

WEEK 6: HOW CAN I MAKE THE MOST OF MY LIFE? PART 1

OBJECTIVE

Prepare your group both practically and spiritually for the serve experience. Celebrate the freedom from strongholds your group is experiencing, and nurture a heart of service by helping everyone connect and live into their greater purpose.

CHECK LIST

- Follow up with those who were absent last week. Arrange a time to pray with them for freedom from strongholds.
- Have two people share their story
- Assign the next two people to share their story
- Provide the websites, listed in the appendix, for the spiritual gifts test for those who do not know their gifts
- Discuss moving forward as a small group
- Review your church's mission statement and discuss
- Provide serve experience details if not already completed

PRAYER POINTS

People would begin to see they have a purpose bigger than living for themselves both individually and collectively. Pray they would see how Jesus lived and modeled this purpose for us.

God would instill in their hearts the humility and compassion of Jesus to serve others in our broken and hurting world.

Group members would continue to experience freedom from strongholds and grow in the Truth that sets them free.

GROUP TIME

Welcome and Follow Up—25 minutes

TIP: If your group members continue to sit in the same seats, change dynamics by having them switch seats. It will stimulate different discussions.

- Revisit what you covered last week on warfare and strongholds to see how everyone is doing since the last meeting.
- Since we last met, what has been a highlight of your week? How did last week's discussion impact you this week? How do you see strongholds in a different way? Did you find freedom from strongholds, or did you find yourself more able to lessen their grip in your life?

Story—10 minutes

- Have two people share their 2-5 minute story of how they came to Christ, or how they ended up in this group.

TIP: Take notes when each person shares their story, writing down things they question or may not believe, or breakthroughs in their spiritual journey. You will use all of these notes when you pray for them to break free of strongholds, and during the celebration.

Introductory Question—15 minutes

- Who do you know that reflects the heart of Jesus in the way they live their life?
- What would Jesus do in your community today? Where would He spend His time?

Discussion—45 minutes

- What does it look like to have the heart of Jesus today in our lives? Do you think people see Jesus in you? How have you seen God use people to make a difference in the world? What do you feel your purpose is?
- You can pick one or two questions they answered in homework and use it as basis for discussion.

Small Group Conversation—5 minutes

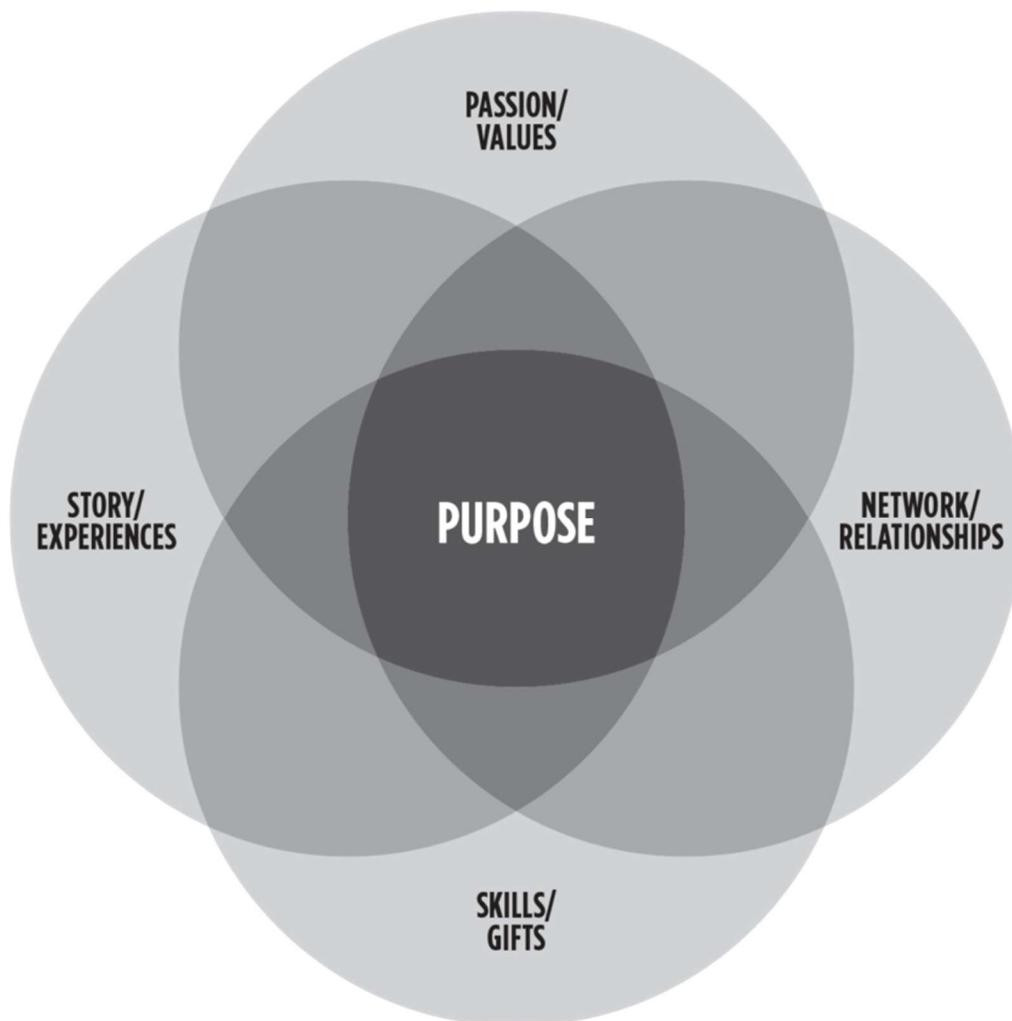
- Discuss the idea of moving forward as a small group, and see what the response is. If you have someone in the group who has already agreed to lead, share that news with the group. Talk about what a small group is, and how it will help them continue the spiritual journey they have begun in Rooted.

Prayer Requests—15 minutes

- Before you close in prayer, review your church’s mission statement, and talk about how your purpose collectively as a group and as individuals can help fulfill that.

Closing—5 minutes

- Confirm the time and location for your serve experience. 100% participation is the goal.
- Assign someone in the group to follow up with anyone who was absent from this session.



WORKBOOK REVIEW

How Can I Make The Most Of My Life? Part 1

We are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10

DAY 1 – CALL TO SERVE

Where have you seen the redemption of Jesus in your life? Where has He made something new?

Where do you feel God calling you to do good works?

DAY 2 – MOTIVE TO SERVE

What surprises you about Jesus' heart?

Who are people you know who have hearts like Jesus? What attracts you to them?

What does it look like to serve out of your purpose rather than agenda?

DAY 3 – BREADTH OF SERVICE

What are ways you can become involved in the Great Commission?

What are your thoughts about being "blessed to be a blessing," when it comes to sharing the Good News?

DAY 4 – POWER TO SERVE

Where in your life do you need the Holy Spirit's power?

What would you like to accomplish through the power of the Holy Spirit?

DAY 5 – WIRED TO SERVE

What are some spiritual gifts you have been given? How can you use these gifts in this season of your life?

As you look at your life and the gifts God has given you, what sense do you have of the purpose He has for you and how He wants to use you?

How do you see yourself contributing to the needs of the six sectors of society through your gifts?

TIPS ON LEADING A SERVE EXPERIENCE

Serving is less about fulfilling an obligation, or even about helping other people. Serving is more about who God is shaping you to be. This comes from the biblical definition of poverty, and the expression of fullness of the Gospel.

The Bible defines poverty in terms of Shalom shattered. There is brokenness between us, each other, Creation and God. God's mission, or the Gospel, is the restoration of Shalom on the planet. In other words, we were not saved to stand around with other saved people talking about our saved experience, but instead we were restored to be restorers. We play a role in the restoration of the planet.

In order to do that, people need to wrestle with their stories. Most of us don't have a conscious awareness of the story that God has been writing in our own lives. He wants to use all the parts of our stories to help restore his Kingdom.

This is the serve experience. The desired outcome is not to "do". Although important, it's not our main goal of the experience. We are after long-term impact and change in the individual who is serving. If that happens, he or she will serve more over his or her lifetime, rather than just hitting a one-time experience.

What is success for a serve experience?

- An understanding of biblical poverty. We are just as poor as the people we are going to serve.
- A connection with our own stories. The events in our lives—good and bad—are all part of who we are. God blesses, redeems, and restores Shalom in us.
- A next step. Through hearing God, understanding our gifts and our brokenness, and being in relationship with others, we can define the next right step in fulfilling the purpose God has for us.

Orientation

What is an orientation? Why do we do one?

Your role as a Rooted facilitator is to help center the group as they will often arrive at the serve site, while still being distracted by their day or life in general. An orientation allows you, the leader, to help your group:

- Focus on what they are about to do
- Understand and be reminded of true biblical poverty
- Be prepared to see and hear from God

- Remind your group to enter this time with the expectation that they will experience God in unique ways as they serve

How To

- *Bring Scripture:* nothing too long, just something to focus on what they are about to do (see sample devotional)
- Talk about being vs. doing
- *Questions to ask:* What are you expecting God to do? What are you frustrated about right now? What are you distracted by?
- *PRAY:* pray that your group would leave all frustrations and distractions behind, and be open to how God speaks to them

Serving

Why are we serving here? How will we engage?

- We are called to serve the poor, the marginalized, and the forgotten
- We want to serve in relationship
- We want our group to break the “holy huddle,” and actually be with those we are serving

TIP: Shepherd your group through the day. Be sure to look for who is connecting, and who isn't. How can you help them engage in the experience? Your focus is on your group rather than on the Serve Experience. We recommend facilitators are not assigned a role so they can focus on caring for their group.

Debrief

What is a debrief? Why do we do one? The debrief is your group's time to process their experience and solidify all that God did. It goes from an experience to language; saying it out loud is much different from just thinking it. A debrief is important because it helps accomplish the following:

- Gives an opportunity for members of your group to share how they saw and heard God
- Allows them to engage their emotions in the safety and freedom of community
- Connection with and discovery of their purpose through knowing their own story
- Gives opportunity for individuals to commit to practical next steps

Questions To Ask

- What did you see? What did you hear? Who did you meet?

- Time of Affirmation: have members of your group affirm each other, to help call out how they saw God move during this experience. This will help individuals process what they saw and heard from God.
- Where do you see the presence of God? Where did you hear His voice?
- What are you learning?
- How have your expectations/perceptions changed?
- How is your life going to be different?

Next Steps

- Help your group find out how they can get more involved, and serve again.

TIPS: Make sure your group still has energy to debrief after the serve event.

The debrief is often viewed in hindsight as a “marker moment” where group members verbalize what God was speaking to them, and commit to some practical action or change of course.

If someone is not moved by the experience or did not see the presence of God, don’t ignore it. Acknowledge it as a leader. God speaks to everyone differently at different times. Assure them that even if they were not moved, they can be confident that those whom they served were comforted and affirmed by their service and presence.

Sample Devotion: to be used during the orientation

The following is a suggested devotion to help set the stage before serving. You can use it to help focus group members’ hearts and minds on what it means to serve others.

Speak Lord

The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions.

One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called Samuel.

Samuel answered, “Here I am.” And he ran to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.” But Eli said, “I did not call; go back and lie down.” So he went and lay down.

Again the Lord called, “Samuel!” And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.”

“My son,” Eli said, “I did not call; go back and lie down.”

Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.

A third time the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

And the Lord said to Samuel: "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle."

Flow Questions

1. Where have you experienced great customer service?
2. Read 1 Sam 3:1-11 As you read, remember that the Word of God coming to someone was a rare experience to have in that day and age. The author is thus trying to express how significant it was that Samuel heard Him and that Eli was able to discern this. This began the very intimate relationship that Samuel had had with the Lord, and shows how he was able to guide Israel's kings and subsequently, the Israelites.
3. How did Samuel respond to the voice calling him? How did Eli respond to Samuel's questions?
4. Where have you seen people respond to God's voice? Who has been there for you when you were trying to discern God's voice?
5. How will you approach today, knowing that God is able to speak to you through this Serve event?