1—When does worship take place and why is surrender the heart of worship? Are there areas of your life in which lack of surrender is hindering your worship?
3. Purpose #2—What are some of the values that you see in being committed to God's family? Has this commitment been demonstrated in some particular way during these 40 Days (showing love, being present, resolving conflict, preserving unity, etc)?
4. Purpose #3—How have you come to understand your part and God's part in becoming like Christ? Is there a particular thing you are personally working on that you could share with the group?
5. Purpose #4—At this point what do you think your unique "shape" is for serving God? Have you discovered a place where God can use that shape to serve other believers, or to minister to non-believers?
6. Purpose #5—Have you made the decision to make evangelism or mission a significant purpose for your life? Why or why not? How do you see that working itself out in your life in the near or distant future?

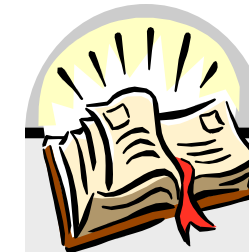
### Serve & Share—Big Group

1. Talk about how you can continue to encourage one another is being faithful to God's 5 purposes for their lives—calling, attending an ABF together, email, etc.
2. Think of some ways to develop some relationships with non-believers in your life, and/or ways to move some existing relationships forward. How could the church help you in this process of evangelism?

### Worship—Table Groups

1. Share about how you have been encouraged by the people in your group and praise God for that.
2. Talk about how each of the 5 purposes shows how much God loves us, and thank Him for that.
3. Update your Prayer and Praise sheet and pray around the table for the needs on the sheet (it's okay to pass). Everyone take these needs home with them, and commit to continue to pray for and keep up with each other.

**For March 7:** Everyone will continue in ABFs as James begins a series, "How to Get the Most Out of Life" based on the book of Philippians. This study/discussion guide will focus on this, and the discussions will center on this as well. We'll let you know next week where your new ABF will meet.



### Memory Verse

"Everything got started in Him and finds its purpose in Him."  
Colossians 1:16b (Msg)