

Live Out Your Purpose

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Prepare:

This study will guide the new Christ-follower or remind the seasoned Christ-follower that we do not have to struggle, guess, or reinvent the wheel in trying to figure out how to live out our purpose.

This study will show the women that God uses ordinary and imperfect people for His greater glory. God's Word provides all we need to live out our purpose in two passages of scripture: The Greatest Commandment (Matthew 22:37-40) and The Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). This study will cover each of these, as well as touch on the life of the apostle Peter and how he was able to live out his purpose by following these directives from Jesus Christ in spite of his humanness.

It would benefit the leader of the group to read the scriptures mentioned above as well as those that focus on specific aspects of Peter's life: Confession of Christ (Matthew 16:13-20), Disowns Jesus (Matthew 26:69-75), Reinstatement (John 21:15-19), and the Evangelist (Acts 2).

Materials needed:

Bible

Pen

A copy of the handout on page 52

Immerse:

In order to live out our purpose, we need to know what our purpose is. How do we find this out?

We do not need to look any further than God's Word.

Read: Matthew 22:37-40

Refer to the handout and fill in the blanks with the bold notes below:

This scripture makes our purpose clear, **love God and love others**. This type of love is not friendly affection. It is a love that means total devotion with your entire being. It means making that choice to see and do things through the eyes of God. God loved us so much that he gave His One and Only Son to die in our place. A precious gift that none of us deserve. This same love we are to extend to those around us.

You might be asking how do we demonstrate loving God and loving others?

Read: Matthew 28:16-20

It all comes down to one word: **Obedience**. If we say that we love God then we obey His Word. We have to be careful not to change God's Word to fit what we think, feel, or believe that it is saying. It is not about us. It is all about a God who loved us and wants us to love others by being obedient to share the Good News with lost souls. Being obedient is not always easy.

Read: Luke 9:23-26

Obedience requires self-denial, total commitment,

a complete dedication and willingness to “Go.”

Scripture does not tell us to wait around until the lost come to us. We are to go to them wherever they may be. This might sound frightening. Please know that we are not alone. God is with us and provides the help and direction we need to obey His Word.

Let us now look at how an ordinary person was able to live out their purpose in spite of their shortcomings. Peter was a man who was a fisherman by trade. He was at times stubborn, prideful, and afraid. Yet he was also faithful, was in Jesus’ inner circle, courageous, and obedient to his death. We are going to look at four pivotal events in Peter’s life. As we read through the scriptures, think about your life and how it compares to Peter’s during each of these passages. Are there similarities that you see or have had in your own life journey?

Read: Matthew 16:13-20 (Peter Confesses Christ)

Jesus asks Peter who is he? Peter has no delay in responding that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. He confesses Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus then goes on to tell Peter how the church will be built, through him. Peter had a connection with God. In that connection, God revealed who Jesus was to him. ***When we know God, He will reveal wonderful things to us.***

Read: Matthew 26:69-75 (Peter Disowns Jesus)

Oh, how the humanness of Peter is revealed. Those who point him out as one who knows and was with Jesus confront him three different times. In each encounter, Peter denies being with Jesus or even knowing Him. The rooster crows as predicted and Peter feels ashamed, going away and weeping. How tragic for him to have proclaimed Jesus as the Christ, Son of the Living God, the Messiah, and then adamantly deny Him. ***We all have moments when we let God down.***

Read: John 21:15-19 (Jesus Reinstates Peter)

In this precious encounter, Jesus asks Peter three different times if he loves him. Each time Peter replies that he does. Jesus directs Peter to feed and take care of His sheep. Jesus loves Peter so much that He restores this sheep back to His fold. ***God provides forgiveness and brings us back into the fold.***

Read: Acts 2 (The Evangelist)

Peter along with the other apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit and now stood before the crowds. Peter began to speak and gave the first salvation message. He shared the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Peter urged those in the crowd to repent, turn to God

Engage:

1. Move into pairs or small groups, depending on your group size. Discuss the following questions:

- How do you demonstrate loving God and loving others?
- What prevents you from total obedience to God's Word?
- What changes might you need to make to love God and love others by obeying His Word?
- Like Peter, have you experienced moments of doubt/denial in your faith?
- How does it feel to know you are loved and forgiven by Jesus?
- How have you shared this knowledge of who Jesus Christ is, and what He has done for each of us to the lost souls in your life?
- If you have not, what hinders you?

for the forgiveness of sins, and be baptized. He assured the crowds that anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Peter understood the urgency of sharing this salvation message. He believed that obedience to God was more important than obedience to men. Peter lived out the "Go" of the Great Commission. ***Share the Good News no matter what the cost.***

The leader will conclude the study by reading the following and then close in prayer. Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest*:

The "Go" of Unconditional Identification

"One thing thou lackest . . . come, take up the cross, and follow Me." Mark 10:21 (KJV)

*The rich young ruler had the master passion to be perfect. When he saw Jesus Christ, he wanted to be like Him. Our Lord never puts personal holiness to the fore when He calls a disciple; He puts absolute annihilation of my right to myself and identification with Himself – a relationship with Himself in which there is no other relationship. . . Very few of us know the absolute "go" of abandonment to Jesus. "Then Jesus beholding him loved him." The look of Jesus will mean a heart broken forever from allegiance to any other person or thing. Has Jesus ever looked at you? The look of Jesus transforms and transfixes. Where you are "soft" with God is where the Lord has looked at you. If you are hard and vindictive, insistent on your own way, certain that the other person is more likely to be in the wrong than you are, it is an indication that there are whole tracts of your nature that have never been transformed by His gaze. "One thing thou lackest. . . ." The only "good thing" from Jesus Christ's point of view is union with Himself and nothing in between. "Sell whatsoever thou hast. . . ." I must reduce myself until I am a mere conscious man, I must fundamentally renounce possessions of all kinds, not to save my soul (only one thing saves a man – absolute reliance upon Jesus Christ) – but in order to follow Jesus. "Come and follow Me." And the road is the way He went. *1*

Citation of Sources:

New International Version Study Bible Edition used for scripture references.
Chambers, Oswald. *My Utmost for His Highest*. Michigan: Discovery House Publishers, 1963.

My Purpose

Read Matthew 22:37-40

Love _____ / Love _____

How do we do this?

Read Matthew 28:16-20

O _____

This requires . . .

Read Luke 9:23-26

Obedience means _____ - _____, total _____, a complete _____ and willingness to “_____.”

Peter – The Rock***Peter Confesses Christ (Matthew 16:13-20):***

When we _____ God, He will _____ wonderful things to us.

Peter Disowns Jesus (Matthew 26:69-75):

We all have _____ when we let God _____.

Jesus Reinstates Peter (John 21:15-19):

God provides _____ and brings us back into the _____.

The Evangelist (Acts 2):Share the _____ no matter _____
_____.