

CHURCH

ON THE

MOVE

EXPLORING OUR SPIRITUAL AND MISSIONAL PURPOSE!

WEEKS 2-4
LEADER GUIDE

CHURCH

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EXPLORING OUR SPIRITUAL AND MISSIONAL PURPOSE!

WEEK 2

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!

NOTES

[illegible]

EXPLORING OUR SPIRITUAL AND MISSIONAL PURPOSE!

NOTES

One of the most important questions in building construction is "will it last?" In order to build a structure that will stand the test of time, it must have the correct foundation and be built with the proper materials. The same is true in our lives. Our faith must be built on a firm foundation. Without it, we are flawed from the start, much like the shifting soil and unstable ground. We must also be built with the right materials. We must build our lives with eternity in mind, focusing on the things that have eternal value, rather than just putting on a facade that looks amazing on the outside, but is of no real value on the inside. Much like the final inspection of a building, the true test of our faith will come when we stand before God on judgement day. Will your work withstand the fiery judgement, reaping heavenly rewards, or will you be the only thing to escape the flames? This week, we will look at what we can do to build lives with eternal values and rewards in mind, and not just to obtain "fire insurance".

EXPLORING OUR SPIRITUAL AND MISSIONAL PURPOSE!

1 Corinthians 3:10-15; Ephesians 4:11-16

What stood out to you from the message this week? What led you to really think? Did anything challenge you?

Who is someone who has greatly influenced or impacted your life, and how?

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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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EXPLORING OUR SPIRITUAL AND MISSIONAL PURPOSE!

NOTES

[illegible]

(Open for discussion. We often build our lives on personal achievement or worth, our own wisdom, possessions, or power. We can also focus on other people, programs, or practices that seem to be good, but draw attention to something other than Jesus Christ.)

EXPLORING OUR SPIRITUAL AND MISSIONAL PURPOSE!

A building's foundation is paramount in determining its size, shape, and structure. Without a strong, firm foundation, it will crumble during difficult times or under extreme pressure. However, the job isn't complete with only the foundation! The right materials must be used in order to insure its stability and strength.

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How should we understand the imagery of fire in these verses? How does fire test the quality of an item?

(Open for discussion. This fire isn't a test of our salvation, but rather it is used to determine our eternal, heavenly rewards. Our salvation is secure in Christ alone, but the rewards we receive will be determined by how we live our lives until He returns. The fire will test the true value of our work for God, not serve as a punishment.)

What are some examples of wood, hay, and straw in the context of our lives as followers of Christ?

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(Open for discussion. Wood, hay, and straw represent the things in life that are temporary, ordinary, ugly, cheap, or commonplace; things that are often easy to attain, but will be quickly consumed when facing God's judgement. They are not necessarily things that are evil, but things that are not productive or useful in God's work, or things that seek only to provide entertainment or tickle the ears.)

What are some examples of gold, silver, and precious stones?

(Open for discussion. Gold, silver, and precious stones represent the things that are permanent, beautiful, valuable, and rare in God's perspective. Only He can produce true, godly wisdom that will survive His judgement, and only the things of God can withstand the fire used to test the quality of our work.)

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(Open for discussion. Paul reminds us that we all have a specific part to play in God's plan. Our job is to use what He has given us to grow in Him and also help others to grow as well! God will reward those who work to build His kingdom according to the results of their labor. We must be spiritually mature, doctrinally sound, and sensitive to God's will in our lives. This comes through growing with other Christians and being led by those who are more mature, whether it be through LifeGroups, Study Groups, MicroGroups, or other discipleship opportunities.)

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Paul reminds us that God has raised up leaders within the church to prepare His people to grow in Christ and to learn to serve Him and minister to one another. As a result, we will exhibit Christlikeness as we live as Jesus did, and we will be able to stand firm in Him as we mature and build up our faith in Christ.

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Why do people often think of growth as something only necessary for those who are new believers in Christ? Is this true? Discuss.

(Open for discussion. Spiritual growth is not only for new believers in Christ; it is for everyone! While we are all at different levels in our spiritual maturity, no one knows everything. We all have room to continue growing in our relationship with God and with others as we become more like Christ! Just like a marriage, the relationship, once established, shouldn't remain stagnant. The more effort put in, the more beautiful the relationship will be!)

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How did Paul describe the way in which we grow in Christ? Can we fully and completely grow in Christ without the church? Why or why not?

(Open for discussion. We are all a part of the body of Christ. Just as the human body cannot function properly when one part is injured or diseased, so it is with the body of Christ. God has given each person specific giftings to use in order to help others grow and mature in their relationship with Him. Every person's gifting is necessary in order for others to grow in their maturity in Christ.)

What is affected by our own spiritual growth, or lack thereof? What is the responsibility of each one of us in order to see spiritual growth take place at CrossPointe Church?

EXPLORING OUR SPIRITUAL AND MISSIONAL PURPOSE!

(Open for discussion)

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EXPLORING OUR SPIRITUAL AND MISSIONAL PURPOSE!

Consider the following as you pray together:

- ## NOTES

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WEEK 3

WATCH

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EXPLORING OUR SPIRITUAL AND MISSIONAL PURPOSES

NOTES

In the parable of the talents we get a glimpse into the mind of God and how He would like us to use our time, giftings, and resources. It is important to remember here, that a 'talent' in this context is not talking about an ability, but a large sum of money, one of which represents around twenty years worth of labor for an average laborer.

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Passages we'll review:

Matthew 25:14-27; Ephesians 2:10;
Deuteronomy 10:12-17

OPENING

What stood out to you from the message this week? What led you to really think? Did anything challenge you?

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EXPLORING OUR SPIRITUAL AND MISSIONAL PURPOSES

Read Matthew 25:14-27

(The master's words here illuminate something about him, that he was wicked and lazy. He viewed his given work and master improperly with fear, like he was given a burden instead of an opportunity.)

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Read Ephesians 2:10

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[illegible]

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Read Deuteronomy 10:12-17

As the people of Israel prepared to cross the Jordan into the Promised Land, Moses reminded the people of the commandments God had given them. He also reminded them of the requirements God placed on them as His people. What did God require from the people of Israel? Why did God require something in return?

(The people were to fear the Lord [in reverence and worship], walk in His ways, love Him, serve Him with all of their heart and soul, and keep His commandments. These expectations weren't meant to be a burden on the people, but were intended for their good. God's expectations for His people were meant to help them live godly lives.)

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God's chosen people were circumcised as a part of their covenant relationship with Him, in order to remind them of the privilege and responsibility they had as a result of this relationship. But this wasn't something that others could see; it was between the individual and God.

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(Open for discussion. We should be motivated by God's perfect, unending love for us, both through His sacrifice and salvation from our sin.)

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Consider the following as you pray together:

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Catalyst is a term found in both science and literature. In science, it is an agent that increases the rate of a chemical reaction without being consumed itself. In literature, the catalyst is the pivotal event or moment in a story that serves to ignite the main action and propel the characters in the story's central conflict. This catalyst can be a person, a specific occurrence, an event, or even a journey. This incident is the beginning of a chain reaction that sets into motion a significant life change resulting in conflict, a change in the story, and a new direction. The catalyst doesn't just affect the protagonist, but everyone involved. It influences everything they do in the story from that point on.

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Acts 13:1-5; Isaiah 49:1-7

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(Being a hub of the trade routes linking the East to the West, Antioch was a very diverse city, with people from many different traditions, ethnic groups, and cultures. It was made up of both Jews and Gentiles. CrossPointe is also made up of a diverse group of people, brought here through the military, university, or other career opportunities. There are people with many different ethnic backgrounds and from different walks of life.)

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What was taking place at the time the Holy Spirit spoke to the church in Antioch? What were they doing? What does this reveal about its leadership?

(Open for discussion. When the Holy Spirit spoke to the leaders of the church at Antioch, they had been fasting and praying. They weren't frantically busy with events and planning, but had an attitude of worship as they devoted time to God for prayer and fasting. They sensed the need for God's direction in leading the work of the church and spent time together in prayer and fasting seeking God's will on how to reach the lost and further His Kingdom work. As a result, they understood what the Holy Spirit called them to do.)

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What calling has been placed on all who follow Christ, not just those He called from the church at Antioch? What does this demonstrate for us about God's initiative in missions?

(Open for discussion. Everyone has been given a mission and responsibility by God. We are all called to share the gospel message with those who haven't heard it, all over the world. While our responsibilities will not all be the same, we are all a part of this mission! In every situation, God is the initiator in missions. He desires that all people have the opportunity to hear the gospel message and enter into a relationship with Him. He calls and equips people to do the work, whether it be to go out and spread the gospel around the world or to support those who do. Our responsibility is to act on that calling and be a catalyst in the world around us!)

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What are some of the potential challenges and rewards of being sent out on mission, whether locally or globally?

(Open for discussion. Challenges: lack of support financially, in prayer, or personal needs; loneliness or isolation; lack of counsel or accountability; self-dependence; question or doubt calling. Rewards: glorifying God; humility and dependence on God; fulfillment in doing God's will; eternal blessings; seeing people led to a personal relationship with Christ.)

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John Piper wrote, "There are only three possibilities in life: to be a goer, a sender, or disobedient." Do you agree? Why must missions be the focus of everyone in the church? How can you actively participate in missions, even if you can't go?

(Open for discussion. The Holy Spirit will work through everyone in the church body to equip and enlist those who are called to go out. Some are called to go and do the work. Others are called to give, pray, teach, and encourage those who are sent. If we don't do one of those things, then we are not obeying Christ's command given to us in the Great Commission and we are being disobedient, as well as missing out on the opportunities God has for us to grow and experience Him.)

EXPLORING OUR SPIRITUAL AND MISSIONAL PURPOSE!

(Open for discussion)

DIGGING DEEPER

Read Isaiah 49:1-7

What was God's ultimate purpose for His Servant? How was this fulfilled through Christ Jesus?

(God's ultimate purpose was for His Servant to bring the gospel message to the rest of the world, to be the light of the world. Jesus fulfilled this purpose when He gave Himself as the sacrifice for our sins. Through His death and resurrection, everyone, both Jews and Gentiles alike, has the opportunity to experience His salvation.)

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How does the Servant's mission align with the call we have been given to spread the gospel message? What does it mean to be a light to the nations? How are we that light?

(Open for discussion. We are called to continue the work that Christ Jesus and His disciples started. Paul and Barnabas began this work as they carried the gospel message to Jews and Gentiles alike, beyond the borders of the promised land to the ends of the earth. We have the responsibility to continue that work today as we live the "sent life" on mission.)

Have you ever felt like you were working toward something with no results? How did you handle those feelings? Share with your group.

(Open for discussion)

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How can this passage encourage us as we face challenges and hard times?

(Open for discussion. We can remember that even Jesus faced challenges and difficult times. Many religious leaders sought to humiliate Him and even put Him to death. Others only wanted what He had to offer with no commitment on their part. In His death, He was separated from God because of our sin. Yet He continued on His mission in order to bring glory to God and draw others to Him. If Christ endured all of that, we should, too! As we seek to lead others to Him, we can look forward to our heavenly rewards.)

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- God has called each of us to live a "sent life", with the purpose of making Him known to the world. Take time this week to reflect on what is your greatest joy and passion and how it might meet the needs of the world.

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- For what purpose in life can you say you are “set apart”? How do you understand God’s purpose for your life?
- Would you consider yourself a missionary? Where do you currently see God providing you with an opportunity to share your faith story? What steps will you take this week to become better equipped to share the gospel in your community?
- Whenever you face challenging times and even question your purpose or effectiveness, we must remember that Christ has called us to be the “light of the world.” God has chosen us to be His representatives to a lost and dying world. Pray that you can live in a way that brings glory to Him and draws others to Him.

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