



No Vacancy

Small Group Material

Leader Guide

Part 4 - "Making Room for Purpose"

December 18th, 2016

Bottom Line: You end up doing BIG things for God by consistently doing SMALL things well.

Study Verses: Colossians 3:17, Colossians 3:22-25, 2 Thessalonians 3:11-12, 1 Thessalonians 4:10-12, Proverbs 20:5

Define The Win: Participants would understand that everyone's purpose is the same (love God and love others), but how this purpose gets expressed is unique. They would recognize where they've been given influence and reflect on whether they are stewarding this influence well.

Key Points

- God has gifted you. God has placed you right where you are.
- Everybody has influence. Everybody is leading somebody somewhere.
- As believers, you carry the integrity of His image and the influence of His love wherever you go.
- Our motives and definitions of success need to be evaluated.
- Your purpose always exists outside of yourself.
- Live in a way where your relationship with Christ is honored.
- God uses your work as a provision for your life and a platform for influence.

- *If you don't define success for yourself, everyone else will.*
- *God is far less concerned with WHAT we do and more focused on WHY we do it.*
- *You don't find your purpose by looking for it. You find your purpose by giving yourself to others.*

ENCOUNTER

- Over the years how have you wrestled with that questions, "Why am I here? What is my purpose?" Where have you gained clarity on the answer?
- Where do you have a tendency to overcomplicate God's will? What has your response been to this pressure?
- Do you believe you have the potential to influence others? Why or why not? How does your answer spur you on or cause you to hesitate to respond?
- What motivates you to get out of bed in the morning? How do you define a successful life? Why is it important to reflect on our motives and definitions of success on a regular basis?

FORMATION

- Read Colossians 3:17 and Colossians 3:22-25. How do these verses speak to God being far less concerned about WHAT we do and more focused on WHY we do it?
- Read 2 Thessalonians 3:11-12 and 1 Thessalonians 4:10-12. According to these passages, how does what we do provide provision for our life and a platform to influence others?
- Read Proverbs 20:5. How is our purpose found by looking outside of ourselves?

EXPRESSION

- **What are some small steps you can take to begin to unlock God's unique expression for your life?**
- **What are you doing with the influence you've been given? Would you say you are stewarding your influence well? Why or why not? What makes you answer in the way that you do?**
- **Your purpose always lies outside of yourself. What opportunities have presented themselves to invest in the lives of others?**

LEADER NOTES: Many of us are overwhelmed with finding "our thing." It feels like an impossible puzzle to figure out. From our perspective, there are more questions than answers. The clues leave us scratching our heads. Rather than being curious and take action, the lack of clarity causes us to hesitate and stand still. The weight we place on our shoulders to figure everything out is crushing us.

It might come as a surprise, but understanding God's will for our life isn't as complicated as we make it out to be. As believers, we have the same calling: to share Christ's love with those around us and to make His name known. When Jesus was asked about the greatest command, Jesus didn't hesitate. He said the entire law hangs on two commandments: love God with all your heart, mind and soul, and love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:34-40).

God is far less concerned with WHAT we do and more focused on WHY we do it. The specifics of our activity pale in comparison to our authenticity, availability and accessibility. This is why we must continually test our motives and examine our definition of a successful life. If we won't define success for ourselves, everyone else will.

It is true that God desires to use us in unique and different ways. This statement shouldn't create more pressure, but lessen the burden to have everything figured out. All God is asking from us is to start somewhere and lean in. We end up doing big things for God by consistently doing small things well.

The reality is that everyone has influence. Everybody is leading somebody somewhere. No matter your role, title, profession or platform, we all have people looking to us. No matter if you have an audience in the thousands or just a single person in the seats, someone is in attendance and paying attention.

We are called to look outside ourselves and leverage the influence we've been given to bring hope and grace to world. Our purpose always exists outside of ourselves. We don't find our purpose by looking for it. We find our purpose by giving ourselves away. God has gifted us and God has placed us right where we are for a purpose.

Each one of us has a sphere of influence where our actions and words ripple out and impact the lives of others. For those of you who are parents, your children are looking to you for guidance, wisdom and love. What speaks volumes to them is not what you say, but how you live your life and how you make them feel. At work, your co-worker or the team you lead needs someone who does their job with integrity and values people over the bottom line. Every day you pull into your driveway, neighbors who each have a story surround you. Then there are the people you rub shoulders with at the classroom, gym or coffee shop. They are desperately searching to find

significance and meaning for their lives. They are waiting for someone to walk beside them and introduce them to the amazing love of a Savior.

Our character is the most powerful currency we have to influence others. As believers we carry the integrity of His image and the influence of His love wherever we go. We must live in such a way where Christ is honored.