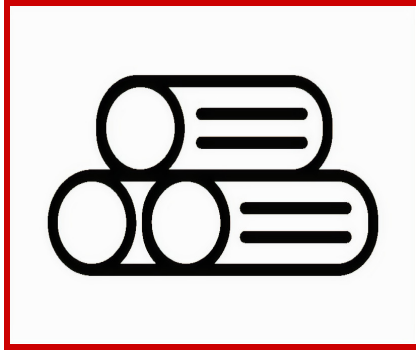




Ignite Your Purpose

Session 1 “Purpose’s Purpose”

Opening Questions: *On a scale of 1 - 10, how fulfilling would you say your life is in terms of knowing and executing your calling/purpose?*

What do you think people are actually searching for?

<https://trends.google.com/trending?geo=US>

We spend most of our lives asking HOW and WHAT - but rarely WHY.

Why did you get out of bed this morning? And why should anyone care?

WORKBOOK: Your Purpose Baseline (p. 6)

Romans 12:1-2

God is looking for TOTAL SURRENDER, WORSHIP, SACRIFICE.

Purpose does not begin with asking “What do I want to do with my life?” It begins with me asking God what He wants with your life.

How has your life looked/appeared as a living sacrifice?

Fire falls on a prepared sacrifice. (Leviticus 1, 1 Kings 18, Genesis 22)

You are the worshiper/the sacrifice. And God is calling us to the altar daily to surrender unto His plan for our life.

The wood is:

- Your influences
- Your experiences
- Your values
- Your gifts
- Your skills
- Your talents
- Your personality
- Your Passions
- Your extinguished excuses

- Your plans

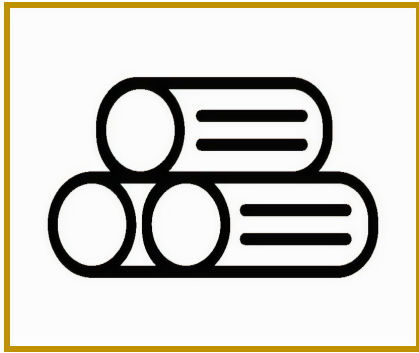
Some people want clarity without surrender; fire without wood; purpose without worship.

Altar - I recognize what God did for me

Sacrifice - I am giving Him myself

Fire - Worship

The purpose of your purpose is for God's glory. Is your life fully His?



Ignite Your Purpose Session 2 “Gathering Influences”

God is more concerned with who we are becoming vs. what we are doing. God forms our character with the influences he places in our lives. Joseph is one of the clearest examples in Scripture.

We’re exploring two major ideas:

1. *The people who influenced Joseph*
2. *The roles/process Joseph walked through*

Discussion Question: P 10- Workbook - Your life has been influenced by many people. Who has had the most impact on your life to date?

Joseph’s Influences:

- *His Father Jacob (Genesis 37:1-4)*
- *His Brothers (Gen. 37:12-20)*
- *Potiphar (Gen 39:1-6)*
- *The Prison Keeper (Gen 39:22-23)*
- *Pharaoh (Gen 41:37-45)*

The Roles Joseph Played

Joseph was:

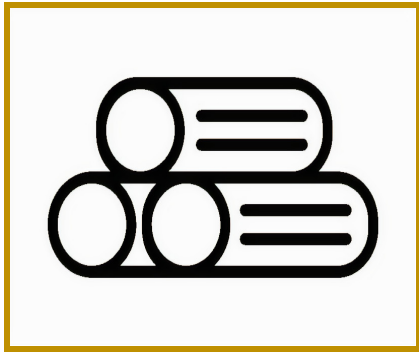
- *A Son*
- *A Brother*
- *A Slave*
- *A Prisoner*
- *A Leader*
- *A Husband and Father*
- *A Worshiper*

Questions: What roles do you currently hold? What might God be developing through them?

Don’t forget: Joseph’s life was not about staying home where it was safe, getting out of the pit, getting out of prison or being successful in the palace. *God was accomplishing something bigger than Joseph. He was preserving a nation.*

Key verse throughout Joseph’s life: **“The Lord was with Joseph” (Genesis 39:2 & 21)**

Preparation has purpose, waiting has purpose, pain has value/purpose, and the future has hope.



Ignite Your Purpose Session 3 “Mapping Experiences”

Romans 8:28, Genesis 37-50

Continuing with Joseph - His timeline

- *Imprisoned*
 - *Forgotten*
 - *Suddenly promoted*
 - *Reunited with family*
- *He was loved by his father*
 - *Hated by his brothers*
 - *Sold into slavery*
 - *Successful in Potiphar’s house*
 - *Falsely accused*

Genesis 50:20

Two realities at work in Joseph’s life: 1) People sinned 2) God has control of the outcome

Why should we map experiences?

Life is complex, and we often miss patterns because we are focused on getting by. But when you look at your life on a timeline, you start to see things more objectively. You may notice patterns, turning points, and how experiences led you toward where you are today. You may even realize God was preparing you long before you realized it/knew it.

What are the patterns of your life (the constants, consistent realities)

There are five formation categories

Values Shaped - What became important to you?

Skills Discovered - What abilities grew?

Lessons Learned - What truths did you learn?

Relationships Developed - Who influenced you?

Beliefs Established - What beliefs formed about God, yourself or others?

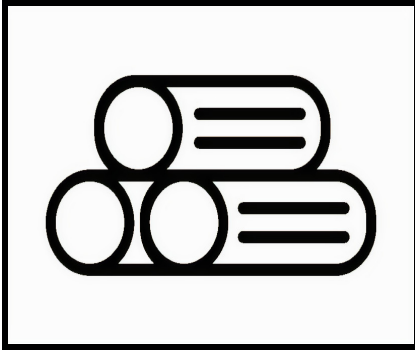
WORKBOOK - PP 16-24 COMPLETE LIFE TIMELINE

Your life isn't random. God is preparing you even in hard seasons. If God has been faithful in your past, He can be trusted with your future.

Article: JD Greear

<https://mailchi.mp/84bd1055905a/let-your-need-lead-you-to-the-healer-9322701?e=3f03826200>

GOSPEL CONNECTION: The cross was the worst even in human history, but it was for the greatest good - your salvation and mine!



Ignite Your Purpose Session 4 “Kindling Values”

What you believe about God, yourself and others will shape your life.

Opening: Why Do People Respond So Differently? (Man and Woman in Car Crash)

- Same hardship
- Same pain
- Different responses

Beliefs/Values often impact the responses.

Joseph’s Life: The Testing Ground of Belief

- Favored son (Genesis 37)
- Betrayed by brothers
- Sold into slavery
- Faithful in Potiphar’s house
- Falsely accused
- Forgotten in prison
- Elevated to power
- Reunited with brothers

Joseph’s circumstances constantly changed. His beliefs did not.

What Joseph Believed About God

1. God Is Present

Genesis 39:2, 21 – “The Lord was with Joseph”

- In success **AND** suffering
- In public **AND** private

God’s presence is not determined by your circumstances.

2. God Is Sovereign

Genesis 50:20

- **“You meant evil... God meant it for good”**

Joseph believed:

- **God was in control of betrayal**
- **God was working through injustice**

God's sovereignty includes what others meant for harm.

3. God Is Purposeful

Genesis 45:5–7

- **“God sent me before you...”**

Joseph saw:

- **His suffering had purpose**
- **His pain served a greater plan**

When you believe God is purposeful, suffering becomes meaningful rather than meaningless.

What Joseph Believed About Himself

1. His Ability Came From God

Genesis 40:8

Genesis 41:16

- **“Interpretations belong to God”**
- **“It is not in me”**

Joseph saw himself as a steward, not a source.

2. His Position Was Assigned, Not Earned

- **Slave, prisoner, ruler**

*Joseph never clung to status.
Identity rooted in God produces humility in every season.*

3. His Responsibility Was Faithfulness

- Faithful in Potiphar's house
- Faithful in prison
- Faithful in leadership

He didn't control outcomes, but he focused on obedience.

What Joseph Believed About Others

1. People Can Do Evil

- His brothers betrayed him
- Potiphar's wife falsely accused him

Joseph did not deny reality.

2. God Is Greater Than Their Evil

Genesis 50:20

Joseph interpreted people's actions through God's sovereignty.

Therefore, He Chose Forgiveness

Genesis 45 & 50

- No revenge
- No bitterness
- Provided for them instead

Forgiveness flows from belief, not feelings.

Additional Biblical Examples

Moses – Belief Over Comfort

Hebrews 11:24–26

- Chose suffering over luxury
- Believed in eternal reward

Ruth – Belief Over Security

Ruth 1:16–17

- Left everything behind
- Anchored identity in God

Paul – Belief Over Circumstances

Philippians 1:21

2 Corinthians 4:16–18

- Suffered greatly
- Stayed anchored in eternal perspective

Back to Romans 12: What Right Belief Produces

Romans 12:9–21

Right belief produces:

- Genuine love
- Patience in trials
- Blessing enemies
- Overcoming evil with good

Joseph lived this out before it was written.

Diagnostic Questions (USE WORKBOOK pp 28-30)

1. What do I believe about God?

- Is He sovereign?
- Is He good in hardship?

2. What do I believe about myself?

- **Self-made or God-shaped?**
- **Identity in Christ or circumstances?**

3. What do I believe about others?

- **Obstacles or instruments?**
- **Enemies or opportunities for grace?**

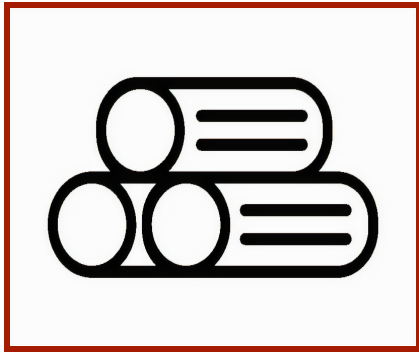
Final Thoughts:

Proverbs 4:23

“Guard your heart...”

Why?

- **Belief lives in the heart**
- **Belief shapes values**
- **Values shape direction**



Ignite Your Purpose

Session 5: Identifying Self

Introduction: Florence Nightingale and her obedient response to God's call to care for the sick.

If one person's obedience can save thousands of lives, what might God do through your life if you believed that it mattered too?

Ephesians 2:10

Your obedience will impact far more people than you will ever know

In all truthfulness, many of us do not think we matter because we underestimate what God has gifted us to do. Sadly, the MVP of most churches is "somebody else..."

1. Identifying Yourself Begins with Humility.

Romans 12:1-3

Don't forget vv 1-2

2. God Designs Every Believer with Purpose

Romans 12:4-5

God designed the church with unity in mind (there is a difference between unity and sameness)

Matthew 25 - Parable of the talents

3. Spiritual Gifts Are Given By Grace

Romans 12:6

Do I know what my spiritual gifts are?

Am I willing to use what God has already given me?

Do I see my giftedness as a gift of grace?

4. Examining the Gifts/Understanding the Gifts

Romans 12:6-8

Paul lists: prophecy, service, teaching, encouragement, giving, leadership, and mercy. While not an exhaustive list, it is clear every believer has a gift.

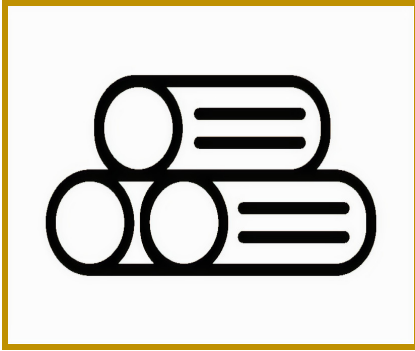
The church doesn't need more gifted people doing everything. The church needs more faithful people doing what God designed them to do.

When believers do not understand or value their design, 3 things tend to happen

- A. Comparison robs contentment and distorts calling**
- B. People become disengaged and the body is weakened**
- C. People get burned out and exhaustion leads to early exits.**

Resource: The Real You: <https://therealyou.org/>

Discussion: Identifying Passions (WORKBOOK 34 - 35)



Ignite Your Purpose

Session 6: Decoding Personality

Intro: *Glasses or contacts do not change your ability to see what is not there, but they help you to see what is already there.*

The truth about personality tests: The tests do not create who you are. They do not give you traits that you didn't already have. They don't decide your calling, value, or future. They simply bring clarity to what is already there & what God has already put in you.

Luke 6 - The Calling of the Twelve -

Resource -

https://bakerbookhouse.com/products/9780310176855_twelve-ordinary-men-workbook-revised-and-updated?srsId=AfmBOor7ezs2np3QYiJF7JmUF56K9kixQ_PVhI9dNAaHxFKGrT8aoiUt

1. The Disciples Who Jesus Reached (Luke 6:12)

Each disciple was unique.

1. Peter- bold impulsive/loyal
2. Andrew - inviter, humble, selfless
3. James - ambitious, zealous
4. John - Compassionate, loyal, leader
5. Philip - practical, inquisitive, analyzer
6. Bartholomew - honest, straightforward
7. Thomas - courageous, wants to believe
8. Matthew - repentant, recorder, humble
9. James - quiet, unassuming
10. Thaddeus - faithful
11. Simon - Zealous, determined, passionate
12. Judas - business minded, but not heavenly focused, knew of the Lord, but did not follow him

Jesus did not erase their personalities upon calling them. He redeemed them.

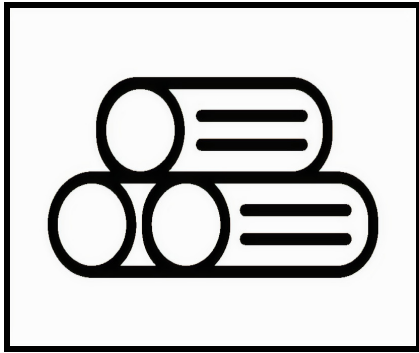
These men changed the world and fueled the mission of the gospel.

Where do I see myself in the story of the disciples?

Romans 12 reminds us that we all have different gifts, according to the grace given to us. **When was the last time you looked at your life and how God designed you and you were thankful?**

WORKBOOK - 38-43

Your personality can actually lead you to notice the good that God has done in yourself, but it can also challenge you to learn even more about what needs to change?



Ignite Your Purpose

Session 7: Extinguishing Excuses

By now, we're beginning to understand the *why and how*,
but it's time to start talking about "What?"

It doesn't have to be complicated...

Opening Story: The busted grocery cart: We know we need a wheel change. We know we need exchange that which is keeping us from God's will at work in life, but we often make excuses and live with the broken wheel.

Here's What We know:

- **God created you with purpose**
- **Your gifts and personality matter**
- **God calls ordinary people**
- **God's mission is bigger than yours**

If all this is true why do we still hesitate?

Three places in Scripture that shows us how excuses keep us from fulfilling purpose:

1. Moses - Inability (Exodus 3-4)

God's call is built on His presence above our ability.

What limitations do I keep pointing to that God may be asking me to trust Him with instead?

2. Jeremiah - TIMING (Jeremiah 1)

God calls people before they feel ready.

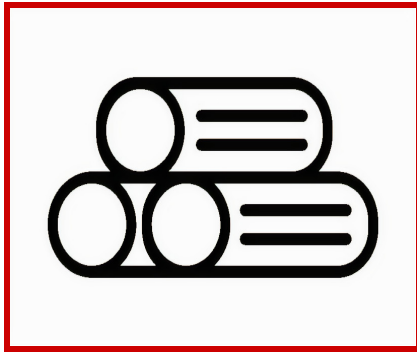
God promises direction and provision

What am I waiting to become before I'm willing to obey?

3. The Banquet Guests - COMFORT/CONVENIENCE (Luke 14)

Good things can still keep us from God's invitation

What good thing in my life might be quietly making me unavailable to God?



Ignite Your Purpose

Sessions 8-9 “Illuminating Purpose. Igniting Purpose.”

Emily Dickinson - 1800 poems written... and the world almost never knew about them

1. Illuminating Purpose

- **Illuminate Perspective** (Gen. 45:5-8)

God was present even when life was painful. God positioned him to preserve life.

What part of my past do I need to surrender to God so He can redeem it for good?

- **Illuminate Preparation** (Exodus 3-4)

Here we are again :)

God used every detail of Moses' life (influences, experiences, beliefs, values, skills, talents, personality, excuses to prepare him for what was ahead.

What excuse do I return to most?

- **Illuminate Presence** (Exodus 33:12-18)

If God was not going to be with Moses and the people, why continue forward? His presence was far greater than the prize of the promised land.

You can be busy for God but not actually with God. **Success, ministry, leadership, achievement - none of these matter if the Lord is not with us.**

2. Igniting Purpose

- **Ignite Passion** (2 Timothy 1:6-7) fan the flame

Do not let fear put it out.

God gives power, love, self control.

- **Ignite Persistence** (Luke 11:9-10)

Ask, Seek Knock

Ask - bring your requests to God honestly

Seek - go after Him intentionally

Knock - Stay there until something happens - God opens only what He can open - He closes doors as well.

What am I asking, seeking and knocking from the Lord?

- **Ignite Proclamation** (Acts 26:12-18)

If God is illuminating and igniting your purpose, it will show up in someone else's life.

Ultimately, every assignment and every gift points to one mission - to help others come to Christ.

Moses, Joseph, and Paul all brought people to God

End of Study - Next Steps