



LIFE STUDIES

God's Purpose for Life



A SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM MADE BY PBC

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L.I.F.E STARTER JOURNALING

The Bible journaling method called LIFE Starter was developed to create an easy, yet effective way for people to study the Bible, remember what they read and allow their hearts to get ignited for Jesus Christ.

L.I.F.E. stands for Listen, Investigate, Focus and Engage

L=Listen

In your journal, write the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, listen to the Holy Spirit and focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal. Writing helps you remember the verses

I = Investigate

Next, you investigate the context around the Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: Bible Study Tools, or Easy English Bible.

F = Focus

The next step is focusing on the text to make it applicable for your own life. What does the text mean today? What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read? Write out a couple sentences detailing what God is saying to you through the text.

E = Engage

The final step in the journaling process is engaging God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you've learned?

The beautiful thing about this journaling method is that it is short and only takes a few minutes, and it can be done every time you read or study a passage.

SESSION 1: START WITH WHY!

Welcome, Review Study/LIFE Starter Journaling: 20 minutes

Session #1 Teaching: Time to Take Back YOUR Life: 10 minutes

To really understand God's purpose for life, we need to create space in OUR lives to better understand what God has for us! **Busyness** is of the enemy and he wants to rob you of peace and make you think it's OK to love a life of stress. That stress doesn't end with YOU either, for it gets translated into every relationship you have. God cares more about relationships than checklists. He cares more about our ability to love Him and those around us than He does about your tasks and your ability to "multi task!" The reality is that NO ONE does it well! **God didn't build us to multitask.** Research shows that multitasking is actually counterproductive! In fact busyness blinds us and dictates our schedule, so we don't slow down enough to think about each task. Each person.

Ask yourself this question: is my life so busy that I often prioritize what I need to get done over the people God has called me to see and love?

Oftentimes, being busy multitasking fills a need to accomplish tasks because then we feel successful. We do it in order to feel worthy. We seem to have an insatiable desire to always be one step ahead of where we are. It could be a coping mechanism to keep ourselves from thinking or feeling things we don't want to acknowledge, or an attempt to live up to the expectations of others. If your current busy schedule feels more like a burden than a blessing, chances are you've taken on too much than is healthy for you – or perhaps you've simply taken on too much of the wrong things. It may be time for you to stop worshipping the idol of busy.

"Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is."
Ephesians 5:15-17

It's time to let your priorities determine your schedule. You can actually accomplish more with less, if you focus your attention completely on each task at hand. Challenge yourself to be fully present in whatever you are doing in any given moment. Ever heard this: we are called human BEINGS not human doings. Allow time for just "being," not focused on "doing" anything in particular. Make time for the joy God wants you to experience and you might have room to discover the purpose He created you for.

The bottom line is that how you spend your time is a reflection of your **priorities**. God has already defined what should be the most important thing in your life, so now is the time to make time for God and the loving relationships that He has given you to cherish! Don't think Jesus can't sympathize with your busyness.

Today, we are going to start this study by doing a quick self-assessment of our priorities in life. If you identify yourself as someone who's constantly "busy," I want you to discuss as a group, in all of your busyness, are you living the life that God wants you to live? Does your busyness fulfill you, or are you living up to the goals and expectations of what others want for you?

Here's a good question: what do you WANT your priorities to be? What would your calendar, bank account, and the focus of your worry say your priorities are? Do they match?

Now let me stop for a moment and speak to you as a pastor. Just because your priorities may have been out of whack doesn't mean you've irreparably botched it. Consider this verse. You may be familiar with the first half: And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to HIS [emphasis added] purpose. Romans 8:28

The purpose for your life isn't even your purpose. It is God's purpose for you. He is weaving together a story in your life and don't be surprised if He takes the broken parts of your story and uses them to be the catalyst to reveal His purpose for you going forward.

For homework this week, I'm going to ask you to bring this assessment home and ask your spouse, or those closest to you, to answer the same questions for themselves AND for YOU! Practically, think this week about things you **don't want** to do, and actually **don't need to do**. Things you **don't want to do**, but actually **need to do**. Things you **want to do** and actually **need to do** and finally, things you **want to do**, but actually **don't need to do**. After discussing this session with those closest to you, make a list of things that need to be reprioritized (to discuss with your group next week). Also, PLEASE make time to dig into the LIFE Starters Journalling process, as it will allow the Holy Spirit (through the Bible) to make these weekly sessions come alive in your heart!

Individual Application: 10 minutes

Please answer these "priority" questions honestly (and have your spouse or a friend independently do the same): (10, being MOST important or satisfying and 1, being LEAST important or satisfying. Be totally honest!)

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| How important are the relationships in your life? | Rate: _____ |
| How important is your spiritual life? | Rate: _____ |
| How important is it to maintain your health? | Rate: _____ |
| How important is it to succeed in your career? | Rate: _____ |
| How important is it to have adequate financial resources? | Rate: _____ |
| How satisfied are you with your relationships? | Rate: _____ |
| How satisfied are you with your spiritual life? | Rate: _____ |
| How satisfied are you with your health? | Rate: _____ |
| How satisfied are you with your career? | Rate: _____ |
| How satisfied are you with your financial life? | Rate: _____ |
| How well do you know what you spend your time on? | Rate: _____ |

Small Group Discussion: 15 minutes

Now, look back and see where you might need to reprioritize.

- Discuss your priorities as a group.
- Are you living the life that God wants you to live?
- Does your busyness fulfill you, or are you living up to the goals and expectations of what others want for you?
- Do you take pride in your busyness and your ability to multitask?
- Discuss this ALL as a group.

Small Group Wrap-Up: 10 minutes

What did you cover in your small group time? What were the biggest take-aways and action items?

Discuss This Week's Homework: 5 minutes

Bring this home and now, ask your spouse, or those closest to you, to answer the same questions for themselves AND for YOU!

- Things you ***don't want*** to do, and actually ***don't need to do***:
- Things you ***don't want*** to do, but actually ***need to do***:
- Things you ***want to do*** and actually ***need to do***:
- Things you ***want to do***, but actually ***don't need to do***:

After discussing this session with those closest to you, make a list of things that need to be reprioritized (to discuss with your group next week).

SESSION #1

WK. 1 DEVO 1

Read Luke 10:38-42

Distractions abound in the world around us, as we can understand from the Bible's account of Christ's friends Mary and Martha. Shortly before His death, Christ gathered with His disciples. Mary and Martha were both helping to serve the meal, but one of them fell into Satan's "trap of busyness." Mary made the most of her opportunity to hear from the Messiah one more time, while Martha was distracted with much serving. Which one do YOU relate to?

L=Listen: in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#)

F=Focus: to the text to make it applicable for your own life. What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?

E = Engage God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you've learned?

SESSION #1

WK. 1 DEVO 2

Read Philippians 4

You need to control your thoughts to reprioritize your life and control your schedule. Our thoughts should be positive and productive, and must reflect God's nature rather than the nature of the adversary.

L=Listen: in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#)

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SESSION #1

WK. 1 DEVO 3

Read James 1

When you choose to change your life (and your schedule) to be more closely connected to Jesus, the enemy will want to create all kinds of trials and temptations to take your eye off the prize of living out God's purpose for your life. Expect the trials and embrace them!

L=Listen: in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#)

F=Focus: to the text to make it applicable for your own life. What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?

E = Engage God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you've learned?

SESSION #1

WK. 1 DEVO 4

Read Mark 10:17-27

We end this devotional with a SAD story. As you read the story of the RICH and the KINGDOM of GOD, PLEASE don't be like the rich man! If you can relate, make the needed changes TODAY!

L=Listen: in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#)

F=Focus: to the text to make it applicable for your own life. What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?

E = Engage God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you've learned?

SESSION 2: PERSONAL VALUES EXERCISE

Welcome, Review Last Week's Study/LIFE Starter Journalling: 15 minutes

Discuss the "priorities" questionnaire and your talk with those closest to you.

Session #2 Teaching: Personal Values Exercise: 5 minutes

We started this program with a real practical, but challenging subject of busyness to make a point of re-evaluating your priorities. Today, we are going to be ultra-practical again and review your personal values. Values are the bridge between principles and behavior. Our value system acts as the "operating system" driving our everyday thoughts and behavior.

Consider what the prophet Haggai said to the Israelites when they realized their priorities were way out of whack:

"Now, therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways. You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes." Thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways. Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified, says the LORD. You looked for much, and behold, it came to little. And when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? declares the LORD of hosts. Because of my house that lies in ruins, while each of you busies himself with his own house."

Haggai 1:5-9

God was realigning their value system that would in turn drive their decision making and behavior. God's principles are external laws that are permanent, unchanging, and universal in nature. Values, on the other hand, are internal and subjective, and they may change over time.

I purposely didn't take much time today, to give you a lot of space to get through this 5-step personal values process. Please start by reading ahead and look at the entire process, so you best understand where it is taking you. That will give you the ability to get the most out of this process TODAY. We will NOT have any interaction as a group today, as I want you to spend the entire time on this process. Don't stress about getting it done during your time together. If you don't finish, take your time and spend some quality time during the week thinking this through. This will be a critical part of the next parts of this study, so please take this seriously!

Individual Application - Personal Values Exercise: 35 minutes

Step 1. Determine your top values:

Use the list, on the next page, of common personal values to help you get started.

Step 2. Prioritize your top values:

Jim Collins, author of "Good to Great" said: "If you have more than 3 priorities, you have no priorities."

Step 3. Reaffirm your values:

Check your top-priority values, and make sure that they fit with your life and your vision for yourself.

Step 4. Answer defining questions:

Now it's time to answer some specific questions about your values in order to start "operationalizing" those values into an action plan.

Step 5. Operationalize your values:

Operationalizing our values means that we have to live-out our values in our behaviors and skills in a way others can see them and experience them.

STEP 1: Determine your top values, based on your experiences of fulfillment:

Use the following list of common personal values to help you get started. Start by circling the top 10 values you feel drive you. Don't overthink it at this point. After you pick your top 10, narrow them down to 5. Walk away from this exercise for a few hours and then come back to it and aim to land on your 3 top values.

VALUES LIGHT OUR WAY

ACCEPTANCE
ACCOUNTABILITY
ACHIEVEMENT
ADAPTABILITY
ADVENTURE
ALTRUISM
AMBITION
AUTHENTICITY
BALANCE
BEAUTY
BEING THE BEST
BELONGING
CAREER
CARING
CHALLENGE
COLLABORATION
COMMITMENT
COMMUNITY
COMPASSION
COMPETENCY
COMPETITIVENESS
CONFIDENCE
CONNECTING
CONTENTMENT
CONTRIBUTION
COOPERATION
COURAGE
CREATIVITY
CURIOSITY
DIGNITY
DIVERSITY
EFFICIENCY
ENCOURAGEMENT
ENTHUSIASM
ETHICS
EXCELLENCE
FAIRNESS

FAITH
FAMILY
FINANCIAL STABILITY
FORGIVENESS
FREEDOM
FUN
GENEROSITY
GIVING BACK
GRATITUDE
GROWTH
HARMONY
HEALTH
HELPFULNESS
HOME
HONESTY
HOPE
HUMILITY
HUMOR
IMAGINATION
INCLUSION
INDEPENDENCE
INTEGRITY
INITIATIVE
INTELLIGENCE
INTUITION
JOY
JUSTICE
KINDNESS
KNOWLEDGE
LEADERSHIP
LEGACY
LEARNING
LEISURE
LOVE
LOYALTY
MAKING A DIFFERENCE
NATURE
OPENNESS
OPTIMISM
ORDER
ORGANIZATION

PARENTING
PATRIOTISM
PATIENCE
PEACE
PERSEVERANCE
POWER
PRIDE
RECOGNITION
RELAXATION
RELIABILITY
RESPECT
RESPONSIBILITY
RISK-TAKING
SAFETY
SECURITY
SERVICE
SILENCE
SIMPLICITY
STILLNESS
SPIRITUALITY
STEWARDSHIP
SUCCESS
TEAMWORK
THRIFT
TIME
TRADITION
TRAVEL
TRUST
TRUTH
UNDERSTANDING
UNIQUENESS
USEFULNESS
VISION
VULNERABILITY
WEALTHY
WELLBEING
WHOLEHEARTEDNESS
WISDOM

Step 2. Review your lists and prioritize your top values:

This step is probably the most difficult, because you'll have to look deep inside yourself. It's also the most important step, because, when making a decision, you'll have to choose between solutions that may satisfy different values. This is when you must know which value is more important to you. Jim Collins, author of "Good to Great" said: **"If you have more than 3 priorities, you have no priorities."** Using that comment, let's keep our combined top values down to the Final Three. This step is probably the most difficult, because you'll have to look deep inside yourself. It also is the most important step, because when making decisions, you must know which value is most important to you.

- Write down your top values, not in any particular order.
- Look at the first two values and ask yourself, "If I could satisfy only one of these, which would I choose?" It might help to visualize a situation in which you would have to make that choice. For example, if you compare the values of service and stability, imagine that you must decide whether to sell your house and move to another country to do valuable foreign aid work, or keep your house and volunteer to do charity work closer to home.
- Keep working through the list, by comparing each value with each other value, until your list is in the correct order.

My TOP Priorities:

Step 3. Reaffirm your values:

Check your top-priority values, and make sure that they fit with your life and your vision for yourself.

- Do these values make you feel good about yourself?
- Are you proud of your top three values?
- Would you be comfortable and proud to tell your values to people you respect and admire?
- Do these values represent things you would support, even if your choice isn't popular?

When you consider your values in decision making, you can be sure to keep your sense of integrity and what you know is right, and approach decisions with confidence and clarity. You'll also know that what you're doing is best for your current and future happiness and satisfaction.

Making value-based choices may not always be easy. However, making a choice that you know is right is a lot less difficult in the long run.

Step 4. Answer defining questions:

- What values will help you find your way in the dark?
- Which one creates a direct path to your purpose?
- What value helps me to come alive in a new way?

As you consider your top 3, ask yourself:

- Do these define me?
- Are these representing who I am at my best?
- Do they make my eyes smile?
- Can these be used as a filter by which to make hard decisions?

Step 5. Operationalizing your values:

Operationalizing our values means that we have to live-out our values in our behaviors and skills in a way others can see them and experience them. Making them real and actionable promotes trust and supports our relational desires.

So, take each value you have identified and define 2 actions to make it come alive:

My **first** value is: _____

To make my value an action, I need to:

My **second** value is:

To make my value an action, I need to:

My **third** value is:

To make my value an action, I need to:

SESSION #2

WK. 2 DEVO 1

Read 2 Corinthians 10

How do we consistently “sow” thoughts that make us into the people God intends us to be?

L=Listen: in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you’re studying. After you’ve read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

I = Investigate the context around today’s Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#)

F=Focus: to the text to make it applicable for your own life. What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you’ve read?

E = Engage God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you’ve learned?

SESSION #2

WK. 2 DEVO 2

Read Romans 12

How does the renewing of our minds and focus on Biblical values impact in our daily lives?

L=Listen: in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#)

F=Focus: to the text to make it applicable for your own life. What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?

E = Engage God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you've learned?

SESSION #2

WK. 2 DEVO 3

Read Hebrews 10

Our transformational process is not instantaneous, as it's a process wherein the Holy Spirit writes God's laws on our hearts (Heb. 10:16). We are not passive participants in this process—we have an essential, active part to play. Journal about the part YOU need to play!

L=Listen: in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#)

F=Focus: to the text to make it applicable for your own life. What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?

E = Engage God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you've learned?

SESSION #2

WK. 2 DEVO 4

Read Joshua 1

We read in Joshua: "Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful." Constant renewal is necessary for flourishing with our values! As we are committed to the transformative process, we must be actively seeking out the wisdom of God's principles found in His Word. The Bible underscores the importance of studying God's word on a daily basis to allow our Biblical values to stay alive.

L=Listen: in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#)

F=Focus: to the text to make it applicable for your own life. What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?

E = Engage God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you've learned?

SESSION 3: IDENTIFY YOUR PASSION

Welcome, Review Study/LIFE Starter Journaling: 20 minutes

Discuss your TOP values and how you will use as a decision-making tool.

Session #3 Teaching: Identify Passion Areas: 10 minutes

Now that you have a better idea of your personal core-values, think about those core values and combine them with the things you love to do and come easy to you. We are all born with a deep and meaningful purpose that we have to discover. Your purpose is not something you need to make up; it's already there. Remember how Romans 8:28 told us that our purpose is HIS purpose. You have to uncover it in order to experience the life God created you for.

"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well."
Psalm 139:13-14

I believe that God uniquely created each of us with different passions and giftings. Think of knitting, the illustration used in Psalm 139. Knitting is something I've never known how to do, but one thing I do know about it is that it painstaking and slow. Methodical and intentional. It isn't haphazard and flippant. When God made you, He KNIT you. Carefully. Intentionally. The smallest parts and the most obvious ones. The smallest cell and grandest passion. All of it. Our job is to find out what did God so intentionally knit into us, individually.

Today, we are going to really think about and discuss as a group what do you love to do. What comes easily to you? Finding your passion could be easier than you think. By answering these questions honestly, you could work out what to do with the rest of your life. What subject could I read 500 books about without getting bored? What could I do for five years straight without getting paid? What would I spend my time doing if I had complete financial abundance to do anything? When you look back at last week's session on personal core values, ask yourself what values do you enjoy expressing the most in the world? What are two ways I most enjoy expressing these values? It's time to get vulnerable and share with each other about your passion(s). Confirm with each other what you think others in the group are gifted at, and then finish this session in prayer. Pray for each other's passions to come alive through the remaining sessions. The Holy Spirit is much like a GPS system you use in your car or on your phone. It tells you how to get from point A to point B. When you get in your car and are heading to a specific destination, what is the first thing you input into your GPS? First, it finds your current location. Once it's determined where you are, it gives you directions to where you are heading. For the system to work, it simply needs to know your beginning location and your end destination. The navigation system figures out the rest by the use of an onboard computer that receives signals from multiple satellites and calculates your exact position. Then it plots a perfect course for you. All you have to do from that point on is follow the instructions it gives you to reach your destination.

Don't get too twisted up if you are struggling at this point. Inspiration may strike some people in an instant. Suddenly, they know what they should be doing with their lives. For others, it takes work and more time.

For homework this week, I'm going to ask you to Spend 20 minutes each day this week in "Listening Prayer," thinking about today's study and group feedback. Also think about the things that have interested you recently, or any opportunities that you have spotted. Your true passion may not be found overnight, but is realized through series of discoveries of small interests. Focus on the LIFE Starters Journaling Method and it will give you more insight to your passions!

Small Group Discussion: 15 minutes

Think about your values and the discussions you've had in your group up to this time and answer the following questions and share with each other about your passion(s):

1. What do you love to do?
2. What comes easily to you?
3. What subject could I read 500 books about without getting bored?
4. What could I do for five years straight without getting paid?
5. What would I spend my time doing if I had complete financial abundance to do anything?

Confirm with each other what you think others in the group are gifted at.

Finish this session in **prayer**.

Pray for each other's passions to come alive through the remaining sessions.

Don't get too twisted up if you are struggling at this point. Inspiration may strike some people in an instant. Suddenly, they know what they should be doing with their lives. **For others, it takes work.**

Small Group Wrap-Up: 10 minutes

What did you cover in your small group time? What were the biggest take-aways and action items?

Discuss This Week's Homework: 5 minutes

Spend 20 minutes each day this week in "Listening Prayer," thinking about today's study and group feedback. Also think about the things that have interested you recently, or any opportunities that you have spotted. Your true passion may not be found overnight, but is realized through series of discoveries of small interests.

Focus on the LIFE Starters Journaling Method and it will give you more insight to your passions!

SESSION #3

WK. 3 DEVO 1

Read Matthew 6

Find Your Passion and You Find Out What You Value. Finding your passion in life is not hard. The hard thing about finding your passion is that when you find it you may not like it. Most people value material things over spiritual things. The trouble with material things is that they rust, get old, and eventually fade away. Matthew 6:21 advises us that what we treasure is also our passion.

L=Listen: in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#)

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E = Engage God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you've learned?

SESSION #3

WK. 3 DEVO 2

Read Proverbs 23

Seek God, not Man, to Find Your Passion. Seeking what others have leads to envy and disappointment in life. For the great issues of life, why would we seek what the ungodly possess in life? They may have cars, money, houses, and fame, but what they do not have is God. Without God, we are nothing and have nothing. Only through God can we find our real passion and happiness in life. Proverbs 23:17 advises us not to envy and chase after others, but to fear God.

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SESSION #3

WK. 3 DEVO 3

Read Proverbs 16

Following Your Heart is Not Enough to Find Your Passion. Your heart is not always your best source for finding your passion. Many times your heart can lead you astray. Passion is a good feeling. It is where you find purpose, energy, and life. Our heart does not always lead us to good things. There are things we crave such as alcohol, drugs, sex outside of marriage, and so on that can lead us to bad things such as addiction and self-destruction. Proverbs 16:9 advises that our heart will lead us astray while God will direct our steps.

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I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#)

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SESSION #3

WK. 3 DEVO 4

Read Proverbs 12

Finally, remember this: “. . . the wise listen to advice” (Proverbs 12:15). God has placed people in your life to serve as wise guides, advisers, and encouragers. Use your LIFE Study group for counsel and guidance.

L=Listen: in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

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SESSION 4: THE FOUR QUADRANTS

Welcome, Review Study/LIFE Starter Journaling: 20 minutes

Discuss the how your values and passions are redirecting your priorities.

Session #4 Teaching: Integrity and Balance: 5 minutes

Today, we are going to have another working session, where we do the "4-Quadrant Exercise" to really think about how balanced our life is. Are we living a balanced life of integrity, or are we **OUT OF BALANCE and OUT OF GOD'S ORDER?**

This week's session starts with the **Definition of Integrity:**

in-teg-ri-ty

1. The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness.
"he is known to be a man of integrity"
2. The state of being whole and undivided.
"upholding territorial integrity and national sovereignty"

I never realized that the state of "being undivided" was part of the definition of "integrity." The state of "being undivided" to me, speaks to balance in life. In order to fully understand our "balance" and make sure that we are living out of integrity, we need to look at and assess all quadrants of life. Those quadrants are, (1) **personal/professional growth**, (2) **work life**, (3) **relationships/family and** (4) **community/church**. According to the definition of "integrity," there is none if there's not a state of "being whole and undivided!" Ultimately, **YOUR purpose should be not be segmented, but applied through every area of your life!**

"A false balance is an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is his delight." Proverbs 11:1 (ESV)

That verse is, on the surface, talking actual weights and balance like you'd find in a market or in construction. But the next verse talks about pride and the following, integrity. So while the picture may be of a scale in a market, the application is to us personally. God wants us in balance and living in integrity. So, today it's time to consider those 4 quadrants and write down some goals on the sheets in your workbook about what are some improvements/goals you can make. Remember, this is a time to think **RADICALLY**. If you've been around PBC's LIFE Studies, you know that is one of our core values. When making changes in our life to have more balance and integrity, we need to be willing to turn 180 degrees from certain things to allow the better things of God to become our priorities. This will be another week to do just that!

For homework this week, I'm going to ask you to bring this exercise home again and ask your spouse, or those closest to you, to answer the same questions for themselves AND for YOU! Practically, think this week about things you **don't want** to do, and actually **don't need to do**. Things you **don't want to do**, but actually need to do. Things you **want to do** and actually **need to do** and finally, things you **want to do**, but actually **don't need to do**. After discussing this session with those closest to you, make a list of things that need to be reprioritized (to discuss with your group next week). Also, PLEASE make time to dig into the LIFE Starters Journaling process, as it will allow the Holy Spirit (through the Bible) to make these weekly sessions come alive in your heart!

Before starting this exercise, pray together as a group for the Holy Spirit to open up your mind and heart to create Godly goals in these quadrants!

Individual Application - 4-Quadrant Exercise: 35 minutes

Look at YOUR 4-quadrants:

(1) PERSONAL/PROFESSIONAL GROWTH, (2) WORK LIFE, (3) RELATIONSHIPS/FAMILY AND (4) COMMUNITY/CHURCH. List at least three (3) items in each quadrant you would like to achieve

Quadrant #1 Personal Growth and Development:

| | |
|----------|-------------|
| 1 | <hr/> <hr/> |
| 2 | <hr/> <hr/> |
| 3 | <hr/> <hr/> |
| 4 | <hr/> <hr/> |

Quadrant #2 Relationships and Family:

| | |
|----------|-------------|
| 1 | <hr/> <hr/> |
| 2 | <hr/> <hr/> |
| 3 | <hr/> <hr/> |
| 4 | <hr/> <hr/> |

Quadrant #3 Business and Work:

- 1 _____

- 2 _____

- 3 _____

- 4 _____

Quadrant #4 Community and Church:

- 1 _____

- 2 _____

- 3 _____

- 4 _____

SESSION #4

WK. 4 DEVO 1

Read Proverbs 21

Focus on verse 5 and journal about what God says about planning.

L=Listen: in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#)

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SESSION #4

WK. 4 DEVO 2

Read Proverbs 16

Focus on verse 3 and journal about committing your life to the Lord in all quadrants of life!

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SESSION #4

WK. 4 DEVO 3

Read Luke 14:25-34

Consider the cost it takes to follow Jesus with ALL your heart!

L=Listen: in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#)

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SESSION #4

WK. 4 DEVO 4

Read Jeremiah 29:1-23

Journal about the plans that God has for you that might be different than the plans YOU have for YOU!

L=Listen: in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#)

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SESSION 5: ALIGN FUTURE DECISION MAKING AROUND GOD & VALUES

Welcome, Review Study/LIFE Starter Journaling: 20 minutes

Discuss your 4-Quadrant Goals. Be very specific.

Session #5 Teaching: Alignment: 10 minutes

I hope you intentionally focused on your 4-quadrant goals over the last week, because this week it's time to continue to connect the dots over the last several weeks. I also hope you're doing the LIFE starter journaling that helps you dig deeper into God's Word so He can inform what and how you should live in those 4 quadrants. It's time to align future decision making around your core values, passions and the goals/improvement areas that God put on your heart. Sadly, we often make decisions in a vacuum without having the full picture that God wants us to have. Over the last few weeks, I hope that God has firmed up some foundational aspects that you can build a purposeful life on. But it is all for not if it doesn't impact your decision making and day to day. It will simply end up as a piece of paper in a file drawer or a distant memory.

Consider what James says about doing what we know God wants us to do:

"For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing."

James 1:23-25

So, today, it's time to talk about decision making moving forward. Think back to session 2 and your core values exercise and make sure they are posted in front of you and you are using them on a daily basis to make better decisions. Remember, your best decisions reflect your core values. Think of every decision as a BIG decision. Every decision should be a Biblical one, because every decision will either glorify God (or not). Second, your decisions should start with prayer. We have a saying around here: pray first. Many of us skip this step and run ahead of God. Sometimes taking a minute before acting is all it takes to make you realize that the decision was NOT a good one! If you trust that God is your guide in decision making, you should go to Him in prayer before moving forward with any decision. Prayer is our lifeline to finding and fulfilling God's perfect will for our lives. Third, your best decisions should include wisdom from others. I find that if I commit to vetting decisions through my wife and the leaders that God has placed in my life, it will slow me down just enough to allow God to speak to and lead ME! Lastly, remember your best decisions take time. Don't rush and make decisions out of fear. Make a rule for yourself that, if you can, you will always SLEEP on a decision. After taking the first three steps, give it at least 24-hours and you will save yourself a lot of trouble. Nothing will happen overnight and if it does, God didn't will it to be!

Today, we are going to discuss some decisions you've made that don't match your values. What was the outcome? How can you use your values in the future for ALL decisions? There are MANY Scriptures that focus on decision making. Today, I want you to start with prayer as a group (out loud) right now for some upcoming decisions you need to make and then review Proverbs 11:14, 12:15, 15:22, 19:20, 24:6, 14:15 & 13:16 as a group and discuss. Divide up those verses and read them aloud as a group. Then discuss what implications this all has on your personal decision making going forward.

For homework this week, I want you to start connecting the dots of this study. Look back through this study and see how everything starts to pave a road to God's purpose for your life. Make some radical commitments to those closest to you in order to put all these lessons into practice in a practical way in YOUR life! Remember to focus on the LIFE Starters Journaling Method and it will give you more insight into Biblical decision making!

Small Group Discussion: 15 minutes

Your Best Decisions Reflect Your Values

- Discuss some decisions you've made that don't match your values.
- What was the outcome?
- How can you use your values in the future for ALL decisions?

Your Decisions Should Start with Prayer

- Pray with your group (out loud) right now for some upcoming decisions you need to make.

Your Best Decisions Should Include Wisdom from Others

- Read Proverbs 11:14, 12:15, 15:22, 19:20 & 24:6 aloud as a group and discuss.

Your Best Decisions Take Time

- Read Proverbs 14:15 & 13:16 aloud as a group and discuss.

Small Group Wrap-Up: 10 minutes

What did you cover in your small group time? What were the biggest take-aways and action items?

Discuss This Week's Homework: 5 minutes

Connect the dots of this study. Look back through this study and see how everything starts to pave a road to God's purpose for your life. Make some radical commitments to those closest to you in order to put all these lessons into practice in a practical way in YOUR life!

Focus on the **LIFE Starters Journaling Method** and it will give you more insight into **Biblical decision making!**

SESSION #5

WK. 5 DEVO 1

Read 1 Corinthians 10:23-33

What biblical principles should inform my decisions? Who can help me better understand what God's Word says about this decision? Make sure you are not the only one who holds to your interpretation.

L=Listen: in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

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SESSION #5

WK. 5 DEVO 2

Read Proverbs 18

Ask a lot of questions. Don't fall prey to "wishful thinking" or let your emotions get the best of you. Remember that there are two sides to every story.

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SESSION #5

WK. 5 DEVO 3

Read Proverbs 19

Beware of the "once in a lifetime" deal and the lure of instant gratification. Don't let the fear of missing out drive your decision (FOMO). When in doubt, leave it out.

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SESSION #5

WK. 5 DEVO 4

Read Proverbs 26

How should past experiences inform my decisions? Look for patterns of behavior – “triggers.” Understand how your family background might affect your thinking. Learn from your mistakes!

L=Listen: in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

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SESSION 6: ALIGN FUTURE DECISION MAKING AROUND GOD & VALUES

Welcome, Review Study/LIFE Starter Journaling: 20 minutes

Discuss how your **decision-making process** is changing and if you're willing to get RADICAL to make some lasting adjustments to fulfill God's purpose for your life.

Session #6 Teaching: Let's Get RADICAL: 10 minutes

Well, it's time to get RADICAL. I've touched on the need to make 180 degree turns a few times already in this study. If our changes are more benign instead of radical, I find that they don't stay with us. We end up making minor changes and then revert back to our comfort zone and often don't form new habits and thinking. Jesus is all about being radical, and change itself isn't about comfort! When Jesus called the disciples, they left their nets and followed Him. He told the rich man to sell everything and then follow Him. He told the person caught in sin to immediately go and leave the life of sin. Change is something God originated, and leaving Him out—or using principles and practices that contradict His Truths—always leads to us to the same place: emptiness without purpose. That's not what God made you for.

Change is Hard; Transformational Change is Impossible... **Without God.** The ability to change... **RADICALLY**... exists; and God's offers us a free will choice in the matter, but again, most of us choose the easier path and choose "incremental" change.

The problem with incremental change...**is that it brings incremental results.** If you want incremental results, then embrace incremental change. The reality is that most of us don't want incremental results. When it comes to your marriage, I HOPE you dream of significant results. Or maybe in your personal life you KNOW you need radical results. Radical change brings the potential for radical results and incremental change never does.

Here are several reasons that people choose "incremental change":

1. You Fear People's Reaction to Significant Change

You've seen others get crucified for ushering in change. And you don't want that to be you. Fear is one of the main reasons change doesn't happen fast enough. Personally, I think it would be a terrible thing to stand before God one day and explain that the main reason you didn't do what you were called to do is because you were afraid.

2. Past Opposition to or Failure to Change

You tried change once, and it failed. Well, awesome. You also had a bad meal once, but you didn't stop eating. Maybe the change itself isn't the problem. Maybe your strategy is the problem. Just because you failed at leading change once doesn't mean you'll fail forever. Get a new strategy. What's at stake is far too important not to!

3. Belief That Progress Should Come Without Pain

Now we get closer to the heart of the matter. Many of us secretly wish progress came without pain. Progress almost never comes without pain. Significant things are rarely accomplished without significant struggle. Our heroes are always people who suffered to bring about a better end. (Give Biblical examples). The question for YOUR life, is whether you're willing to endure pain for the sake of a better future.

Think about the key words of change in this verse:

Do not be **conformed** to this world, but be **transformed** by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:2

I know you want to be in the will of God and to do so may require, probably requires radical change for you to truly be transformed.

So...if you want significantly different results, push past the fear and stop thinking incrementally.

God's RADICAL Change Management Plan and Process includes the **Holy Spirit**, so covering your change with prayer is critical to success!

Small Group Discussion: 15 minutes

- Discuss some reasons that YOU may have chosen incremental change in the past.
- There is a spiritual blockage to change at times, because instead of walking in FAITH, we instead, react in FEAR and get STUCK. Are YOU willing to step out in FAITH and get RADICAL for God? Discuss as a group.
- Are you sensitive to sin that may block the Holy Spirit and RADICAL change?
- Does RADICAL CHANGE make you fearful, angry, indignant, offended, insulted, or so confused by the thought of it? Why?

Small Group Wrap-Up: 10 minutes

What did you cover in your small group time? What were the biggest take-aways and action items?

Discuss This Week's Homework: 5 minutes

For homework this week, review today's session and spend 20 minutes each day this week in "**Listening Prayer**," thinking about today's study and the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life and ask for God's strength to make the need changes, NO MATTER HOW RADICAL they may be.

Also, remember to do the LIFE Starter Journaling to let God's Word solidify this teaching in your heart.

SESSION #6

WK. 6 DEVO 1

Read Ezekiel 11:14-25

Journal about "restoration" and radical change needed in your life.

L=Listen: in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

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SESSION #6

WK. 6 DEVO 2

Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

God has made you a NEW creation, so accept that fact and start acting like one.

L=Listen: in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

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SESSION #6

WK. 6 DEVO 3

Read Romans 8:1-9

We need the Holy Spirit to overcome our flesh and to live with the gifts that God wants us to experience.

L=Listen: in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

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SESSION #6

WK. 6 DEVO 4

Read 1 Peter 4:1-11

Are YOU living for God? What changes do you need to make to fully live for God?

L=Listen: in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

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SESSION 7: ALIGN FUTURE DECISION MAKING AROUND GOD & VALUES

Welcome, Review Study/LIFE Starter Journaling: 20 minutes

Discuss how your **RADICAL CHANGES** with your group.

Session #7 Teaching: Activating God's Purpose: 10 minutes

Well, it's time to ACTIVATE YOUR PURPOSE. God has given each believer a spiritual gift that He wants us to use for His glory, but often we DON'T USE IT! In this session, we'll discuss your spiritual gifts and where you could you be serving to ACTIVATE YOUR GIFT. This will be another working session as we discover how you may exercise your God-given spiritual gifts allowing you to experience maximum fulfillment with minimum frustration in your Christian life and ministry.

Every Christian has a dominant spiritual gift and many possess more than one. Through this analysis, you will discover your dominant spiritual gifts. You can then begin to concentrate on further developing your spiritual gifts as you exercise them in daily life and in one or more of the many PBC ministries.

"For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."

2 Timothy 1:6-7

Fan your gift into flame. This is what Paul told his young protégé Timothy. And I say it to you. Let's discover the spark and then fan it into flame in your life.

We're going to take a spiritual gifts test.

Don't analyze each question, just answer with the first answer that comes to mind. The 108 questions deal with your feelings and desires, so be sure to let your responses reflect your own opinions of yourself. As you read each statement click the button with the most accurate answer.

Remember, this is a self-evaluation; there are no "**right**" or "**wrong**" answers. When you have completed the questionnaire you will be able to view a bar graph of your scores for each gift, a description of your dominant gifts, and several pages of personal analysis. When you get a chance, print out the results and read them over and over and pray over them as well.

Then discuss with your group your dominant Spiritual Gift and where can you apply this gift at PBC or in ministry. What next steps are you willing to commit to in order to activate your gift at a higher level? Pray for each other to be willing to take the next steps to activate your gift.

For homework this week, I would like you to spend 20 minutes each day this week in "**Listening Prayer**," praying for God to show you HOW to activate your gift and to give you the courage and discipline to move in His direction with that gift.

How and where will YOU use EVERYTHING you've learned to serve God? Remember to continue to focus on the **FIRE Journaling Method** and it will give you more insight to your passions!

Spiritual Gifts Assessment: 30 minutes

Things to keep in mind as you take this test:

- **Pick a context**
- **Go with your gut**
- **Don't be afraid of extremes (1 or 5)**
- **Answer as you are, not as you wish you were**

- _____1. God gives me specific words of encouragement to give others.
- _____2. I am comfortable taking the lead.
- _____3. I like to be a host or hostess.
- _____4. I look for ways to help people.
- _____5. God has led me to lay hands on sick people and pray for healing.
- _____6. I speak in tongues.
- _____7. I believe that God will do extraordinary things through me.
- _____8. God gives me glimpses of the future that come true.
- _____9. I am good at delegating responsibilities.
- _____10. I am good at making strangers feel welcome.
- _____11. I find joy in working behind the scenes.
- _____12. When I pray over sick or hurt people they become well.
- _____13. I have been able to understand when someone has spoken in tongues.
- _____14. When I pray God moves mountains.
- _____15. God leads me to confront people about their sin.
- _____16. I can guide a group of people into achieving a goal.
- _____17. I consider my home a place of ministry and outreach.
- _____18. I can't say no when someone needs help, big or small.
- _____19. God has worked miraculous healing through me in others.
- _____20. God has used my ability to speak or interpret tongues to help or encourage others.
- _____21. I find it easy to trust in God's faithful goodness, even when everything looks awful.

Answer Scale

1 - Never 2 - Rarely 3 - Sometimes 4 - Often 5 - Always

ADD THEM UP

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------|---|-----------|---|-----------|---|-------|---|
| • | 1. _____ | + | 8. _____ | + | 15. _____ | = | _____ | A |
| • | 2. _____ | + | 9. _____ | + | 16. _____ | = | _____ | B |
| • | 3. _____ | + | 10. _____ | + | 17. _____ | = | _____ | C |
| • | 4. _____ | + | 11. _____ | + | 18. _____ | = | _____ | D |
| • | 5. _____ | + | 12. _____ | + | 19. _____ | = | _____ | E |
| • | 6. _____ | + | 13. _____ | + | 20. _____ | = | _____ | F |
| • | 7. _____ | + | 14. _____ | + | 21. _____ | = | _____ | G |

- _____ 22. I feel the joy of the Lord in skillfully making music.
- _____ 23. I find fulfillment when I work with my hands.
- _____ 24. I find ways to give money to the kingdom above and beyond my tithe.
- _____ 25. I minister to people in hospitals, prisons, and/or rest homes.
- _____ 26. People seek out my advice on a wide variety of topics.
- _____ 27. I find myself praying for God's supernatural intervention.
- _____ 28. I am good at lifting people's spirits.
- _____ 29. I feel called to minister to others through music.
- _____ 30. I have exceptional skill in building and/or creating and crafting.
- _____ 31. I am moved to bless people financially when I see they are in need.
- _____ 32. I reach out to those who are hurting or lonely.
- _____ 33. I am good at problem-solving.
- _____ 34. God has worked miracles through me.
- _____ 35. People easily open up to me.
- _____ 36. I have the ability to lead others into worship through music.
- _____ 37. God has used the work of my hands to bless others.
- _____ 38. My initial response to getting money is to find a way to give.
- _____ 39. When other people are hurting, I naturally hurt with them.
- _____ 40. I am good at applying Biblical concepts to difficult situations.
- _____ 41. I have seen God working in supernatural ways.
- _____ 42. I am intentional about speaking kind words to people.

Answer Scale

1 - Never 2 - Rarely 3 - Sometimes 4 - Often 5 - Always

ADD THEM UP

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|---|-----------|---|-----------|---|-------|---|
| • | 22. _____ | + | 29. _____ | + | 36. _____ | = | _____ | H |
| • | 23. _____ | + | 30. _____ | + | 37. _____ | = | _____ | I |
| • | 24. _____ | + | 31. _____ | + | 38. _____ | = | _____ | J |
| • | 25. _____ | + | 32. _____ | + | 39. _____ | = | _____ | K |
| • | 26. _____ | + | 33. _____ | + | 40. _____ | = | _____ | L |
| • | 27. _____ | + | 34. _____ | + | 41. _____ | = | _____ | M |

- _____ 43. I find joy in passing my knowledge along to others.
- _____ 44. I have helped people return to their faith.
- _____ 45. I am respected as an authority on spiritual matters.
- _____ 46. I feel a sense of urgency to share the gospel with unbelievers.
- _____ 47. I bring many prayers before the Lord daily.
- _____ 48. When I explain a difficult concept, people find it easy to understand.
- _____ 49. I am good at shepherding and ministering to people.
- _____ 50. I would be willing and excited to be on a church plant team.
- _____ 51. I tell strangers about Jesus.
- _____ 52. I see God actively answering my prayers.
- _____ 53. I am passionate about helping people grow in knowledge and understanding.
- _____ 54. I take responsibility for the discipleship of specific fellow believers in my life.
- _____ 55. I am excited by the formation of new churches and want to help.
- _____ 56. People who might never go to church allow me to share my faith with them.
- _____ 57. Whenever I hear about a needy, angering, or sad situations, my first response is prayer.

Answer Scale

1 - Never 2 - Rarely 3 - Sometimes 4 - Often 5 - Always

ADD THEM UP

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-------|---|-----|-------|---|-----|-------|---|-------|-----------------------|
| • | 43. | _____ | + | 48. | _____ | + | 53. | _____ | = | _____ | O P Q R S |
| • | 44. | _____ | + | 49. | _____ | + | 54. | _____ | = | _____ | |
| • | 45. | _____ | + | 50. | _____ | + | 55. | _____ | = | _____ | |
| • | 46. | _____ | + | 51. | _____ | + | 56. | _____ | = | _____ | |
| • | 47. | _____ | + | 52. | _____ | + | 57. | _____ | = | _____ | |

SPIRITUAL GIFTS TEST ANSWER SHEET

Transfer the results from the previous 3 pages to the correlating letters on this page.

A high score on this line indicates the following gifts:

- _____ A. Prophecy
- _____ B. Leadership
- _____ C. Hospitality
- _____ D. Service
- _____ E. Healing
- _____ F. Tongues
- _____ G. Faith
- _____ H. Music
- _____ I. Craftsmanship
- _____ J. Giving
- _____ K. Mercy
- _____ L. Wisdom
- _____ M. Miracles
- _____ N. Encouragement
- _____ O. Teaching
- _____ P. Pastoring
- _____ Q. Apostleship
- _____ R. Evangelism
- _____ S. Intercession

Your top 4 gifts:

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____

SPIRITUAL GIFTS EXPLAINED

•A. Prophecy | 1 Corinthians 14:1-5; Acts 2:17

The ability to receive spontaneous, personal revelations from the Holy Spirit and Scripture for the purpose of edification, encouragement, consolation, conviction or guidance of fellow believers. Prophecy must be used in love; otherwise it is worthless (1 Cor. 13:8-12).

Opportunities: Prayer Team, Music Ministry, Outreach, Small Group Leadership.

•B. Leadership | Romans 12:6-8

The ability to receive vision from God and lead others to fulfill that vision. This gift is used to raise up people to their full potential, using their spiritual gifts, and to mobilize groups of people to accomplish ministry.

Opportunities: Children's Ministry, Dwell, Greeters, Guest Reception, Parking, Ushers, Security, Growth Track Team, Music Ministry, Outreach, Small Group Leadership, Woven.

•C. Hospitality | 1 Peter 4:9-10

The ability to reach out to others, especially newcomers, to make them feel warmly welcomed, comfortable and accepted. This gift is used to help strangers connect with the larger fellowship of the church. It may also include opening of the home to provide meals and lodging.

Opportunities: Sheep, Children's Ministry, Greeters, Guest Reception, Parking, Ushers, Hospitality Team, Growth Track Team, Baptism Team, Events Team, Small Group Leadership, Information Center, Caring Ministries, Woven.

•D. Service | Romans 12:7

The ability to serve the needs of people in the Body of Christ quickly, cheerfully, and without needing recognition. This gift is used to come alongside other people who are using their gifts, and provide the practical support they need to accomplish ministry. It is a people-oriented gift.

Opportunities: Children's Ministry, Sheep, Dwell, Greeters, Communion Team, Guest Reception, Parking, Ushers, Hospitality Team, First Responders, Security, Growth Track Team, Outreach, Information Center, Caring Ministries, Woven.

•E. Healing | 1 Corinthians 12:9; Acts 3:1-10

The ability to pray and see God bring physical, spiritual, or emotional healing in the name of Jesus Christ. This gift is used for the special purposes of God. It differs from the prayer of faith that all believers are called to participate in (James 5:13-16) by the unique ability to sense when God is prompting the gifted person to pray and believe for a specific healing.

Opportunities: Prayer Team, Outreach, Small Group Leadership.

•F. Tongues | 1 Corinthians 12:10; Acts 2:1-4

The ability to speak in a language other than what the gifted person has learned. This gift is used to proclaim the Truth of God to people who speak a different language, (Acts 2:5-12) as a sign to unbelievers, or to encourage believers (1 Corinthians 14:2, 14). Tongues can also be in a language only God understands for the purpose of prayer and spiritual warfare. In the context of congregational worship, this gift is to be used in conjunction with the Interpretation of Tongues. Opportunity: Prayer Team.

Interpretation of Tongues 1 Corinthians 12:10; 14:5; 26-28

The ability given by God to interpret what has been spoken in tongues so that those gathered who did not understand will be included in hearing God's message. This gift is used to keep the public gatherings in order, and Paul commands that this gift be at work any time the gift of tongues is used in a worship service setting (1 Corinthians 14:26-28).

Opportunity: Prayer Team

•G. Faith | Romans 4:18–21; 1 Corinthians 12:9

The ability to trust God for unique and miraculous circumstances in accordance with His Word. This gift is used to encourage all believers to trust God. The person gifted with faith is often an example to others in trusting God even in the face of daunting obstacles. The gift differs from the faith of all believers in its extreme belief in spite of circumstances, and its emphasis on the miraculous.

Opportunities: Communion Team, Prayer Team, Baptism Team, Outreach

•H. Music | Ephesians 5:18–19

The ability to lead people in worship through music. This gift is used to sense and celebrate God's presence in groups of believers. It involves removing all distraction between God and man, guiding people to encounter God.

Opportunities: Children's Ministry, Dwell, Music Ministry, AV/Tech Support.

•I. Craftsmanship | Exodus 31:3

The ability to work with material things and create or construct tools for ministry. This gift is used to build items, furniture or facilities for ministry.

Opportunities: Set-up/Take-down, AV/Tech support, Outreach, Events Team.

•J. Giving | Romans 12:8

The ability and strong desire to give material resources and/or money, beyond a tithe, to the needs of people and ministry. This gift is often used to fund the expansion of God's work beyond levels currently being supported. It is also used to meet the needs of people in crisis situations.

Opportunity: Outreach, Woven.

•K. Mercy | Romans 12:8

The ability to come alongside hurting people with genuine empathy and compassion. This gift is used to provide support to people who are experiencing distress, crisis or pain. It also includes the ability to detect hurt where others might miss the needs that exist.

Opportunities: Children's Ministry, Dwell, Sheep, First Responders, Prayer Team, Outreach, Caring Ministries, Woven.

•L. Wisdom | 1 Corinthians 12:8

The ability to understand God's mind and will in specific situations, and to see the best course to take. This gift is used to guide people and ministry to the wisest and most God-honoring outcome in all situations.

Opportunities: Children's Ministry, Dwell, Prayer Team, Small Group Leadership.

•M. Miracles | 1 Corinthians 12:10; Mark 16:17–18

The ability to pray in faith specifically for God's supernatural intervention into an impossible situation and see God answer. This gift is used to confirm the Word of God at special moments that God deems appropriate.

Opportunities: Prayer Team, Outreach, Small Group Leadership

•N. Encouragement | Romans 12:6–8

The ability to motivate and encourage believers who are discouraged or wavering in their faith. This gift is used to bring out the best in others, and challenge them to develop to their full potential in Christ.

Opportunities: Children's Ministry, Dwell, Sheep, Greeters, Guest Reception, Growth Track Team, Prayer Team, Music Ministry, Caring Ministries.

•O. Teaching | Ephesians 4:11-14

The ability to study and understand God's Word, and then clearly communicate the Word to groups of people in a way that is relevant, understandable, and life changing. This gift is used to instruct and guide believers and unbelievers into all Truth, transform lives, and equip believers for ministry to others.

Opportunities: Children's Ministry, Dwell, Small Group Leadership.

•P. Pastoring | Ephesians 4:11

Shepherding. The ability to care for the spiritual needs of a group of believers. This gift is used to nurture a small group in their spiritual growth and equip them to ministry to others.

Opportunities: Children's Ministry, Dwell, Baptism Team, Outreach, Small Group Leadership, Caring Ministries.

•Q. Apostleship | Ephesians 4:11

The ability to start new areas of ministry from scratch and oversee their development. This gift is used to ex-pand God's work into areas not currently being accomplished.

Opportunities: Growth Track Team, Outreach, Small Group Leadership.

•R. Evangelism | Ephesians 4:11

The ability to understand and relate to the needs and beliefs of unbelievers and lead them to understand sal-vation in Jesus Christ. This gift is used to guide unbelievers to Truth in a positive and non-threatening manner, and results in faith in Christ as the Holy Spirit enables.

Opportunities: Children's Ministry, Dwell, Music Ministry, Outreach, Events Team, Small Group Leadership.

•S. Intercession | James 5:17-18

The ability to pray for others and circumstances with a special faith that perseveres for long periods of time. This gift is used to pray for God's work in situations where the needs are great and spiritual warfare exists. It is different from the prayers of all saints in its focus on spiritual warfare for extended periods of time.

Opportunities: Communion Team, Set-up/Take-down, Prayer Team, Small Group Leadership, Caring Ministries.

Discuss This Week's Homework: 5 minutes

Print out the results and read them over and over and pray over them as well.

- What is your dominant Spiritual Gift?
- Where can you apply this gift in church or ministry?
- What next steps are you willing to commit to in order to activate your gift at a higher level?
- Pray for each other to be willing to take the next steps to activate your gift!
- How and where will YOU serve?

Spend 20 minutes each day this week in "**Listening Prayer**," praying for God to show you HOW to activate your gift and to give you the courage and discipline to move in His direction with that gift.

Focus on the **LIFE Journaling Method** and it will give you more insight to your spiritual gifts!

SESSION #7

WK. 7 DEVO 1

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Journal about what God says about spiritual gifts.

L=Listen: in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#)

F=Focus: to the text to make it applicable for your own life. What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?

E = Engage God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you've learned?

SESSION #7

WK. 7 DEVO 2

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Paul affirms the importance of each gift. Journal about how your gift is being encouraged.

L=Listen: in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#)

F=Focus: to the text to make it applicable for your own life. What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?

E = Engage God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you've learned?

SESSION #7

WK. 7 DEVO 3

Read Ephesians 2:1-10

God wants to use YOU. He has chosen you for His purpose to do GREAT things for Him. Journal about that!

L=Listen: in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#)

F=Focus: to the text to make it applicable for your own life. What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?

E = Engage God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you've learned?

SESSION #7

WK. 7 DEVO 4

Read 1 Peter 4

Be a good steward of YOUR gifts. God says if you are faithful with a few things, He will make you a steward over MANY things!

L=Listen: in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#)

F=Focus: to the text to make it applicable for your own life. What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?

E = Engage God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you've learned?

SESSION 8: ACTIVATING YOUR GIFTS - SMART GOALS

Welcome, Review Study/LIFE Starter Journaling: 20 minutes

Discuss your **SPIRITUAL GIFTS** with your group.

Session #8 Teaching: Activating Your Spiritual Gifts: 10 minutes

Well, it's time to ACTIVATE YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS. Read Romans 6:13b, "Give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God" (NLT).

Maybe you already know what you're good at, but you're just not using it for the Lord. You're using it for yourself. You need to humble yourself and dedicate to the Lord every gift you have. Push all of your excuses out of the way, and say, "God, I dedicate what you gave to me back to you." What is stopping you from activating your gifts? What do you think God wants you to do with your gift?

Gifts are like muscles: The more you use them, the bigger they get. You can strengthen and develop and grow what God has given you. Any gift that God gives you can and should be developed. You get better at it by practice, studying, and learning from other people who have the same gift.

Read Romans 12:6: "We are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us. If our gift is to speak God's message, we should do it according to the faith that we have" (GNT).

What's the best way to discover and dedicate and develop and deploy your spiritual gifts? YOUR Small Group can be your testing ground! You can test and develop your spiritual gifts in the safe and supportive environment of friends who will encourage you.

Today, I want you to start your time together with this prayer:

"God thank you for saving me and being merciful to me. Thank you for giving my life purpose and gifting me to fulfill the passions, values, and opportunities you have given me. Thank you for your Holy Spirit living in me to equip me to live the life you have saved me to live. Help me to discover and deploy the gifts you have given me. In Jesus' name, AMEN."

Small Group Discussion: 20 minutes

Maybe you already know what you're good at, but you're just not using it for the Lord. You're using it for yourself. You need to humble yourself and dedicate to the Lord every gift you have. Push all of your excuses out of the way, and say, "**God, I dedicate what you gave to me back to you.**"

- What is stopping you from activating your gifts?
- What do you think God wants you to do with your gift?

Read Romans 12:6: "We are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us. If our gift is to speak God's message, we should do it according to the faith that we have" (GNT).

- What's the best way to discover and dedicate and develop and deploy your spiritual gifts?

YOUR LIFE Study Group can be your testing ground! You can test and develop your spiritual gifts in the safe and supportive environment of friends who will encourage you.

Discuss This Week's Homework: 5 minutes

Review Session #4 again and the entire study and use the following worksheet(s) to create some Faith-Based SMART Goals and commitments. Download the PDF and create as many SMART Goals are appropriate to you. These will help you activate everything we've covered in this study. See sample below:

Faith-Based SMART Goal Worksheet

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Goal Name: | | |
| Today's Date: | | |
| Start Date: | | |
| Date Achieved: | | |
| WHY? Why this goal matter's to me? | | |
| The benefits of achieving this goal will be: | | |
| PARTNERS: Select partners that will help acomplish goals. PARTNER #1 | | |
| PARTNER #2 | | |
| PARTNER #3 | | |
| SPECIFIC: What will you accomplish? | | Specifically, ask God for direction when you're in prayer. |
| MILESTONE #1 | | |
| MILESTONE #2 | | |
| MILESTONE #3 | | |
| MEANINGFUL: How does this goal ift into God's pupose for your life? | | Specifically, ask God how this goal fits into His plan for your life, so you can achieve His purposes. |
| ATTAINABLE: Consider the God-given resources around you and trust that God will provide the rest of the resources in His perfect timing. | | If this goal is from God, He will provide ALL the resources that you need to get started. Take the time to look around your and see those resources God has provided. |
| | | |

SESSION #8

WK. 8 DEVO 1

Read James 4

When making goals, the first thing to do is to submit your plans to God.

L=Listen: in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#)

F=Focus: to the text to make it applicable for your own life. What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?

E = Engage God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you've learned?

SESSION #8

WK. 8 DEVO 2

Read Matthew 6:25-34

Goals are a target for you to hit, but don't let fear and worry crowd your thinking when setting goals.

L=Listen: in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#)

F=Focus: to the text to make it applicable for your own life. What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?

E = Engage God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you've learned?

SESSION #8

WK. 8 DEVO 3

Read Proverbs 21

As you go about setting goals this season, put your spiritual goals at the very top of the pile, your spiritual growth is where the majority of your focus should be.

L=Listen: in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#)

F=Focus: to the text to make it applicable for your own life. What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?

E = Engage God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you've learned?

SESSION #8

WK. 8 DEVO 4

Read Luke 14:25-34

In making plans, we need to be wise. Things won't always be smooth sailing and flourishing. Just like the ant we need to make plans for a rainy day and put aside resources for the unexpected.

L=Listen: in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#)

F=Focus: to the text to make it applicable for your own life. What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?

E = Engage God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you've learned?

SESSION 9: FINISHING STRONG

Welcome, Review Study/LIFE Starter Journaling: 20 minutes

Review your **SMART Goals** and think about strategies for YOU that will make them into reality!

Session #9 Reflection/Feedback: 15 minutes

Reflect back on this program and talk about how your perspective is different:

- What is MORE important to now?
- How has God's purpose for YOU been revealed through this study?
- What are the radical changes you need and how will you execute these changes?

Remember, moving forward, set yourself up for success, not failure. If you just walk away and hope you'll remember everything you've learned, you'll likely slip right back into your old patters. Look at the SMART Goals you created and measure success regularly. Even create a scoreboard to help you stay consistent and moving in the right direction. Commit to accountability and adjust as needed and redefine your goals and expectations often. Perhaps you should print your values, quadrants and anything else that spoke to you I this study so you can remind yourself often of what God has called you to.

Walk in integrity as the verse below challenges you to do:

All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

Matthew 5:37 (NIV)

Final Group Discussion: How can this study be improved?: 15 minutes

- What are the top THREE takeaways from this study?
- What about this study could be improved to have MORE IMPACT?
- Was the LIFE Starter Method of Journaling helpful and did you actually do it? Why or why not?
- Would you refer others for this study? Why or why not?
- Are you ready to participate in the NEXT LIFE Study?

