

Campus Church of Christ Jail Ministry
Series 1: Lesson #7
“You Were Formed for God’s Family” part B
from *The Purpose Driven Life*¹

When you die, what is the most important thing that you would like to leave for your heirs? _____

Why? _____



Key Points summary from previous lessons

It is not about me!

- We were born *by* God’s purpose and *for* His purpose.
- God planned every person; no one was born by “accident”.
- We discover our meaning and purpose only when God is the reference point of our lives.
- Living with purpose is living with peace.
 - Our lifetime on earth is only a moment of our lifetime in eternity.
 - Life on earth is a dress rehearsal for eternity.
 - My view of life determines how I will live my life.
 - Life on earth is both a test and a trust.
 - Life on earth is a temporary assignment.
 - It is all for Him!

We were created by God for His pleasure.

- Anything we do that brings glory and pleasure to God is worship.
- If we do not worship God, we will worship something else.
- Worship is a result of being in love with Jesus.
- Worship is not a part of your life; it IS your life.
- Five ways to worship God that please Him:
 - Love Him.
 - Trust Him.
 - Obey Him.
 - Praise and thank Him.
 - Be ourselves.
- The heart of worship is surrender.
- Fear, pride, and confusion get in the way of our surrender.
- The blessings of surrender include: peace, freedom, God’s power

in our life.

- God wants to be my best friend.
- We become best friends with God
 - by constant conversation, i.e. prayer.
 - by mediation on His Word.
 - by being completely honest.
 - by choosing to obey in faith.
 - by choosing to value what God values.
 - by making it our highest priority.
- We are as close to God as we choose to be.
- God wants all of me – heart, soul, mind, and strength
- God is pleased with our worship
 - if it comes from our spirit; i.e. it is authentic
 - when it is done according to truth; i.e. it is accurate according to the Bible
 - if it is thoughtful; i.e. we are mentally engaged
 - when it is a “living sacrifice”; i.e. it costs us something
- God is real no matter how I feel.
- It is our faith, not our feelings, that pleases God.
- Trust God to keep His promises.

God made us for His family.

- Being a member of God’s family is a choice I make.
- Our only access to being in God’s family is through Jesus.
- Baptism is not optional.
- Being a member of God’s family includes great benefits.



Day 16: What Matters Most

Focus point: Life is all about love

What is the best use of life? _____

What is a good way to identify what my priorities are? _____

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and list all the characteristics of real love.

What are some reasons why loving others can be very difficult for us to do?

What are the only three things that we can take from earth with us when we die?

What is the best way to express my love?

When is the best time to express my love? Why?

Look back at your answer about what you consider the most important thing to leave your heirs.

In what way/s does my answer reflect my priorities?

Did I choose something that will last forever? (Explain why or why not.)

Verse to remember: Galatians 5:14 (NIV)

The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Verses to study:

Galatians 5:14	1 Peter 2:17	Galatians 6:10
John 13:35	1 Corinthians 14:1	1 Corinthians 13:3
Matthew 22:37-40	1 Corinthians 13:13	Matthew 25:34-46
Galatians 5:6	1 John 3:18	Ephesians 5:2, 16
John 3:16	Proverbs 3:27	

To ponder: Honestly, are relationships the top priority in my life? How could I insure that they are?

Prayer focus: “Father, help me to remember that life is all about love. Today I will take the time to love the people you place in my path. Remind me that loving others is never a waste of time. Teach me to love those who seem unlovable and give them what they need, not what they deserve.² “Whether I get anything else done today, I want to make sure that I spend time loving you and loving other people – because that’s what life is all about. I don’t want to waste this day.”¹

Day 17: A Place to Belong

Focus point: I’m called to belong, not just believe.

Read Ephesians 5:25. How important is The Church?

Read Romans 12:4-5.
Describe the structure of the church.

How do I fit into that structure?

Read the following scriptures and then explain the significance of the church described by the passage/s.

John 13:35 _____

Galatians 3:28, John 17:21, 1 Corinthians 12:27 _____

1 Corinthians 12:26, 1 John 3:16 _____

Ephesians 4:6 _____

1 Corinthians 12:7 _____

Ephesians 2:10 _____

Verse to remember: Romans 12:5 (NIV)

In Christ we who are many from one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Verses to study:

Genesis 2:18	1 Corinthians 12:12-27	Ephesians 2:21, 22
Ephesians 3:6	Ephesians 4:6	Colossians 2:19
1 Thessalonians 4:17	Romans 12:4,5	1 Corinthians 6:15
Ephesians 4:16	Matt 16:18	Ephesians 5:25, 27
2 Corinthians 11:2	Revelations 19:7	1 Peter 2:17
1 Corinthians 5:1-13	Galatians 6:1-5	Ephesians 2:19
John 13:35	Galatians 3:28	Ephesians 4:16
1 John 3:16	1 Corinthians 12:7	Ephesians 2:10
1 Corinthians 10:12	Jeremiah 17:9	1 Timothy 1:19
Hebrews 3:13	James 5:19	Acts 20:28-29
1 Peter 5:1-4	Hebrews 13:7, 17	Acts 2:42
2 Corinthians 8:5		

To ponder: Does my level of involvement in my church demonstrate that I love and am committed to God's family?

Prayer focus: "Dear God, help me to remember that whenever I become careless about fellowship with other believers, I'm moving away from you. Forgive me for the times I've gotten detached from your Body, the church. Help me to stay connected and committed, and love your church the way you do." (2 Day 17)

Day 18: Experiencing Life Together

Focus point: I need others in my life.

What happens in real fellowship?

1. A _____ develops that allows for relationships to become deep and _____. Within that trust, we feel _____ to confess our sins and pray for each other. (James 5:16)
2. We need and _____ upon each other. We develop the art of giving and _____.
3. Two very basic humans needs are met: the need to be understood and the need to have our feelings validated = _____.
4. We learn to _____ and be forgiven; we learn how to extend grace and _____ and receive _____ and mercy.

The simplest levels of fellowship are the fellowship of _____ and the fellowship of _____.

A deeper level is the fellowship of _____ and the deepest level is the fellowship of _____.

Verse to remember: Galatians 6:2 (NLT)

Share each other's troubles and problems, and in this way obey the law of Christ.

Verses to study:

Matthew 18:20

1 John 1:7-8

James 5:16

1 Corinthians 12:25

Romans 1:12

Romans 12:10

Romans 14:19

Colossians 3:12

Philippians 3:10

Hebrews 10:33-34

Galatians 6:2

Job 6:14

2 Corinthians 2:7

Colossians 3:13

To ponder: What one step could I take today to connect with another believer at a more genuine, heart-to-heart level?

How can true fellowship help with my sin problem?

Prayer focus: “Father, I want you to use me to help build real fellowship in my church. Help me to be authentic with others and not wear a mask. Teach me to show sympathy to those who are hurting and offer mercy to those who have stumbled.” (2 Day 18)

References:

¹ Warren, Rick. ***The Purpose Driven Life***. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.

² Warren, Rick. ***The Purpose Driven Life Prayer Journal***. Inspirio, 2002.

This lesson was prepared for you and presented by volunteers from Campus Church of Christ. We believe that the Bible is the holy, inspired, Word of God in which He has revealed to us Himself, His love and His plan for us. We teach no other doctrine than that found in the Bible, and we ask that you examine all teaching from us or anyone else to be sure that it is accurate according to the Bible.

If you are seeking a church family with whom to worship and to grow in your faith, we invite you to Campus Church of Christ, 1525 Indian Trail Rd., Norcross, GA 30093. You may visit us online at www.campuschurch.org. Sunday morning worship services are at 8:30 and 11:00. We have Bible classes for all ages at 9:45. Sunday evening, we meet at 6:00 and Wednesday evening at 7:00.

Notes:

The following story came from an email circulating on the Internet.

Being a veterinarian, I had been called to examine a ten-year-old Irish wolfhound named Belker. The dog's owners, Ron, his wife, Lisa, and their little boy, Shane, were all very attached to Belker and they were hoping for a miracle.

I examined Belker and found he was dying of cancer. I told the family there were no miracles left for Belker, and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog in their home.

As we made arrangements, Ron and Lisa told me they thought it would be good for the four-year-old Shane to observe the procedure. They felt as though Shane might learn something from the experience.

The next day, I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker's family surrounded him. Shane seemed so calm, petting the old dog for the last time, that I wondered if he understood what was going on. Within a few minutes, Belker slipped peacefully away. The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any difficulty or confusion.

We sat together for a while after Belker's death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are shorter than human lives. Shane, who had been listening quietly, piped up, "I know why."

Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me. I'd never heard a more comforting explanation.

He said, "People are born so that they can learn how to live a good life -- like loving everybody all the time and being nice, right?" The four-year-old continued, "Well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long."

Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God.