

# 40 DAYS OF PURPOSE

## FUSION 15:5 Sunday Night Small Groups

### *The Purpose Driven Life Bible Study*

July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008

#### #5. Evangelism - You Were Made for a Mission

*Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.*  
Colossians 4:5 (NIV)

#### I. Connect

1. Take a few minutes to introduce yourselves.
2. "Optional Quick Share Time": Briefly share a one-minute version of how you came to know Jesus; specifically, who "brought you to Christ". If you are still exploring Christianity, share your spiritual background.
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; and, today is "Day 36".

#### II. Discussion Questions

Key thought for this study, our 5<sup>th</sup> Purpose: You were made for a mission. Jesus calls us, not only to *come to Him*, but to *go for Him*. God is at work in the world, and He wants you to join Him. This assignment is called your mission.

1. When you hear the word "evangelism" or think about sharing your faith -
  - A. What images come to mind?
  - B. What are some typical fears and stereotypes that other people (especially non-believers) have when they hear the word "evangelism"?
  - C. What keeps *you* from sharing the Good News with others?
2. Please have someone read Colossians 4:5, Proverbs 11:30 and 1 Peter 3:15.
  - *Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.* (Colossians 4:5; NIV)
  - *The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.* (Proverbs 11:30; NIV)
  - *But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...* (1 Peter 3:15; NIV)
  - What principles can you learn from these verses about sharing Jesus with others?
3. Have someone read Luke 5:27-32, and someone else read Luke 7:34.
  - A. What kind of people did Jesus associate with?
  - B. How accepting are you of people who are far from God?

4. Please read 2 Peter 3:8-9:

-- *But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance (NIV).*

- According to this verse, what can you learn about patience and perseverance in reaching your friends who don't know Christ?

5. Please read Luke 14:23:

-- *So his master said, 'Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full.'* (NIV)

- How different would our group or church be if we really put this verse into action?

6. Please read 2 Cor 5:17-20:

-- *This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"* (NLT)

- God saves us and then sends us out! What do these verses mean to you regarding your role in helping to reconcile others to God?
- How do you now feel about being messengers of God's love and purposes to the world?

### III. Prayer Requests

1. Spend time as a group asking God to soften your hearts and to give you a *real* love for people who don't know Him. Ask Him to also soften their hearts and to prepare them to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.
2. Share and then pray for each other's prayer requests.

### IV. Ponder This

The Importance of Your Mission: Fulfilling your life mission on earth is an essential part of living for God's Glory. Your mission is a continuation of Jesus' mission on earth, it is a wonderful privilege, and it has eternal significance. Telling others how they can have eternal life is the greatest thing you can do for them, and it gives your life meaning.

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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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