

ON TRACK SERIES LIFE GROUP APPLICATION WEEK 4 DISCOVERING AND FULFILLING YOUR PURPOSE

John 15:16, "... I have appointed you to bear fruit that remains"

I Corinthians 9:26 NLT, "I run with purpose in every step"

Acts 20:24, "My only aim is to finish the race and compete the task the Lord Jesus has given me."

I. Why discovering and fulfilling your purpose is so important

- A. If we don't focus on the right target, we can't win the race and fulfill God's plan to use our lives.
- B. If we discover and fulfill our purpose:
 - 1. We will bear much fruit. Where you are appointed is also where you are anointed. *"To each one grace is given according to the portion of God's gift..." (Eph. 4:7)*
 - 2. You will fuel passion and hope.
 - 3. You will help the team God has called you, to be all it can be and help it change the world.
 - a. Everyone and every gift are needed in the church to accomplish God's mission. The body grows and is completed by each member doing their part.
 - b. Don't allow the devil to convince you that your part and calling is unimportant.
- C. The vision of HFTW is every member knowing and fulfilling their purpose so that each of us and all of us together can make our biggest difference.

II. We come to discover and fulfill our purpose by looking up, looking in, and looking out.

- A. Offering ourselves in full surrender to be used by God as He wants is the first step to knowing God's purpose for your life.
 - *"Saul is a chosen instrument to take my message to the Gentiles, Kings, and the people of Israel." (Acts 9:15)*
 - *"I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice-the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him." (Romans 12:1 NLT)*

- B. Looking within has to do with discovering the way God has S.H.A.P.E.D us. When we know our design, we can recognize our destiny.
“While you were still in your mother’s womb, I called you and appointed you as my prophet.” (Jeremiah 1:5)

S-spiritual gifts
H-heart passion
A-abilities and strengths
P-personality
E-Experiences

God never wastes a tear. Where God has healed and redeemed us the most is where God will use us the most.

- C. Looking outward is answering the question of how can I begin to serve and add value to others.

We don’t discover our purpose so that we can begin to minister, we begin to minister so we can discover our purpose. As you focus on being a laborer, God will make you a leader. When you focus on doing what you can to minister to others, you won’t have to find your ministry; it will find you. “A man’s gift makes room for him.”

Questions for Discussion

1. As you think of your SHAPE and personality. Would you compare yourself more to:
 - a. An otter-the life of the party?
 - b. A beaver-quietly focused on getting the job done?
 - c. A lion- who takes charge and likes to be the mover and shaker?
 - d. The golden retriever- lovable and there to help?
2. Do you have a testimony of how God has redeemed a painful experience of your past to help you to relate and minister to someone else?
3. As you look at a list of spiritual gifts, which do you think might stand out as the two or three God has especially exhibited in you?
4. Is there a ministry in the church that is or you could see being especially fulfilling?
5. In a few words could you describe what you think is one of God’s main purposes in your life (a unique way that you are supposed to make a difference and a unique target that as you move toward, you have a confidence you are moving toward finishing and winning your race)?
6. Can you identify one or two special gifts you see in others in the group that you would really like to encourage them in?