

Session Summary: Being Intentional - Living With Purpose in Every Season

This session focuses on living with purpose, especially in the areas of faith, family, grandparenting, ministry, and everyday relationships. Being intentional means acting on purpose, with a clear goal in mind, rather than drifting through life without direction.

The central message is that believers are called to live spiritually alert and ready to respond to God's leading. Intentionality is not limited to grandparenting; it applies to every area of life. The speakers emphasize that ministry and relationships can be messy, exhausting, and inconvenient, but they are also fruitful and worth the effort.

A major theme is passing faith from one generation to the next. Grandparents and parents are encouraged to create opportunities to speak life, truth, Scripture, and personal testimony into children and grandchildren. These moments do not always need to be formal lessons. They can happen through walks, bedtime conversations, shared activities, handwritten devotionals, family stories, birthdays, vacations, and everyday life.

The session also highlights the importance of being spiritually prepared. Believers should be ready to share God's Word, encouragement, and the gospel whenever opportunities arise. The speakers share examples from prison ministry, family visits, conversations with grandchildren, and personal experiences where God provided openings to speak truth.

The call is to ask God for creative ways to be intentional, to remain spiritually alert, and to make the best use of the time He gives.

Key Quotes:

"Being intentional really is an action word. It means done on purpose."

"If you're not being intentional, then really you're just kind of flowing with the wind."

"Ministry is messy. If you want a clean life, don't get involved in people's lives."

"It's all worth it to have a messy trough, because there's activity going on. There's development going on."

“You purpose in your heart to spend time with the Lord, hear from Him, and walk it out.”

“I have to be intentional in my life and my walk with Christ before I can influence or hand down my faith to my children and my grandchildren.”

“Live with purpose and stay spiritually alert.”

“When you open the Word of God, He’s going to speak to you. Allow Him to speak and try to discern what He’s telling you.”

“I want to be worthy of them imitating me.”

“They may not remember what I said, but they’ll remember what I did.”

“When my family gets together, I want to talk about what Jesus did.”

“There are so many ways to be intentional, not just as grandparents, but with friends, with your husband, with your Sunday school class, with life.”

“Ask God to show you creative ways to be intentional in your life.”

“Sometimes you’re intentional by just being there, making yourself available.”

“God sometimes puts them right in front of us.”

“The best message you can give is how you live your life in front of people.”

Main Points:

1. Intentionality means living on purpose.

Being intentional means making deliberate choices instead of drifting through life. It means having a clear goal and acting with purpose. In the Christian life, this includes seeking God daily, listening for His direction, and obeying what He shows us.

2. Intentional living begins with your own walk with Christ.

Before faith can be passed to children or grandchildren, it must be alive in the believer's own life. Intentional influence flows from intentional personal devotion, obedience, and dependence on God.

3. Ministry and relationships are messy, but fruitful.

Proverbs 14:4 was used to show that productivity often comes with mess. A clean trough may mean no oxen, but where there are oxen, there is strength, work, and increase. Likewise, involvement in people's lives can be inconvenient and exhausting, but it produces spiritual fruit.

4. Grandparents have a calling to pass faith to the next generation.

Psalm 78 teaches the importance of telling the next generation about the Lord, His strength, and His works. Grandparents are encouraged to be deliberate in sharing Scripture, personal stories, spiritual lessons, and examples of God's faithfulness.

5. Spiritual conversations can happen naturally.

The speakers gave examples of using everyday moments to teach spiritual truths:

Explaining sanctification through baking a cake.

Teaching the value of a good name at bedtime.

Discussing Bible stories while walking with a grandchild.

Asking children if they truly believe the miracles recorded in Scripture.

Using family memories to talk about God's work.

6. Ask God for creativity.

Intentionality does not always require complicated plans. It often begins by praying, "Lord, show me what to say. Show me what to do. Give me a creative way to reach this child or this person." God can provide simple but powerful opportunities.

7. Be spiritually alert in everyday places.

Whether at Walmart, at home, in prison ministry, with family, or in casual conversations, believers are encouraged to remain alert to God's prompting. Opportunities to encourage, teach, pray, or share the gospel often appear in ordinary moments.

8. Be prepared to share.

The speakers emphasized the importance of being ready. In ministry settings, they learned to always have something prepared because they never knew when they might be asked to speak. The same principle applies to family life and spiritual influence.

9. Children and grandchildren are watching.

More than words, a life of faith leaves an impression. Children often imitate what they see. The goal is to live in such a way that the next generation sees faith, humility, obedience, prayer, and love modeled consistently.

10. Being present matters.

Intentionality is not only about formal teaching. Showing up for games, recitals, birthdays, visits, and regular family moments communicates love and availability. Presence often creates trust, and trust opens doors for deeper conversations.

11. Faith should be connected to family memory.

The session encourages families to remember and retell what God has done. Just as the Jewish people recount God's deliverance from Egypt, Christian families should remember God's faithfulness in their own lives and pass those stories down.

12. Intentionality applies beyond biological family.

Not everyone has access to grandchildren or family relationships in the same way. The speakers encouraged looking for others who need spiritual care, encouragement, and love. People in the church, neighborhood, and community may need a spiritual mother, father, grandparent, or mentor.

Scripture References

Proverbs 14:4

"Where no oxen are, the trough is clean; but much increase comes by the strength of an ox."

Main idea:

A productive life may be messy, but the fruit is worth it. Ministry, relationships, and spiritual influence require involvement, effort, and sacrifice.

Philippians 2:13

“For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”

Main idea:

God gives both the desire and the ability to do what pleases Him.

Proverbs 14:15

“The simple believes every word, but the prudent considers well his steps.”

Main idea:

A wise person thinks carefully about how they live and where they are going.

Daniel 1

Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself.

Main idea:

Intentional faith requires a settled decision to follow God before pressure comes.

Isaiah 48:17

“I am the Lord your God, who teaches you to profit, who leads you by the way you should go.”

Main idea:

God teaches His people and leads them in the way they should walk.

Ephesians 5:15-16

“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”

Main idea:

Believers are called to live wisely and make the best use of the time God gives.

Psalms 78:4-7

“We will not hide them from their children, telling to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done...”

Main idea:

God’s works and truth are to be passed from one generation to the next.

Proverbs 22:1

“A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favor rather than silver and gold.”

Main idea:

Character and reputation are more valuable than wealth.

Acts 3:6

“Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.”

Main idea:

The power of Jesus is greater than material resources.

Matthew 17:20

“If you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move.”

Main idea:

Even small faith, when placed in God, is powerful.

Practical Applications

Pray daily for God to make you intentional.

Ask God to show you who needs encouragement.

Prepare Scripture or a thought to share before visiting family.

Look for everyday moments to teach spiritual truth.

Tell your children and grandchildren stories of God’s faithfulness.

Write personal devotionals, letters, or prayers for family members.

Use birthdays, trips, walks, meals, and bedtime as opportunities for meaningful conversation.

Be present at important events when possible.

Live in a way that is worth imitating.

Stay spiritually alert in ordinary places.

Remember that influence does not require perfection; it requires humility and availability.

Discussion Questions

1. What does intentional living look like in your current season of life?
2. Where are you most tempted to drift instead of live with purpose?
3. Who has God placed in your life that needs encouragement, prayer, or spiritual guidance?
4. What is one simple way you can be more intentional with your children, grandchildren, or younger believers?
5. What personal story of God's faithfulness do you need to pass on to the next generation?
6. How can you become more spiritually alert in everyday situations?
7. What practical step can you take this week to "redeem the time"?