

BUT YOU ARE A CHOSEN PEOPLE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD,
A HOLY NATION, GOD'S SPECIAL POSSESSION
THAT YOU MAY DECLARE THE PRAISES OF HIM WHO CALLED YOU

CHOSEN

OUT OF DARKNESS INTO HIS WONDERFUL LIGHT. ONCE YOU WERE NOT A PEOPLE,
BUT NOW YOU ARE THE PEOPLE OF GOD; ONCE YOU HAD NOT RECEIVED MERCY,
BUT NOW YOU HAVE RECEIVED MERCY.

WEEK ONE

Why Me?

Ephesians 4:11-16 · 1 Corinthians 1:26-29

5-DAY DEVOTIONAL · SMALL GROUP GUIDE

From “Why Me?” to “Why Not Me?”

DAY 1

You Were Created With Purpose

READING · JEREMIAH 29:11; EPHESIANS 2:10

It is easy to drift through life wondering if any of it matters. The enemy works overtime to convince you that you are ordinary, overlooked, and without direction. But Scripture tells a different story. You were not assembled by accident. Before you drew your first breath, God had already written purpose into the fabric of who you are. The question is not whether purpose exists for you. The question is whether you will stop making excuses long enough to walk in it. Today, lay down the reasons you have told God why you cannot, and ask Him to show you why you can.

REFLECTION

What excuses have you been using to avoid stepping into what God has called you to do? Write them down and surrender them to God in prayer today.

TRY THIS WEEK

Identify one area where you have been waiting to feel qualified before acting. Take one small step of obedience there this week, trusting God to meet you.

DAY 2

God Chooses the Unlikely

READING · 1 CORINTHIANS 1:26–29; EXODUS 4:10–12

Moses stood before a burning bush with every excuse ready. He could not speak well. No one would believe him. Someone else would be better suited. Sound familiar? God's response was not to find a more polished candidate. He told Moses that He would be with him and speak through him. The very weakness Moses presented as a disqualification became the stage on which God's power was most clearly displayed. God has a long history of choosing people the world would overlook. Your past, your limitations, and your failures are not obstacles to His plan. In the hands of God, they become the platform.

REFLECTION

In what ways have you allowed your weaknesses or past failures to convince you that God cannot use you? How does the story of Moses challenge that thinking?

TRY THIS WEEK

Spend time in prayer today surrendering your weaknesses to God. Ask Him to show you how He intends to display His strength through the very areas where you feel most inadequate.

DAY 3

Saved For Something, Not Just From Something

READING · EPHESIANS 4:11–16; MARK 10:45

Salvation is not the finish line. It is the starting block. Too many believers treat the moment of their conversion as the destination, settling into a comfortable seat in the stands while the work of the kingdom unfolds without them. But Jesus did not come to build an audience. He came to build a movement of servants. He modeled servanthood at every turn, washing feet and touching lepers and eating with the rejected. Then He said, follow me. That invitation was not to spectate. It was to participate. The church does not exist so you can be fed and leave. It exists so you can be equipped and go.

REFLECTION

Are you currently living as a contributor to the body of Christ or as a consumer? What would it look like to shift from one to the other in a practical, tangible way?

TRY THIS WEEK

This week, identify one way you can serve within your church, community, or family that moves you from consuming to contributing. Commit to it and follow through.

DAY 4

Strength Made Perfect in Weakness

READING · 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9–10; ROMANS 8:28

Pain is never wasted in the hands of God. The very thing the enemy intended to destroy you with, God can repurpose into a testimony that sets someone else free. Your addiction, your grief, your broken family, your failures—none of these disqualify you from purpose. They position you to minister to someone who is standing exactly where you once stood. God's strength is not most visible in polished, put-together people. It is most visible in surrendered, broken ones who chose to trust Him anyway. When you hand God your weakness, you are not giving Him a problem. You are giving Him a platform.

REFLECTION

Think about a painful experience you have never considered God could use for His glory. How might it equip you to minister to someone walking through something similar?

TRY THIS WEEK

Reach out this week to someone walking through a difficult season. You don't need all the answers. Simply show up, listen, and pray. Let your own pain become a bridge of compassion.

DAY 5

Stop Asking “Why Me” and Start Declaring “Why Not Me”

READING • 1 PETER 2:9; PHILIPPIANS 4:13

There is a moment in every calling where you face a choice. You can look at yourself through the lens of your limitations and ask, why me? Or you can look at yourself through the lens of what God says about you and declare, why not me? You are not chosen because you are the most talented, the most experienced, or the most put-together person in the room. You are chosen because God decided to choose you, and His choosing is not based on your résumé. It is based on His grace. The disciples were fishermen. Moses was a stutterer. David was the youngest and least likely. And yet God moved through every one of them. He is still moving. The only question remaining is whether you will make yourself available.

REFLECTION

What would change if you genuinely believed God had chosen you on purpose, for a purpose? What would you stop avoiding? What would you start pursuing?

TRY THIS WEEK

Write a simple declaration of surrender and purpose. Tell God in writing that you are done making excuses, that you believe He has called you, and that you are making yourself available starting today. Keep it where you'll see it each morning.

Why Me?

OPENING PRAYER & ICE BREAKER

Ice Breaker: When you hear the word “calling,” what is the first thing that comes to mind? Did you grow up thinking calling was only for pastors or people in full-time ministry?

SERMON OVERVIEW

This week opens the Chosen series with a challenge to move from a “why me” mindset to a “why not me” mindset—embracing the purpose and calling God has placed on each of us. God gave the church leaders not to do all the ministry themselves, but to equip every believer for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:11–12). You were created with purpose, and no qualifications are required except a willingness to trust Him.

KEY SCRIPTURE · 1 CORINTHIANS 1:27–29

God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong... so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

From “Why Me” to “Why Not Me”

- 1 What is one area of your life where you have told God “I can’t” or “not me”? What was the excuse you gave?
- 2 “If you didn’t have it within you to do it, He would not have called you to it.” Do you genuinely believe that about yourself? Why or why not?
- 3 What do you think is the root cause of the “why me” mindset—fear, past failure, low self-worth, or something else?

Consumers vs. Contributors

- 1 Be honest with yourself and your group: in your current season, are you more of a consumer or a contributor in the body of Christ?
- 2 Roughly 20 percent of the church is actively serving. Why do you think so many believers remain on the sidelines? What keeps people from stepping in?
- 3 Beyond your local church—at your job, in your neighborhood, in your family—where are you serving the kingdom? Where might there be an opportunity you've overlooked?

God Sees Potential Where We See Problems

- 1 Think of someone in Scripture or in your life whose weakness or painful past became the very thing God used. What does that teach you about how God works?
- 2 The message told of a man burdened for his lost son, whom God challenged to care about other people's children as much as his own. How does caring beyond our own circle change the way we pray and serve?
- 3 "Pain is never wasted." Has there been a season of pain or failure God has redeemed, or that you believe He wants to use? How does that change the way you view it?

Your Weakness Does Not Disqualify You

- 1 What excuse have you been holding onto that mirrors Moses's response at the burning bush? How have you been asking God to send someone else?
- 2 "God is not asking you if you are enough. He is asking, will you trust me?" How does reframing the question from qualification to trust change the way you respond?
- 3 2 Corinthians 12:9 says God's power is made perfect in weakness. Where do you need to stop hiding a weakness and instead surrender it to God as a potential platform?

Common Excuses

- 1 Work through these common excuses as a group—"I'm too busy," "I'm not talented enough," "I don't know enough," "Someone else can do it better," "I've been hurt by the church before." For each, why does it fall short, and what would a faith-filled response look like? Which has been the loudest voice in your life, and what would it look like to hand it to God this week?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ **You were created with purpose** — God placed within you what you need to fulfill it.
- ✓ **The church isn't for consumers** — every believer is called to contribute, not just receive.
- ✓ **God sees potential where we see problems** — what you think disqualifies you is often what He uses.
- ✓ **Your weakness doesn't disqualify you** — His power is made perfect in weakness.
- ✓ **You were saved for something, not just from something** — salvation is the start of purpose.
- ✓ **Serving isn't occasional** — it's a reflection of who you are.

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Choose at least one to put into practice before your group meets again:

Option 1 Identify Your Dish

Reflecting on the potluck illustration, name one specific, concrete way you can bring something to the table in the body of Christ. It doesn't have to be large. Write it down and share it with someone for accountability.

Option 2 Pray a New Prayer

If your prayers have centered on you and your family, spend time this week praying for someone outside your circle. Ask God to position you to minister to someone else's need.

Option 3 Name Your Excuse and Surrender It

Write down the primary excuse you've used to avoid stepping into calling or service. Pray over it by name, and ask God to take that weakness and use it for His glory.

Option 4 Take One Step Toward Serving

Sign up for a team, start a conversation with a neighbor, or volunteer somewhere. Take one tangible step this week toward contributing rather than consuming.

Option 5 Reflect on Your Purpose

Set aside 15-20 minutes to sit quietly before God and ask two questions: “What is my purpose?” and “Where are you asking me to be available?” Write down what comes, and bring it to share with your group.

CLOSING PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for group members struggling to believe they've been called or chosen.
- Pray for the courage to surrender excuses and weaknesses to God.
- Pray for open eyes to see the needs around you and open hands to meet them.
- Pray for your church, that it would move from a culture of consumption to a culture of contribution.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

- Key passage: Ephesians 4:11-16 — leaders equip every believer for the work of ministry.
- Memory verse: Ephesians 2:10 — you are God's workmanship, created for good works prepared in advance.

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God isn't asking if you're enough. He's asking, “Will you trust Me?”

CHOSEN · WEEK ONE