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Groups Sermon Study Questions

## THE CUP OF PRAISE

May 21, 2017

# **Message Summary**

This week we took a look at the fourth cup: The Cup of Praise. When we embrace the life that God has for us, accepting His salvation, His freedom, and His redemption, we can live the life with the God-given purpose and mission that drives our actions. No longer will we let our pasts cripple us, anything other than God define us, or be left to do this on our own. This is a life lived to the fullest, fulfilling His purposes and for His glory.

# **Consider This**

Why do you think people have dreams of what their life will be all about?

What stops people from chasing after their dreams?

What do you dream to do?

# Read 2 Timothy 2:6-12

In verse 6, Paul compels, someone he has mentored in the past, Timothy to "fan into flame" the gifts we have received from God.

- 1. What do you think this looks like?
- 2. How do we do that today?
- 3. What characteristics are to define our action, even if we face opposition and persecution?
- 4. Read verses 9-10 again. What are we called to? Why are we called to it?
- 5. How do we align our dreams and desires to have a gospel impact in this world?
- 6. Look at verses 11-12. How did Paul model gospel impact in his work, despite the suffering that it brought?
- 7. Would you be willing to fulfill your calling knowing that suffering may be ahead?

### Read Acts 20:22-24

- 8. Why was Paul set on going to Jerusalem?
- 9. What was Paul's life focused on? Outside of that purpose, how did he view his life?
- 10. Do you know what your God-given purpose is? How are you looking to pursue that calling?

For some of us, God can give us a laser-focused purpose for us to strive after. For others, it may be less about a specific task or job and more about a living where you are at and striving to honor Him in each moment (perhaps God will make clear our purpose as we are faithful with the moments).

11. How do we model this mindset if we are not called to a specific task or job?

#### Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

12. What value does community play in living out our purpose?

13. How do you join with others of a common bond to live out your God-given purpose?

14. Verse 12 says, "a cord of three strands is not quickly broken." How does community strengthen your pursuit of your purpose in the face of adversity?

#### **Action Steps**

Exodus 6:6-7

"...I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians."

## **Embracing your Purpose**

Spend some time this week meditating on the verses below. If you have a sense of the purpose God is impressing on you write it out, along with a first step you are going to take to see that purpose come to life. Use the back page to write out the message that God shares with you.

#### Verses to reflect on:

Psalm 37 Proverbs 3:5-6
Proverbs 16:9 Jeremiah 1:4-9
Matthew 6:25-34 John 15:1- 27
Romans 12:1-21 1 Corinthians 2:9-10
Ephesians 2:8-10 Philippians 4:1-7