

Study Guide
Finding and Fulfilling My Purpose
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Key Verse:

“The way of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, which shines ever brighter until the full light of day. But the way of the wicked is like total darkness. They have no idea what they are stumbling over.”

Proverbs 4:18-19 (NLT)

Have you ever asked one of the following questions:

- **What is God’s will for my life?**
- **Why was I born?**
- **Why am I here, and can I know for sure why I am here?**
- **Now that I am older and close to retirement, does God still have a plan for my life?**

Many Christians think God is playing “hide and seek” with them. They equate finding God’s will for their life with a scavenger hunt.

Read Romans 14:12.

Read 1 Corinthians 3:9-15.

Why is it important for us to discover and fulfill our God-given purpose in life?

It is of vital importance for us to live out our God-given purpose on earth, but it can feel difficult to know if you are heading in the right direction or if you are succeeding in your purpose.

Read Matthew 7:7-11.

Would you offer your child a reward, and then leave them to find it on their own?

How much more does God want you to find the reward He has offered you?

Proverbs 4:18 (NLT)

The way of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, which shines ever brighter until the full light of day.

As we seek God *diligently* (Matthew 7:7-8), God will shine the light on our path and purpose brighter and brighter (Proverbs 4:18).

Read Proverbs 4:19.

What happens for those who seek to find their purpose without seeking God first?

When we first start our journey, it is easy for us to focus all our efforts on *starting*, but as we grow and mature in our journey, we find that the focus shifts more toward *finishing*.

2 Timothy 4:6-8 (NLT)

As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. And now the prize awaits me – the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.

This passage is often misused at funerals and memorial services. Paul's focus is not his death, but on the way that he lived his life – how he fulfilled his purpose.

Read 2 Timothy 4:6.

What is Paul's focus in this verse (what does he point out before he mentions his death)?

When you reach the end of your life, will you be able to say that your life "has been poured out as an offering to God"?

Read 2 Timothy 4:7.

What is the "good fight"?

How can you remain faithful and finish your race well (in a way that fulfills your purpose)?

Life constantly has disruptions and interruptions which come our way to steal our faith. The Holy Spirit says the good fight is the fight to hold our faith.

1 Timothy 6:12 (NLT)

Fight the good fight for the true faith. Hold tightly to the eternal life to which God has called you, which you have declared so well before many witnesses.

While all of us have a God-given purpose to be lived out while we are on earth, it can feel as though we have wasted our lives if we are choosing to follow Christ later in life.

Read Matthew 20:1-15.

How many different groups of workers did the landowner hire in this parable?

How many hours did each group work?

How did the landowner pay each group at the end of the day?

Read verses 1 & 2 again.

How does God reward those who follow Him their entire lives versus those who follow Him later in life?

Read the following passages and discuss how they describe our search for purpose:

Jeremiah 29:11

Psalm 37:23

Psalm 32:8

Jeremiah 1:5

Psalm 37:23

Psalm 139:16

Psalm 48:14

Proverbs 3:5-6

Psalm 139:16

Ephesians 2:10

Psalm 25:12

Romans 8:14