



Week 1 Small Group: God's Purpose for You

OPENING PRAYER:

Dear God, we come here today with open hearts, minds, and spirits. We come to study your word and receive your wisdom and guidance. Fill our minds. We come to engage in meaningful conversation to grow closer as a community. Fill our hearts. We come to prepare to be disciples of Jesus Christ. Fill our spirits. Amen.

Quote

"If you can't figure out your purpose, figure out your passion. For your passion will lead you right into your purpose." TD Jakes

BREAKING THE ICE:

- What are some of the measures of success in our culture?

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:

Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Using your gifts and abilities for God's purposes:

- What is God's criteria for a king? How is that different from what Samuel starts out looking for?
- What does it mean to you that God passed over seven of Jesse's sons before choosing David?
- What does it mean that God "looks at the heart" of the individual?



NEXT STEPS:

- Have you ever felt you were called to a position or opportunity yet were passed over? How have you been able to trust that God still has a purpose and plan for you when it feels like you have been dismissed or overlooked?
- What purpose do you perceive that God has given you for your life?
- How does it feel to have new gifts discovered and affirmed? How can you work to affirm the gifts of others?
- How does God's choice of David encourage you in your current stage of life?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Spirit of the living God, as we leave this place fill us with your grace. Help us to live out the lessons learned in this place. Encourage us to live fully for your purpose and to support others to live out their God given purpose too. May we go forth to love more fully with our hearts, minds, and spirits. Amen.



Week 2 Small Group: Equipped

OPENING PRAYER:

Dear God, we come here today with open hearts, minds, and spirits. We come to study your word and receive your wisdom and guidance. Fill our minds. We come to engage in meaningful conversation to grow closer as a community. Fill our hearts. We come to prepare to be disciples of Jesus Christ. Fill our spirits. Amen.

Quote

“Though we tremble before uncertain futures, may we meet illness, death, and adversity with strength, may we dance in the face of our fears.” Gloria Anzaldúa

BREAKING THE ICE:

Share a time in your life when you faced an obstacle and tried to solve it with your power.

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:

Read 1 Samuel 17:31-40

- What is the difference of focus between Saul and David?
- In this text how do we see that God equipped David for this moment?
- How does David’s attitude compare to Saul’s in earlier chapters?
- Name David's attributes.

NEXT STEPS:

- Is there anything preventing you from moving ahead in answering your call? Fear? Lack of confidence? Not sure of your gifts?
- What do you think is holding people in the congregation back from being what you, as a congregation, are called to be?



- Has there been a time when someone has disregarded or devalued your gifts? How will you be an encourager to others?
- What are the ways you are already equipped to live out your call?
- What are the Goliaths in our society? How can you be a David?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Spirit of the living God, as we leave this place, fill us with your grace. Help us to live out the lessons learned in this place. Give us the courage to live out our faith, trusting that you have equipped us in advance. Help us to appreciate the many different ways that you equip your people to serve. May we go forth to love more fully with our hearts, minds, and spirits. Amen.



Week 3 Small Group: Supported

OPENING PRAYER:

Dear God, we come here today with open hearts, minds, and spirits. We come to study your word and receive your wisdom and guidance. Fill our minds. We come to engage in meaningful conversation to grow closer as a community. Fill our hearts. We come to prepare to be disciples of Jesus Christ. Fill our spirits. Amen.

Quote

“God does not care about protocol.” Mark Batterson, *Draw the Circle*

BREAKING THE ICE:

What are some ways you have witnessed people make sacrifices for their friends?

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:

Read 1 Samuel 20:1-17

- What is the foundation of David and Jonathan's loyalty to one another? What enables them to make sacrifices for each other?
- A covenant is a promise between us and God. David and Jonathan made a promise that was fulfilled because it was in covenant with God. Where else have you seen covenants in the Bible?
- What is Jonathan giving up in order to remain faithful to David?

NEXT STEPS:

- Friendship requires selfless actions. How do we discern another's needs and how do we decide when it is worth risking what we have (comforts, securities, etc.) to support them?



- In what specific ways can you be like Jonathan to show your support to someone?
- Why should turning to God's covenant promises bring you confidence and security in a time of uncertainty?
- Share the difference between friendships where you're in covenant with God and other relationships.

CLOSING PRAYER:

Spirit of the living God, as we leave this place, fill us with your grace. Help us to live out the lessons learned in this place. We are grateful for the ways that you have cared for and supported us. Help us to be there to selflessly support others. May we go forth to love more fully with our hearts, minds, and spirits. Amen.



Week 4 Small Group: Affirmed

OPENING PRAYER:

Dear God, we come here today with open hearts, minds, and spirits. We come to study your word and receive your wisdom and guidance. Fill our minds. We come to engage in meaningful conversation to grow closer as a community. Fill our hearts. We come to prepare to be disciples of Jesus Christ. Fill our spirits. Amen.

Quote

“The new dawn blooms as we free it / For there is always light, / if only we’re brave enough to see it / If only we’re brave enough to be it.” Amanda Gorman

BREAKING THE ICE:

What is the most meaningful affirmation that you have ever received or witnessed?

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:

Read 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 12

- For what reasons did the elders make David king? How did David’s actions before he had the title influence this decision?
- How do the expectations of the people of their king in this text shape their expectations for a Messiah?
- David was anointed king three different times. What might that tell us about being affirmed?

NEXT STEPS:

- When have you seen God using your experiences as a channel or blessing for others?
- How do we affirm persons as leaders in our personal lives? In our church? In the world?



- How can you affirm the members of this group in their calling?
- Where is God calling you? What do you need to affirm that calling?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Spirit of the living God, as we leave this place, fill us with your grace. Help us to live out the lessons learned in this place. We thank you for affirming our call and reminding us to support and affirm the leadership of others in both our personal lives and the church. May we go forth to love more fully with our hearts, minds, and spirits. Amen.