

40 DAYS OF PURPOSE

FUSION15:5 Sunday Night Small Groups

The Purpose Driven Life Bible Study

July 6th, 2008

#5. Ministry - You Were Shaped for Serving God

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others ... 1 Peter 1:4 (NIV)

I. Connect

1. Take a few minutes to introduce yourselves.
2. "Optional Quick Share Time": Share about a time when someone was kind to you in an unexpected way.
3. Note: If you have the book, *The Purpose Driven Life*, another component of our *40 Days of Purpose* is the daily reading of the book. Having said that – today is "Day 29". Please decide and commit yourselves to a specific time and place each day to read each chapter.

II. Discussion Questions

Key thought for this study, our 4th Purpose: You were put on earth to make a contribution. You weren't created just to consume resources – to eat, breathe, and take up space. God designed you to make a difference with your life.

1. Have everyone turn in their Bibles to Luke 10:30-37. Have someone read the passage (or take turns reading a verse).
 - A. Is it shocking to you that a priest and a Levite (a temple worker) walked by? [Additional 'context' information: The journey from Jerusalem to Jericho was a steep road about 17 miles long. The priest and the Levite may have feared defilement through touching a dead body, but no motive for their conduct is in fact given].
 - B. Based on the passage what was the Samaritan's (Jewish layman) response to the man? What was his attitude?
 - C. For many of us, our attitudes toward people in need include: "Keeping our distance"; "Curious, but uninvolved"; or, "Get close enough and care". What response does Jesus tell us to have to those in need?
2. Have someone read Proverbs 3:27-28:

Never walk away from someone who deserves help; your hand is God's hand for that person. Don't tell your neighbor "Maybe some other time" or "Try me tomorrow" when the money's right there in your pocket. Don't figure ways of taking advantage of your neighbor when he's sitting there trusting and unsuspecting. (The Message)

 - Have you walked past someone in need? In your opinion, why do many people walk past opportunities to serve others?

- Rick Warren suggests that to be a servant you must move against your fears. What personal fears keep us from serving others or meeting needs in your church family?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 1:4 (NLT):
He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.
 - According to this verse, God allows certain struggles and hardships in your life so you can sympathize with and minister to the same kinds of needs in other people's lives. In what ways has God comforted you that would enable you to comfort others?
 4. Please read Ephesians 2:10 and Ephesians 4:12 (TEV):
 - *God has made us what we are, and in our union with Jesus he has created us for a life of good deeds, which He has already prepared for us to do* (Eph 2:10).
 - *He did this to prepare all God's people for the work of Christian service, in order to build up the body of Christ* (Eph 4:12).
 - According to these verses, God has a ministry for every follower of Christ. Ministry is targeted at other believers. What practical steps can you take to discover and fulfill the personal ministry God has planned for you in your church or small group?

III. Prayer Requests

1. Spend time as a group asking God to help you slow down and see the needs of people around you. Ask Him to help *you* care about what *He* cares about; and, to give you a heart that is willing to reach out to people in need. Pray that God would give you strength to serve and a willing heart to fulfill your personal ministries.
2. Share and then pray for each other's prayer requests. [Remember to also pray for the people you want to invite to next Sunday's Small Group].

IV. Ponder This

The following steps and "ministry-discerning" resources might help as you seek to apply today's Memory Verse: *Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others.*

Steps: "Start seeing the needs of people around you. Sympathize with people's pain. Seize the moment and meet the need. Spend whatever it takes." - Rick Warren

Resources: Grace Community Church has a "Spiritual Gifts Assessment" tool to help you discern your ministry gift(s) [at http://uservecentral.com/ToG_Assessment.html] and a "Discover Your D.E.S.I.G.N. and Your Ministry" class to help you determine your best-fit gift-ministry. The next class is planned for Sept. 28th 8:30am - 12:30pm at Grace. Call Laura Mooty at 240-553-1090 to register in advance.

Main References & Sources Content abstracted and adapted from a variety of sources. Primarily from the following:

1. Rick Warren, *40 Days of Purpose* Taught by Rick Warren. *Small Group Edition Study Guide*. 2005. (Purpose Driven Publishing, Lake Forrest, CA).
2. Rick Warren, *Purpose Driven Life*. 2004. (Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI).

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