

# WEEK 7: HOW CAN I MAKE THE MOST OF MY LIFE? PART 2

## OBJECTIVE

Affirm individuals and empower your group to explore their spiritual gifts, discover how they fit into God's plan of expanding His Kingdom, and take action in their community and throughout the world.

### CHECK LIST

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|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email each member of the group, and encourage them to dream big this week | <input type="checkbox"/> Begin the conversation of dedication to consistency, service on or off campus |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Have two people share their story   | <input type="checkbox"/> Discuss moving forward as a small group                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assign two more people to share next week, if needed                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Remind everyone about the large group gathering in Week 8                     |

## PRAYER POINTS

Pray specifically for each person in your group. Pray that they would see they have a purpose bigger than living for themselves, and that this newfound passion moves them from service projects to a lifestyle of service, using their gifts for the Kingdom of God.

Each person would recognize their passions, move forward using their spiritual gifts, and join God in His work, bringing help and hope to a hurting world.

Each Rooted participant would not be afraid to dream BIG! God has unlimited capacity and resources for us to accomplish His will for our lives.

## GROUP TIME

### Welcome—10 minutes

*TIP: Let future leaders you have identified lead the opening discussion and closing prayer.*

- Where did you see God show up in your life this week?

- We studied the story of the Good Samaritan. Did you have a chance to selflessly serve someone in need this week?

### **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—10 minutes**

- Who is your neighbor? What does poverty look like in your own life? What is your “go-to” gift or talent God has blessed you with? What comes easily for you?

### **Discussion—40 minutes**

*TIP: See appendix for spiritual gifts resources.*

- Have group members share what gifts they have and how they use them.
- Do you see your spiritual gifts relating to your talents and passions? How do you see them working together? If you took the spiritual gifts test for the first time, do you agree with the gifts it says you have? Do you see these gifts in your life? What do you think God is calling you to do with your gifts?
- Discuss serving opportunities in the church and local community. Challenge group members to jump in.
- Where in the church or community have you served before? What did you like most about it? What did you not like about that experience? How is it different for you to serve believers at church versus serving at-risk children, parenting/pregnant teens, or people living in a homeless shelter?

### **Prayer of Purpose—30 minutes**

- Explain that just as we prayed for strongholds, we are now going to pray for God’s calling and purpose for us and the gifts that He has given us. As the leader, you will want to pray for each person individually while the group prays for that person silently with you.
- First, reaffirm they are free of their stronghold(s). Speak their new identity in Christ over them. Confirm their unique and special role in the Kingdom of God using their passions and gifts. Pray that God would remind them of their purpose. Pray bold prayers that release them to God-sized dreams.

*TIP: Keep the prayers to 2 minutes per person.*

## **Small Group Conversation—10 minutes**

- Continue the dialogue from last week about becoming a small group. Answer any additional questions.
- Remind everyone about the large group gathering next week before the group meeting time.

## **Prayer Requests—7 minutes**

- Try something new. Have everyone pray simultaneously, thanking God for what He did during group time. Then close the whole session after a few minutes.

## **Closing—3 minutes**

- Remind group members to pray for opportunities to share their story of faith. Encourage them to look for where God is working around them.

# **WORKBOOK REVIEW**

## **How Can I Make The Most Of My Life? Part 2**

*The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'*

### **Matthew 25:40**

#### **DAY 1 – COMPASSION IN ACTION**

Who are the marginalized people and outcasts of society today?

Who is your neighbor?

#### **DAY 2 – HANDS-ON LOVE**

Where have you seen Jesus “disguised” as someone in need? What was your response?

Were you ever on the receiving end of another person’s help? What did the person’s actions tell you about him or her?

Where are you more comfortable serving, in the church or in the community? Why?

#### **DAY 3 – SYMBIOSIS (AKA: GIVE AND TAKE)**

How does this definition of poverty change your view of those in need?

What is your reaction when you encounter situations of injustice?

Where have you experienced the compassion of God in your life?

Where have you experienced the compassion of others?

Where have you experienced a lack of it?

#### **DAY 4 – A LIFESTYLE OF SERVICE**

What are obstacles to a lifestyle of service that you have experienced?

What are things you can do this week in service to someone in your life and/or those living in poverty?

#### **DAY 5 – RETURN TO SHALOM**

What are your thoughts about our call to help bring peace—shalom—to our world? Is it overwhelming for you or does it excite you?