

2024



REGARDLESS

THE SEAT OF EXPECTATION SERIES

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Proverbs 19:21 NIV - Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.

We have to let God's purpose prevail in our lives. Let's look at Samson, God had an expectation for him to sit in his seat regardless. Samson was born with a purpose, like all of us. Our job is to live out our purpose. Samson is a type and shadow of Jesus because he was a deliverer, his birth was prophesied and he was hand picked by God. There were certain perimeters connected to him due to his calling.

PURPOSE

PURPOSE HAS PERIMETERS

*Judges 13:5 NIV - You will become pregnant and have a son whose head is never to be touched by a razor because the boy is to be a Nazirite, dedicated to God from the womb. **He will take the lead in delivering Israel from the hands of the Philistines.***

- Before you got here there are some wins God assigned to your life
- God has already announced to your Next that you are on the way
- You are more than a verse
- You set the temperature
- You are the light in the midst of darkness
- You have been handpicked for this by God?

What are some way that you have been marked by God? What do the perimeters of your purpose look like in your life?

Ephesians 1:11 NIV - In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,

- God has set the perimeters of your life because of your purpose
- It is already working for your good
- God has put that gift in you
- You have been chosen for this
- God is going to work out the good, the bad and the ugly in your life

Do you wonder why you've been put into that uncomfortable or born into that dysfunctional family? How do you find your purpose in these situations?

PURPOSE IS POWERFUL

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- If you are going to be a deliver you must be delivered from something
- It is resilient
- You cannot wear the oil of deliverance without being delivered yourself

What has the oil cost you? What have you been delivered from?

PURPOSE IS SIGNIFICANT

Judges 15:20 NIV - Samson led Israel for twenty years in the days of the Philistines.

- The people realized the seat he occupied after his victories (see Judges 13-15)
- He had public victories and private defeats
- Your private life should integrate with your public life
- You don't look like what you been through
- Before the enemy throws a party you got proof that favor is on your life
- You are the set it off person

What is your testimony of that thing or person that came into your life that was supposed to kill your purpose and your destiny, but you recognized the enemy and God gave you victory in it?

SOMETIMES YOUR VICTORIES MAKE YOU VULNERABLE

- Identify your weakness, so God be strong in your weakness
- Don't judge others by their weakness
- Just because you have struggles doesn't mean God will let you out of your seat
- Don't nobody know what you went through to get your seat
- Your victories are proof that you belong in the seat

How do you sit in your seat regardless of your private struggles? What are you dealing with that needs to be slayed?

REGARDLESS OF YOUR HEART

Judges 16:4 NIV - Some time later, he fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek whose name was Delilah.

- Never fall in love with only lusts you
- Love gives lust takes
- Beware of those that take your truth and try to use it against you
- Don't let know one trick you out of your seat
- You don't have to explain your seat

Have you ever let someone whisper sweet things in your ear and you know this ain't God? How did you respond?

YOUR DISAPPOINTMENT IS MEANT TO DEVELOP YOU

REGARDLESS OF YOUR DISAPPOINTMENT

Judges 16:19 NIV - After putting him to sleep on her lap, she called for someone to shave off the seven braids of his hair, and so began to subdue him. And his strength left him.

- The enemy is allowed to assign assignments to your life, it's meant to draw you closer to God
- *Psalms 55:12-13 NIV - [12] If an enemy were insulting me, I could endure it; if a foe were rising against me, I could hide. [13] But it is you, a man like myself, my companion, my close friend,*
- If they weren't close to you it wouldn't matter so much
- you are prepared when strangers try to hurt you
- The attack isn't about you it's about what you're carrying
- You cannot leave your seat because they let you down

Have you ever told someone your truth and they used it against you? Have you been disappointed by someone you thought was close and they did it maliciously to hurt you? How did disappointment impact your purpose?

REGARDLESS OF YOUR LACK OF SPIRITUALITY

Judges 16:20 NIV - [20] Then she called, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" He awoke from his sleep and thought, "I'll go out as before and shake myself free." But he did not know that the Lord had left him.

- The worst thing you can do is try do something spiritual in your flesh
- Be careful of people wanting your flesh they really want your faith
- God will back up off of you to squeeze you to get back in your place
- You are doing the same thing expecting the same results
- God has not abandoned you, he's trying to get you to shift in your new seat
- You are not the normal

When things are not moving how do you seek God for the new rhythm in your life? What do you do to allow you to continue to trust God?

REGARDLESS OF YOUR PHYSICAL CONDITION OR LOCATION

Judges 16:21 NIV - Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding grain in the prison.

- They took sight but not vision
- Your vision comes from God, sight is a function of your eyes
- It's important that whenever you lose your sight you hold onto your vision
- Keep pushing until your vision lines up with your sight
- It used to be easy to pray, come to church, but now you got to grind to get here
- Everything seems hard and complicated
- It's the enemy trying to get you out of your seat
- God is shifting you

Do you believe God is shifting you to a new season? Why or why not?

STILL IN THE SEAT

Judges 16:22 NIV - [22] But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.

- Nobody can take your seat as long as you are in it
- God has not abandoned you he just wants you to shift in your seat
- God has a way of growing you secretly
- Don't give up on GOD
- You might not be as strong as you use to be, but you have grown
- You're not where you used to be

How have you grown from heartbreaks, disappointments and setbacks? What will you do differently, so that you won't abandon your seat again?

REPENTANCE ALWAYS RELEASES THE POWER

REPENTANCE HAPPENS WHEN YOU GET A REVELATION

RESTORATION HAPPENS WHEN YOU REPENT

Deuteronomy 30:3 NIV- then the Lord your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you.

- God will restore everything that was lost
- Your promise is bigger than your mistake
- God is repositioning you
- Grace doesn't give you a license to sin, it fills in the gap

- God is going to give you new strategies

Have you prayed and asked God for the new strategy? What is your understanding of repentance and restoration? How does this understanding help you continue to sit in the seat of expectation?

FROM THE SEAT OF EXPECTATION

THEN HE PRAYED

*Judges 16:28 NIV - Then Samson prayed to the Lord, "Sovereign Lord, **remember me**. Please, God, **strengthen me** just once more, and **let me** with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes.*

- Don't stop praying regardless of what happens

When was the last time you prayed to God for help in pursuing your purpose? Reflect on a time that God remembered you, how did this strengthen or encourage you?

THEN HE REACHED

*Judges 16:29 NIV- **Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood**. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other,*

- Reach for tools that will give you a victory
- You cannot reach for the victory just sitting in you seat

What are you reaching for regardless of what is happening around you? What tools are you using to get to your next victory?

THEN HE PUSHED

*Judges 16:30 NIV- Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" **Then he pushed with all his might**, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. **Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived**.*

- Pray until something happens
- When you are having a bad day you cannot let others see it
- there are times when you don't want to be bothered
- God is about to give you a push that's going to last for the whole year
- You got to push in ministry, family, marriage, work etc.
- Your ending is going to be greater

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Ask yourself, have you given it your all? How can you push yourself to your limits to achieve what God has called you to do?

Joseph had to stay in the seat even after being thrown in the pit

Daniel had to stay in the seat after being placed in the lion’s den

Peter had to stay in the seat after he lied, cursed, and denied

Jesus had to stay in the seat after they lied, tried him, spit on him, beat him, and hung him on THE CROSS

2 Corinthians 12:9-13 MSG - and then he told me, My grace is enough; it's all you need. My strength comes into its own in your weakness. Once I heard that, I was glad to let it happen. I quit focusing on the handicap and began appreciating the gift. It was a case of Christ's strength moving in on my weakness. Now I take limitations in stride, and with good cheer, these limitations that cut me down to size – abuse, accidents, opposition, bad breaks. I just let Christ take over! And so the weaker I get, the stronger I become. Well, now I've done it! I've made a complete fool of myself by going on like this. But it's not all my fault; you put me up to it. You should have been doing this for me, sticking up for me and commending me instead of making me do it for myself. You know from personal experience that even if I'm a nobody, a nothing, I wasn't second-rate compared to those big-shot apostles you're so taken with. All the signs that mark a true apostle were in evidence while I was with you through both good times and bad: signs of portent, signs of wonder, signs of power. Did you get less of me or of God than any of the other churches? The only thing you got less of was less responsibility for my upkeep. Well, I'm sorry. Forgive me for depriving you.

1 Peter 4:1 KJV - Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

QUESTION

How can you stay focused on God and your calling regardless of what is happening around you?

DECLARATION

Thank you God that I have my strength back. I have the victory! I was born to do this. This is my year of expectation.

PRAYER

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*Father God, Give me the strength I need to do what I need to do. O Sovereign Lord, strengthen me once more to get back in my seat. I will not give up, but I will trust and believe that you are with me. I will push to believe again. I will push to get my strength back with your help. You are the God of miracle, signs and wonders. Your promise is that my latter will be greater and I believe what your word says. I praise you God that what use to be difficult is about to be made easy, because all things are working together for my good.
in Jesus' name, Amen!*