

PURPOSE-LED DISCIPLESHIP

PURPOSE LED

Called to Faithfulness

Participant Workbook · Weekend Retreat and Eight Week Group Experience

THE HEART OF THE EXPERIENCE

You do not need the whole map. Stay close to Jesus and take the next faithful step.

Purpose-Led Discipleship

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WELCOME

You do not have to arrive with your purpose figured out

This experience is for the person who feels eager, uncertain, overlooked, redirected, or ready to begin again. You do not need to have attended another retreat or read another resource. Purpose Led stands on its own and also complements Purpose Led: Discovering God's Calling.

Your worth does not depend on finding an impressive assignment. Purpose begins with God. Identity is received before assignment, and faithful living grows from relationship with Christ. You may pass during conversation, write privately, step out, or ask for a private conversation with a leader.

CORE DECLARATION

Purpose does not begin with knowing exactly where we are going. It begins with knowing Who we are following.

What you will explore

- Who you are in Christ before what you are asked to do.
- What God has already placed in your hands.
- How to test burdens, opportunities, and possible direction.
- How abiding, surrender, community, and accountability protect purpose.
- How to take one wise and faithful next step without demanding the whole plan.

CHOOSE THE GATHERING FORMAT

The same path can be followed two ways

Weekend retreat

The sample weekend begins Friday afternoon and ends Sunday at noon. Meals, lodging, worship, and breaks may be adapted while the eight movements remain in order.

Time	Gathering	Duration
FRIDAY	Arrival and foundation	
4:30 to 6:00 PM	Arrival, registration, settling, and optional light meal	90 min
6:00 to 6:35 PM	Welcome, worship, community agreements, and retreat foundation	35 min
6:35 to 7:45 PM	Movement 1: Purpose Begins With God	70 min
7:45 to 8:00 PM	Break	15 min
8:00 to 9:05 PM	Movement 2: You Were Made on Purpose	65 min
9:05 to 9:20 PM	Quiet prayer and release for the evening	15 min
SATURDAY	Discernment, stewardship, and community	
8:30 to 9:00 AM	Arrival or breakfast refreshments	30 min
9:00 to 9:20 AM	Worship, prayer, and return to the retreat path	20 min
9:20 to 10:30 AM	Movement 3: Burden, Need, or Calling?	70 min
10:30 to 10:45 AM	Break	15 min
10:45 to 11:55 AM	Movement 4: Purpose Led Means Continually Led	70 min
11:55 AM to 1:00 PM	Lunch and unhurried connection	65 min
1:00 to 2:10 PM	Movement 5: What Is Already in Your Hands?	70 min
2:10 to 2:30 PM	Break	20 min
2:30 to 3:40 PM	Movement 6: Open Hands and Pure Motives	70 min
3:40 to 4:15 PM	Private reflection, prayer, and optional leader conversation	35 min
4:15 to 6:00 PM	Dinner, rest, and informal community time	105 min
6:00 to 7:10 PM	Movement 7: Purpose With Other People	70 min

Time	Gathering	Duration
7:10 to 7:25 PM	Break	15 min
7:25 to 8:30 PM	Shared purpose circles, testimony, and prayer	65 min
SUNDAY	Faithful response and commissioning	
8:30 to 9:00 AM	Arrival or breakfast refreshments	30 min
9:00 to 9:20 AM	Worship and opening prayer	20 min
9:20 to 10:30 AM	Movement 8: The Next Faithful Step	70 min
10:30 to 10:45 AM	Break	15 min
10:45 to 11:25 AM	The gospel and a quiet response	40 min
11:25 AM to 12:00 PM	Commissioning, celebration, and release	35 min

WEEKLY GATHERING

Eight flexible one hour evenings

A church or small group may choose any evening and start time that works with its existing services and calendar. The sample guided gathering runs from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. Optional arrival or fellowship is separate from the promised hour.

Week	Movement	Primary focus
1	Purpose Begins With God	Identity before assignment; purpose belongs to God.
2	You Were Made on Purpose	Gifts, story, burdens, limits, and design without comparison.
3	Burden, Need, or Calling?	Testing direction instead of turning every need or emotion into an assignment.
4	Purpose Led Means Continually Led	Abiding, listening, preparation, and the next instruction.
5	What Is Already in Your Hands?	Stewardship, ordinary faithfulness, capacity, and wise release.
6	Open Hands and Pure Motives	Ambition, approval, control, comparison, success, and surrender.
7	Purpose With Other People	Leadership, following, collaboration, boundaries, and accountability.
8	The Next Faithful Step	Courage, waiting, changing assignments, the gospel, and commissioning.

A repeatable 60 minute rhythm

Time	Rhythm	Duration
6:30 to 6:38	Welcome, Scripture, prayer, and opening question	8 min
6:38 to 6:58	Focused teaching	20 min
6:58 to 7:13	Guided workbook response	15 min
7:13 to 7:25	Focused conversation and prayer	12 min
7:25 to 7:30	One faithful practice and closing	5 min

WHERE PURPOSE BEGINS

Relationship before direction

Nothing is assumed about your background. Some people may have followed Christ for years. Others may be uncertain what they believe or may be hearing the gospel clearly for the first time. You are welcome to listen, ask questions, and consider what you hear. Near the end, there will be unhurried time to respond honestly to Christ.

Purpose is not a way to earn God's love. We begin with what God has done and learn to respond. Your life matters because you were created by God and invited into relationship with Him, not because you become useful enough to deserve a place.

Beginning prayer

PRAYER

Lord, quiet the pressure to perform or prove myself. Help me listen honestly, receive what is true, and keep my hands open to Your correction and direction. Lead me toward the next faithful step. Amen.

MOVEMENT 1

Purpose Begins With God

Anchor Scripture: Romans 11:36; Ephesians 2:10; Genesis 1:27 (KJV)

CENTRAL TRUTH

Your purpose does not create your worth. You were made by God, belong to Him, and are invited to walk in what He gives you to do.

Read Along

Purpose is often introduced as the answer to, What am I supposed to accomplish? Scripture begins with God. We are not inventing enough meaning to prove that our lives matter. We are responding to the One who created us and redeemed us.

Identity, purpose, gifts, calling, and assignment belong together, but they are not interchangeable. Identity answers who we are in Christ. Purpose describes what our lives are ultimately for. Gifts are entrusted capacities. Calling is God's drawing or direction. An assignment is responsibility in a particular place or season.

Assignments can change without destroying purpose. A role may end, children may grow, a ministry may close, or capacity may shift. The common thread is not always the task. It is the God we belong to and the faithfulness with which we respond.

Guided response

Invite participants to name one place where usefulness, productivity, recognition, or being needed has become connected to worth. Then complete five short statements: In Christ I am; my life belongs to; God has entrusted; I may be drawn toward; my present responsibility is.

Reflect and pray

- Where have I felt pressure to prove that my life matters?
- Which assignment or role have I been tempted to make my entire identity?
- What changes when purpose begins with God rather than with me?

Ask God to help you receive identity before assignment. You do not need to identify one impressive purpose. Listen from the secure place of belonging to Christ.

MOVEMENT 2

You Were Made on Purpose

Anchor Scripture: Psalm 139:13–14; Romans 12:4–6; 1 Corinthians 12:18 (KJV)

CENTRAL TRUTH

God does not need you to become someone else before He can use your life. Gifts, experiences, burdens, limits, and relationships may all become part of faithful stewardship.

Read Along

Different does not mean less. Spiritual gifts are given by grace, natural strengths are still worth stewarding, and weaknesses do not automatically disqualify a person. At the same time, personality is not an excuse for unloving or irresponsible behavior.

Pain is not proof of purpose. God can redeem what we never would have chosen without requiring us to call the harm good. Our stories can become tools, but wounds do not get to become our identity or automatically decide our assignment.

Participants should pay attention to what moves them and what keeps returning, while remembering that not every burden is theirs to carry. Calling often uses more than one part of a life, including ordinary responsibilities and limits.

Guided response

Create a purpose inventory with six areas: gifts and abilities, experiences and preparation, burdens and recurring concerns, people and relationships, current responsibilities, and limitations or boundaries. Circle what is present now without turning every item into a promise from God.

Reflect and pray

- What have I overlooked because it seems ordinary or unimpressive?
- What part of someone else's design have I been comparing myself to?
- What limitation may be information rather than failure?

Thank God for the whole person He is forming. Let this inventory remain grounded rather than turning it into a label or a declaration that every interest is a calling.

MOVEMENT 3

Burden, Need, or Calling?

Anchor Scripture: James 1:5; Proverbs 3:5–6; 1 Thessalonians 5:21 (KJV)

CENTRAL TRUTH

A need is not automatically an assignment, a strong feeling is not automatically direction, and a good opportunity is not automatically God's door.

Read Along

A burden can get our attention, but discernment must follow. Pray before building. Test what you believe against Scripture. Seek wise counsel without asking other people to become God for you. Consider fruit, timing, present responsibilities, preparation, and the effect on people already entrusted to your care.

An open door may be an opportunity, a test, or simply a door. A closed door may be protection, preparation, redirection, or a temporary delay. Peace matters, but peace is not a shortcut. Fear and excitement can both sound convincing.

Calling can survive honest examination. Participants are allowed to discover that an interpretation was incomplete or wrong. Repentance and redirection are not failures of faith.

Guided response

Choose one burden or possible direction and work through six questions: Does it agree with Scripture? What is known and what is assumed? What responsibilities would it affect? What preparation is needed? Who can offer honest counsel? What is the next small way to test or learn?

Reflect and pray

- Am I responding to God's direction, to another person's urgency, or to my own need to be needed?
- What evidence have I treated as certainty when it may only be information?
- Can I hold this interpretation openly enough for God to correct it?

Ask God for wisdom, humility, and freedom from urgency. Carry one next question instead of pressuring yourself to announce a calling.

MOVEMENT 4

Purpose Led Means Continually Led

Anchor Scripture: John 10:27; John 15:4–5; Psalm 119:105 (KJV)

CENTRAL TRUTH

Knowing a general direction does not mean we stop asking for directions. The calling never replaces the relationship.

Read Along

Purpose Led is not simply discovering something God wants us to do. It is learning to live led by God. He may give the burden, and we still need Him for the boundary. He may give the gift, and we still need Him to show us where and how to use it.

Abiding helps us recognize His voice through Scripture, prayer, surrender, the Holy Spirit's correction, obedience, wise counsel, and long familiarity with His character. Purpose without abiding becomes exhausting and vulnerable to self direction.

Preparation is not a waiting room for real life. God may develop character before capacity and give a burden before revealing the assignment. Training, policies, systems, supervision, healing, and starting small may protect what He is preparing us to carry.

Guided response

Divide a page into three parts: What God has made clear; what I have assumed or pictured; what I need to keep asking. End by writing one abiding practice that will keep relationship ahead of activity.

Reflect and pray

- Have I treated one moment of direction as permission to stop listening?
- What part of my picture needs to remain open to correction?
- What preparation may be part of the purpose of this season?

Pray with open hands. Uncertainty does not mean failure, and enough light for the next faithful step can be enough.

MOVEMENT 5

What Is Already in Your Hands?

Anchor Scripture: Exodus 4:2; Luke 16:10; Colossians 3:23 (KJV)

CENTRAL TRUTH

Purpose is often practiced before it is recognized. Begin with faithful stewardship of what God has already placed in your hands.

Read Along

We often look past ordinary work while waiting for something that feels more meaningful. Current responsibilities, time, attention, money, relationships, home, body, and limitations are all part of stewardship.

Small does not mean insignificant, and multiplication does not always mean bigger numbers. Faithfulness may look like preparation, rest, repetition, receiving help, or caring well for the person in front of us.

Participants may need to put something down, but they should not drop what God has not released. A full life does not automatically mean a wrong life. Capacity and responsibility need honest examination rather than shame.

Guided response

Draw two circles. In the first, write what is clearly in my hands now. In the second, write what I am trying to carry that may belong to God, another person, or a future season. Choose one act of faithful stewardship and one burden to release.

Reflect and pray

- What ordinary responsibility have I been treating as an interruption to purpose?
- What resource or relationship have I overlooked?
- What am I carrying that God may not have assigned to me?

Hold your hands open before God. Name one specific act of stewardship you can complete within seven days and release what He has not assigned to you.

MOVEMENT 6

Open Hands and Pure Motives

Anchor Scripture: Psalm 139:23–24; Galatians 1:10; 1 Corinthians 3:6–7 (KJV)

CENTRAL TRUTH

A real calling can become mixed with ambition, approval, comparison, control, or the need to be needed. God can purify the calling without shaming the person.

Read Along

Ambition is not automatically wrong, but growth can become validation and leadership can become ownership. Success does not prove that God is pleased, and difficulty does not prove that He is displeased.

Comparison can corrupt calling. Competition can hide inside ministry. We may want to be needed more than we want people to grow, or become more loyal to a vision than to God. The glory and the increase belong to Him.

Surrender does not always mean God takes the assignment away. It means the dream, method, recognition, result, and right to control the outcome return to God. He is free to redirect us without becoming our enemy.

Guided response

Use an open hands inventory. Name the assignment or desire, then complete: I want; I fear; I may be trying to prove; I may be trying to control; I am willing for God to change; faithfulness today looks like.

Reflect and pray

- What do success and failure reveal in me?
- Could someone else carry this without threatening my identity?
- Do I want God, or only the outcome I attached to Him?

Remain in private prayer as long as needed. Return the assignment and its outcome to God, and allow Him to keep correcting your motives without shame.

MOVEMENT 7

Purpose With Other People

Anchor Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12–27; Mark 10:42–45; Ephesians 4:15–16 (KJV)

CENTRAL TRUTH

You are not the only person God is leading. Shared purpose requires humility, truth, boundaries, accountability, and room for every member of the body to grow.

Read Along

Shared purpose does not mean identical gifts. Collaboration requires enough security to share responsibility and enough clarity to define it. Support is not disappearing, and another person's calling does not automatically become ours.

Leadership is stewardship, not proof of importance. Authority does not make a leader always right. Spiritual language must never be used to control people, end conversation, hide harm, or replace accountability. Healthy leadership helps other people hear and follow God.

Following is not lesser and submission is not mindless obedience. A good follower can ask questions, disagree without disloyalty, and recognize when an assignment or partnership has ended. Friendship does not replace written agreements or healthy accountability.

Guided response

In small groups, map one shared assignment using four questions: What belongs to me? What belongs to someone else? What decisions need agreement? What accountability or boundary protects the people and the purpose?

Reflect and pray

- Can I celebrate a gift that I need but do not possess?
- Can people tell me the truth without fearing my reaction?
- Does my influence help people depend more deeply on Christ or more deeply on me?

Ask God for unity without control and collaboration without erasing anyone. Name one relationship to strengthen, one conversation to have, or one boundary to clarify.

MOVEMENT 8

The Next Faithful Step

Anchor Scripture: Proverbs 16:9; Matthew 25:21; Philippians 2:13 (KJV)

CENTRAL TRUTH

You do not need the whole map. Stay close to Jesus, carry what He gives, release what He does not, and take the next faithful step.

Read Along

Purpose may require courage, waiting, sacrifice, change, or ordinary faithfulness. Courage is not the absence of fear, and waiting is not passivity. An assignment can end without becoming meaningless. Sometimes obedience looks like moving; sometimes it looks like staying, resting, preparing, or releasing.

Participants will still make mistakes. Purpose Led does not mean perfectly led. When direction was misheard, return to God, repent where needed, repair what can be repaired, receive correction, and keep following without becoming afraid to decide again.

The outcome belongs to God. We may plant while another person waters. We are servants, not saviors. The goal is not to become impressive or indispensable. It is to be faithful with open hands.

Guided response

Complete a 30 day faithful step plan: what is clear; what needs prayer; what small step I will take; what I will not carry; who can provide honest accountability; when I will return and review the fruit. The step should be specific, wise, and small enough to begin.

Reflect and pray

- What is clear enough to obey without having the whole map?
- What outcome do I need to return to God?
- What will help me keep abiding after this gathering ends?

Carry one next step, one accountability relationship, and freedom to let God direct the result. You do not need the whole map before you obey what is clear.

CLOSING RESPONSE

The gospel and your response

Purpose is not a way to earn salvation or make your life valuable enough for God. God created us to know Him, but every person has sinned, and sin separates us from God. We cannot repair that separation by becoming better, more useful, or more religious.

Because God loves us, He sent Jesus Christ, His only Son. Jesus lived a blameless life without sin, died on the cross for all our sins, and rose again. He stood in our place and bridged the gap we could never cross. Jesus is the only way to the Father.

John 14:6 (KJV): Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Romans 10:9–10 (KJV): That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Prayer is a conversation with God. It is the response of acknowledging and confessing our sin, believing that Jesus died and rose again, accepting God's gift of salvation, and receiving Christ as Savior and Lord. Prayer does not earn salvation; Jesus saves. You may speak honestly to God in your own words or use the prayer below.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I believe You are God's only Son. You lived without sin, died on the cross for all my sins, and rose again. I know I have sinned and cannot make my own way to God. I turn from my sin and trust You alone. Forgive me. I accept Your gift of salvation and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Come into my life and help me follow, serve, and love You. Thank You for giving Yourself for me, standing in my place, and making the way for me to know the Father. In Jesus' name, amen.

Confidence and a next conversation

Confidence does not rest in a feeling or perfect words. It rests in Jesus, what He has done, and His promise. If you trusted Christ today, tell a leader before you leave. The church can celebrate with you, answer questions, pray, talk about baptism, help you begin reading Scripture, and connect you with a healthy Bible believing church.

YOUR NEXT THIRTY DAYS

One faithful step with open hands

What has become clear?

What still needs prayer or wise counsel?

What small and specific step will I take?

What result or responsibility will I refuse to carry?

Who can provide honest accountability?

When will I return and review the fruit?

CLOSING WORD

You do not need the whole map. You know the One who is leading. Keep following.

A private place to continue listening