

#1 Summary

This sermon focuses on the importance of discovering and living out God's purpose for each believer's life. Using the analogy of two gardeners - one who planted flowers without purpose and gave up during drought, and another who grew vegetables to feed the community and persevered - the pastor illustrates that the difference between activity and impact is purpose. The message emphasizes that every believer is called to ministry and has a specific role in the body of Christ. The church's Growth Track program is presented as a four-step process to help people discover their purpose, develop leadership, and join teams where their gifts and passions intersect.

#2 Intro Prayer

Lord, we ask that You would speak to us today through Your Word and help us to be receptive to what You want to teach us. Remove any barriers, fears, or past hurts that might prevent us from hearing Your voice clearly. Help us to see ourselves as You see us - as valuable members of Your body with important roles to play. We pray that You would use this time together to reveal Your heart for each person in this group. In Jesus' name, Amen.

#3 Ice Breaker

If you could have any superpower for just one day, what would it be and how would you use it to help others?

#4 Key Verses

Romans 12:4-5

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

1 Peter 2:5

Ephesians 4:11-12

1 Peter 4:10

Acts 2:42-47

#5 Questions

1. The pastor shared that purpose is found where your gifts and passions intersect. Can you think of an area in your life where you see this intersection? What might that reveal about your calling?
2. How does it change your perspective to know that every believer is called to ministry, not just paid church staff?
3. The sermon mentioned that ministry is service, not status. How might this truth challenge common perceptions about church leadership and involvement?
4. What fears or past experiences might be holding you back from discovering or stepping into your God-given purpose?
5. How does understanding that we are all 'Christ's ambassadors' impact the way you think about your daily interactions with others?
6. The early church in Acts 2 was described as devoted to teaching, fellowship, sharing meals, and prayer. Which of these areas do you feel most drawn to participate in?
7. If someone asked you what your purpose in life is, how would you answer them based on what we've discussed today?

#6 Life Application

This week, take time to prayerfully consider where your gifts and passions intersect. Write down three things you're naturally good at and three things you're passionate about. Look for the overlap and ask God to show you how He might want to use these areas for His kingdom. Then take one practical step toward serving others - whether that's signing up for Growth Track, volunteering for a team, or simply looking for opportunities to serve people in your daily life with the heart of reconciling them to God.

#7 Key Takeaways

- The difference between activity and impact is purpose - we need purpose behind our actions to create lasting change
- Every believer has a specific function in the body of Christ and is called to ministry, not just paid church staff
- Purpose is discovered where your gifts and passions intersect - God has uniquely designed each person for specific roles

- The church has one primary ministry: reconciliation - helping people come back to God through Christ
- Ministry is about service, not status - we don't need titles or positions to make an eternal impact, just a heart to serve

#8 Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for this time of discussion and reflection. We are amazed that You have called each of us to be part of Your mission of reconciliation. Help us to embrace our identity as ministers and ambassadors for Christ. Give us courage to step out of our comfort zones and into the purposes You have designed for us. Whether we serve in big ways or small ways, help us to remember that every act of service matters in Your kingdom. Guide us as we seek to discover our gifts and use them to love others well. May we be people who don't just attend church, but who actively participate in Your work of drawing people back to You. We commit to being faithful with whatever You place in our hands. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.