

Making Your Life Count

Living On Purpose

Evangelism:
REACHING YOUR FRIENDS FOR CHRIST

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A LETTER FROM DOUG...

Congratulations for choosing to grow!

When you hear the phrase “get a life,” you probably think negative. Well, in the world’s view, those three words are often used as a put-down. But, from now on, I want to encourage you to think positive about getting a life...more specifically, developing a purpose-driven life.

When you finish this book (and the other four in the series) you’ll be on your way toward living a life that is built around five very important actions of a Christian.

Evangelism
Fellowship
Discipleship
Ministry
Worship

Imagine what your life might look like if you were regularly involved in reaching others for Christ (evangelism), connecting with other Christians (fellowship), growing in your faith (discipleship), discovering your gifts and serving the church (ministry), and honoring God with your life (worship)? Actually, the same purposes God has laid out for the church are the very ones strong Christians possess.

The most impressive students I’ve ever met are the ones who desire to be the people that God wants them to be. There’s no instant vitamin you can take to become that type of person and immediately reflect those biblical purposes in your life...but this Bible study series will definitely put you on the right track!

Complete this booklet on your own, do it with a friend or two, or lead a group as together you seek to honor God by living a purpose-driven life.

Living On Purpose with you,

Doug Fields

PS: By the way, there’s no specific order to completing these five booklets. Start with whatever one you want and keep going until you’ve finished all five.

Read This First!

Before you jump into this Bible study, I want to share the answers to some frequently asked questions I hear concerning this series.

1. CAN MY SMALL GROUP USE THIS?

Yes! It's written in a small group format, and would work perfectly in that setting. Decide as a group whether you want to do the lesson together during your Bible study, or if you want to complete each lesson before your study and discuss your answers when you meet together.

2. IF I'M NOT DOING THIS IN A SMALL GROUP, CAN I DO THIS ON MY OWN?

Yes! Even though it's written in a small group format, it would work just as easily as a self-study. When the lesson directs you to discuss or share, simply think through the question yourself and/or journal your response. Better yet, talk through what you're learning with someone after each lesson.

3. WHY HAVE FOUR LESSONS FOR EACH BIBLICAL PURPOSE?

Because I wanted to show how each biblical purpose can impact a life by asking basic questions: what, why, and now what? Following the introduction in Lesson 1, the questions in the subsequent lessons correspond to something you know, something you feel, and something you do.

4. WHAT'S THE FORMAT FOR EACH LESSON?

OVERVIEW

This is a snapshot of the lesson. It provides a quick glimpse of what's ahead.

STRETCH

This is the lesson opener that gets you thinking about the topic from a different perspective.

LOOK

This is a journey into the Bible to see what God says on the topic. You'll also find some interactive questions or activities to help you think about the Bible verses.

TALK

This section gets you talking! If you're doing this in a small group, share your thoughts out loud and write down a summary of what was discussed. If you're doing this by yourself, journal your responses.

DO

Time to put your faith into action! In this section you get to analyze what you've learned and then live it out in a practical way.

TAKE IT FURTHER

This devotional section is optional and it reinforces the lesson with five additional days of material.

TAKE IT HOME

This is also an optional tool for you to bring the message of the lesson home and talk it over with a parent, sibling, or other family member. While this is difficult to do, I've found that if you verbalize what you've learned, you'll benefit greatly.

What if you don't have any Christian family members? No problem! Use the "Take It Home" questions as a tool to dialogue on spiritual issues. Parents are always interested in what you're learning, and prayerfully discussing these questions can plant seeds in their lives.

Lesson 1:

Reaching your friends for Christ

AN INTRODUCTION AND JOURNAL

Whether this is the first Living On Purpose book you've gone through or the fifth, don't skip this first lesson! Why? Well, it's important to make sure everyone is on the "same page" and has a healthy understanding of what it means to develop a purpose-driven life. Plus, each volume of this five-part series has a new set of journal questions that will help jump-start your thinking. First, let's look at several questions I get asked relating to developing a purpose-driven life.

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT DEVELOPING A LIVING ON PURPOSE LIFE?

Great question! The fact that you're doing this Bible study is evidence that you want to gain a greater understanding of who God is and honor Him with your life. Too many students fail to look at the big picture of life and wrongly assume that they'll simply make decisions about significant issues in life when they face them. That's dangerous thinking! If you plan to establish boundaries in your physical relationship with your boyfriend/girlfriend during a romantic evening when no one is around and passion is flying high, you're doomed! Obviously, a discussion on boundaries should happen ahead of time.

Whether you want to succeed in relationships or school or in any other endeavor, you need to pursue those things with purpose. You've got to decide what your goal is and make a plan to achieve it. Can you get a lucky break once in a while and slide by a winner? Sure. Everyone does it, including me. But if counting on those lucky breaks is a pattern of your life, your streak will soon end. You just never know when.

So being purpose-driven helps you know what you're doing, but it also helps you know why you're doing it. Why save sex until marriage, why learn the discipline of good study habits, why tell the truth, why be faithful to friends? Each of those questions has been asked thousands of times, and God has a loving, reasonable response to each one that not only informs, but also reveals His love for you and for me. God has a purpose behind each instruction that He gives, and the same is true when considering the biblical purposes for the church, for your youth group, and for your life.

Finally, besides helping you know what you're doing and why you're doing it, being purpose-driven in life produces balance. For example, it's wise to balance eating good food with exercise. If you focus too much on just one of those, you'll get sick. However, if you pursue an appropriate balance between the two, the result will be health. This principle of health is true in other areas of our lives as well.

DOES THE BIBLE SAY WE SHOULD LIVE ON PURPOSE?

This is an important question because ideas come and go, but instructions found in the Bible last forever. The biblical purposes covered in this series are found in the Bible, and you'll be safe to wholeheartedly pursue them.

So what are the purposes for the church, your youth group, and your life? While the biblical purposes can be found in a number of verses (see * note at end of this book), there are two key Bible passages that summarize all the purposes.

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT: MATTHEW 22:37-40

"Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

THE GREAT COMMISSION: MATTHEW 28:19-20

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

The five purposes are discovered in these two passages.

Worship: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart"

Ministry: "Love your neighbor as yourself"

Evangelism: "Go and make disciples of all nations"

Fellowship: "Baptizing them" (baptism is a symbol of fellowship as it identifies the Christian with Christ as well as with the body of Christ)

Discipleship: "Teaching them to obey"

In this series I sometimes refer to a different set of words that our ministry uses in order to provide a clearer understanding of the biblical purposes. There are several ways to say the same thing, and the following bold words are just one way that shows what each biblical purpose is about. If your ministry uses different words, write those words next to the list below.

Reach is our word for evangelism

Connect is our word for fellowship

Grow is our word for discipleship

Discover is our word for ministry

Honor is our word for worship

SO, CAN UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLICAL PURPOSES AFFECT MY LIFE?

Immensely!

- Imagine having a plan to be involved in evangelism...you'd reach more for Christ.
- Imagine having a plan to be involved in fellowship...you'd connect more with other Christians.
- Imagine having a plan to be involved in discipleship...you'd grow more in your faith.
- Imagine having a plan to be involved in ministry...you'd discover your spiritual gifts and see how valuable you are to your church and the world.
- Imagine having a plan to be involved in worship...you'd honor God with your life.

Make sense? If you miss out on any of the purposes, you miss out on a significant point of influence in your life and in the lives of others. But you can't embrace purposes that you don't understand - that's why this Bible study series is so valuable!

Your Turn!

EVANGELISM

Now that you’ve reviewed what it means to be purpose-driven, take some time to talk through these questions and then write out your response. (If you’re doing this on your own, simply journal your thoughts to the following questions.)

How do you define evangelism?

Why do you think evangelism is important?

When you think of evangelism, what images come to mind?

If a Christian were to practice evangelism, how would his/her life be different?

What experiences have you had with evangelism?

If your evangelistic “dream” came true, what would it look like?



THIS IS A SAMPLE
The number of pages is limited.

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