

CHURCH

ON THE

MOVE

EXPLORING OUR SPIRITUAL AND MISSIONAL PURPOSE!

WEEK 1
LEADER GUIDE

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WEEK 1

WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

DISCUSS

We hope those who participate in the study walk away knowing, feeling, and doing differently as a result of amazing discussion.

EXPLORING OUR SPIRITUAL AND MISSIONAL PURPOSE!

From the very beginning, we find that mankind was created with a need for others. We were created in the image of God in order that we could have a relationship with Him. In Genesis 2, we see that God created a helpmate for Adam, because it was not good for man to be alone. In Exodus, as the Israelites fought against the Amalekites, they were victorious as long as Moses held up the staff of God, but as he grew

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weary and put his hands down, they lost. So, Aaron and Hur supported Moses' hands and God delivered the victory to His people. After David committed adultery and murder and did not repent, God sent Nathan to point out his sin and encourage him to repent and return to God. In Ecclesiastes 4:12, we find that on our own, we may be overcome or overpowered by another, but with the support of others, we can stand firm and secure. This week, we will see the importance of connecting with God and with others as we seek to live the life God has called us to.

Passages we'll review:

Zechariah 8:1-8, 16-17; Matthew 22:37-39;
Hebrews 10:19-25

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What jumped out at you from the video in this session? What are some of the key points that impacted you more than others?

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Read Zechariah 8:1-8

How does God's passion for His people in Zechariah reflect His desire for a relationship with us as well?

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(While Zechariah was prophesying of the coming Messiah and the redemption He would provide for God's people, we can look back to see the promises that have been fulfilled through the first coming of Christ! Just as God had a zealous love for His people Israel, He has that same love for all who follow Him! He was jealous for His people Israel and provided a future hope for them, and we have that same promise! As a result of His jealous/zealous love for us, He provides all who follow Him with a glorious hope and future eternity with Him, but we must make the decision to follow Him!)

What do the specific promises God gave of safety, prosperity, and joy in the restoration of Jerusalem reveal about God's plan for His people?

EXPLORING OUR SPIRITUAL AND MISSIONAL PURPOSE!

When we find ourselves in the midst of difficult times, it is often easy to be overwhelmed by our situation and lose sight of the bigger, eternal picture. The same was true with the people of Jerusalem at this time. Based on their circumstances and own abilities, God's promises seemed over-the-top and too hard to believe!

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(Open for discussion. We must remember that nothing is too difficult for God! In Matthew 19:26, Jesus reminded His disciples that, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." We can trust that God will do what He says He will do; He will never let us down. He may not work things out in the way we think is best or in the timeframe we expect, but He will bring to completion everything He has promised!)

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Read Zechariah 8:16-17

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Jesus reminds us that this is not just for those in the Old Testament! We are also called to live a holy and righteous life as we represent Him to others!

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Read Matthew 22:37-39

Why do you think Jesus emphasized loving God with heart, soul, mind and strength?

(Open for discussion. We are to love God as the only, true God. Jesus knew that in order to have the relationship with God that He desired, we must love Him with all that we are and all that we have, thus heart, soul, mind, and strength, as well as everything that we possess. True love for God involves both our will and our heart.)

EXPLORING OUR SPIRITUAL AND MISSIONAL PURPOSE!

Loving God and loving people ought to be our central purpose as followers of Christ! Our spiritual relationship with God is displayed through our social relationships with others! The writer of Hebrews gives us three exhortations as we live this life: draw near to God, hold on to our faith without wavering, and encourage and support each other as followers of Christ.

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What does it mean to draw near to God? What are some practical ways we can draw near to God?

(Open for discussion. To draw near to God is to approach God, or come before Him, in prayer and worship. We can fellowship with Him as we enjoy His presence and express our devotion to Him. We have the privilege and opportunity to be in His presence daily, continually. This includes having a genuineness of heart, confidence in Christ alone, and confession and repentance of sin.)

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Why is it so important to hold on to our faith without wavering?

(Open for discussion. It is necessary that we rely solely on the hope we have in Christ. It is easy to be overwhelmed by trouble and distracted by the things of this world. Satan will seek to distract us from the things of God, and we cannot fight our battles on our own; only God can provide the strength we need! So we must keep our focus on Christ at all times, not veering from Christ at any point. We must hold on to Him at all times!)

What are some ways we can be tempted to waver in our faith? How can we resist these temptations?

(Open for discussion)

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(Open for discussion)

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- Have you connected with a loving God who calls you His own? If not, please talk with your LifeGroup leader or one of our pastors.
- Have you connected with other believers who you can encourage and who can encourage you? If not, how can you overcome your fears and reluctance to engage with other believers?
- In Hebrews 10:19-25, we are given three exhortations: draw near to God, hold on to our faith without wavering, and encourage and support each other as followers of Christ. Which of these three exhortations do you need to apply most? What are some specific ways you can grow in this area?

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