5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Living With Purpose: Who You Are Living For and Why It Matters

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Day 1: Purpose Is Not a Moment, It Is a Mission

Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:31 -- This verse reminds us that every action, no matter how ordinary, carries the potential to glorify God when done with the right heart and intention.

Devotional: Many believers spend years waiting for a dramatic revelation about their purpose, as if God is withholding a secret they must somehow unlock. But Scripture reframes the entire question. Purpose is not a destination you arrive at. It is a posture you carry into everything you do. The warehouse worker, the executive, the homemaker, and the student all stand on equal ground before God when they choose to do what they do for his glory. Purpose begins the moment you stop asking "what am I supposed to do" and start asking "who am I doing this for." Today, bring that question into every ordinary moment and watch the ordinary become significant.

Reflection Questions:

- In what areas of your life have you been waiting for a dramatic sign rather than simply choosing to act with purpose?
- What would change in your daily routine if you approached each task as an act of worship?

Practical Application: Choose one routine task today, whether it is making coffee, answering emails, or caring for someone in your household, and consciously dedicate it to God before you begin.

Day 2: Working for God, Not for Men

Reading: Colossians 3:23-24 -- This passage calls believers to work wholeheartedly, not to earn human approval, but because they serve the Lord Christ and trust in the inheritance he has promised.

Devotional: One of the most common sources of misery in daily work is that we are doing it for the wrong audience. When our performance depends on a manager's approval, a customer's gratitude, or a colleague's recognition, we will always come up short somewhere. But Scripture offers a radical alternative. When you shift your gaze from the person signing your paycheck to the God who ordained your days, everything changes. Your attitude shifts. Your effort deepens. Your resilience grows. You are no longer just filling a role. You are on assignment. The inheritance promised in this passage is not a metaphor for a bonus. It is the eternal reward of a life spent in faithful service to the right King.

Reflection Questions:

- Are there areas in your work or service where you are primarily seeking human approval rather than God's?
- How would your effort and attitude look different if you genuinely believed God was watching and rewarding your faithfulness?

Practical Application: Write down the name of one person whose approval you have been working hardest to earn. Surrender that relationship to God today and ask him to reorient your motivation.

Day 3: The Hope That Purpose Produces

Reading: Ephesians 1:17-18 -- The apostle Paul prays that believers would have the eyes of their hearts enlightened so they might know the hope to which God has called them and understand the richness of the inheritance waiting for those who belong to him.

Devotional: Hope is not wishful thinking. It is the confident expectation that your life, placed in God's hands, is heading somewhere meaningful. When you do not understand your purpose, hope becomes fragile. Every discouraging circumstance, every unanswered question, every season of waiting feels like evidence that nothing is working. But when you understand that God has called you, placed you in this specific time in history, and is actively working through your choices, hope becomes an anchor. You were not born in the wrong era. You were not given the wrong life. You were placed exactly here, exactly now, because God determined that this moment needed you.

Reflection Questions:

- Where in your life have you been struggling with hope, and how might a clearer sense of purpose change that?
- Do you genuinely believe God ordained the time and place of your life, or does that feel abstract to you?

Practical Application: Spend five minutes today writing out what you believe God has placed in you that this specific season of your life needs. Do not overthink it. Simply write what comes to mind.

Day 4: Is Anyone's Life Being Changed Because of Yours

Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:23-24 -- This passage draws a distinction between what is merely permissible and what is genuinely beneficial, calling believers to move beyond self-interest and toward the good of those around them.

Devotional: Purpose is not only personal. It is relational. The question worth sitting with is not just "am I fulfilled" but "is anyone's life being changed because of the way I am living." This is the outward dimension of purpose that so many miss. It is not enough to feel spiritually content in private. Purpose has a direction, and that direction points toward other people. Whether it is a coworker who needs encouragement, a family member who needs patience, or a stranger who needs kindness, your purpose expresses itself most clearly in how you affect the lives of the people around you. The goal is not to be impressive. The goal is to make it better for everyone who crosses your path.

Reflection Questions:

- When you enter a room, a family gathering, or a workplace, do people generally leave better or worse for having been around you?
- Who in your immediate circle of relationships might God be calling you to invest in more intentionally?

Practical Application: Identify one person in your life whose situation you could make measurably better this week through a specific act of service, encouragement, or presence. Follow through before the week ends.

Day 5: Buried and Raised to Walk in Purpose

Reading: Romans 6:4 -- This verse describes baptism as a picture of death and resurrection, with believers buried alongside Christ and raised to walk in newness of life, just as Christ was raised from the dead.

Devotional: The old self had no real purpose beyond its own survival and comfort. But the self that has been raised with Christ is freed to live for something far greater. Newness of life is not just a poetic phrase. It is a daily reality for the believer who chooses to walk in it. Every morning is an opportunity to leave behind the self-focused patterns of the old life and step into the purpose-driven posture of the new one. You are not who you used to be. The question is whether you are living like it. Purpose is not found by searching harder. It is found by surrendering more fully, laying down the old self daily, and walking forward in the identity and mission God has given you in Christ.

Reflection Questions:

- In what specific areas of your life are you still walking in patterns that belong to the old self rather than the new?
- What would it look like practically for you to declare, through your daily choices, that you are living for God and not for yourself?

Practical Application: Begin each morning this week with a simple, spoken declaration before you leave your home. State out loud who you are living for, what you are going to do with your whole heart that day, and whose glory you are working toward. Let that declaration set the tone for everything that follows.

Reflection Questions:

The sermon describes purpose not as finding one specific thing you were created to do, but as understanding who you were created to live for and why you do what you do -- how does this reframe the way you have previously thought about your own purpose?

1 Corinthians 10:31 suggests that even the most ordinary actions, like eating and drinking, can be done to the glory of God -- what would it look like practically for you to approach your daily work or routine with that same intentionality?

The sermon argues that most people struggle with purpose because they are fundamentally living for themselves -- in what areas of your life do you find it most difficult to shift your motivation from self-focused to God-focused?

Colossians 3:23-24 calls believers to work wholeheartedly as if working for the Lord rather than for people -- how would your attitude toward your job, relationships, or responsibilities change if you genuinely embraced that perspective every day?

Pastor Mickey suggests that the person most changed by a life of purpose-driven service is often the one doing the serving -- have you experienced this in your own life, and what did that transformation look like?

The sermon presents three self-examination questions: who am I living for, is anyone's life being changed because of how I am living, and am I becoming more like Jesus -- which of these three questions is most convicting for you personally, and why?

Pastor Mickey connects a lack of purpose to a lack of hope, referencing Ephesians 1:17-18 -- how does understanding your God-given purpose strengthen your ability to maintain hope in uncertain or difficult times?

The sermon challenges the idea that living out your faith requires a dramatic career change or overseas mission work, instead emphasizing making the biggest impact where you already are -- do you agree with this approach, and what might it mean for how you engage your current community?

Pastor Mickey describes baptism as a public declaration that the old self is buried and a new life of purpose has begun -- whether or not you have been baptized, what does it mean to you to live as though your old self is truly behind you?

The sermon emphasizes that God ordained not only your existence but also the specific time in history you are living in -- how does the belief that you were uniquely designed for this moment in time shape the way you think about your responsibilities to the people around you?