

Message Title: Am I Living My Purpose

Teaching Pastor: Brian C. Hughes

This study guide has been designed for Small Groups in mind, and can be used by individuals as well.

Begin by each person sharing their answer to this question: How well do you think you are living out God's purpose for your life? Do you think you know what that purpose is?

Watch The Video

Brian talked about 3 things that help us with this, saying that Purpose is:

- Found in God's Design
- Formed through my experience
- Refined by my total commitment

Let's talk about each of these together

Found In God's Design

How well would you say that you know yourself? Go around the group and tell everyone 3 things that you know about you, and make one of them something that few people know.

Read Psalm 139 together (take turns and let different group members read out loud, but only if they want to).

- What does the Psalmist say about how well God knows you?
- What does the Psalmist say about who made you?
- When did God know you?

In what way(s) has God designed YOU that you are not fully living out in your life? In other words, name an area that God's design for you is not being fully embraced by the way you live.

- What could you do to more fully live into God's design for you?

Formed Through My Experience

On Sunday, Brian talked about Craig and in the Small Group Video, he talked about his own past and Jerimy Ford. In each situation, God used someone's past poor decisions for something good.

- In what way has God used your past for something good?
- If you couldn't answer the previous question, answer this one: In what way could Go use your past for something good?

Read Philippians 3:1-14

- What do you think Paul is saying about previous experiences?
- Here, Paul is talking about his 'resume' and he's saying that building impressive credentials is something God can use, but not something for us to hold onto tightly. How are you holding onto your 'credentials' tightly?
- The key verses for many of us from Philippians 3 are 12-14. Spend some time as a group talking about what those verses mean.
- What does it mean to 'forget the past'?
- What is Paul trying to accomplish? (in other words, what's the 'goal' that he refers to?)

Refined By My Total Commitment

Being completely committed to Jesus Christ is circular. It requires our repeated willingness to choose what God wants instead of what I want.

- Read Matthew 10:37-39. What do you think Jesus is saying here?
- In what areas do you feel that you have to 'fight' or 'struggle' between what God wants you to do vs. what you want to do? Talk about that with your group, and remember that most of us DO struggle in some area.
- What tools could you use in your life to better equip yourself to choose God, refining your commitment to follow Him?

Be sure to pray for each other before you leave your group!

NOTES