



## **What on Earth Am I Here For?**

### **Lesson 1 – It All Starts with God**

#### **Discussion Guide**

Group Goal: Ask each group member to respond to each question.

Verse to remember:

Colossians 1:16 - For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

1. Do you believe it is important to “begin with God”, when you consider your life’s purpose? Why? Why not begin with our own personal desires?
2. Why can’t a person find their purpose by focusing only on themselves?
3. Read Matthew 16:25 - For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.
  - In reference to Christ’s words here, how is it possible to be a raving success by the world’s standard, and not fulfill God’s purpose for your life?
4. What steps could one take to discover their purpose through a relationship with Jesus Christ?
  - Prayer    - Bible reading / study    - Life Group discussion    - \_\_\_\_\_
5. In spite of all the advertising around me, how can I remind myself that life is really about living for God, not myself?



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### Lesson 2 – What Drives Your Life? Discussion Guide

Group Goal: Each member responds to each question.

Verse to remember: Isa 26:3 - You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.

1. Why do you think some people are driven by **Guilt**?
  - Can God remove and replace our guilt? How?
2. How does **resentment & anger** affect our lives?
  - What is God's remedy for our anger?
  - Can you share a scripture that helps move us beyond anger to freedom?
3. Is there good **fear** and bad **fear** in life? Explain . . . Read 1Jn 4:18 - There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.
  - How could God's love remove our fears?
  - Could you share a personal testimony of how God's love has overcome fear? (only those comfortable to do so)
4. What is **materialism**?
  - How does it harm us? Our relationships? Our mandate to take the Gospel to every nation?
5. At what point does one's **need for approval** become unhealthy? How can you discern this?
  - What bible promises could you share to help break an unhealthy need of others approval?
6. What would my family and friends say is the driving force of my life?
  - What do I want it to be?



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### Lesson 3 – Seeing Life from God’s View

#### Discussion Guide

Group Goal: Ask each group member to respond to each question.

1. How does the way you see your life shape your destiny? Could you use a bible character or historical figure for an example?
2. The Bible Offers Three Metaphors That Teach Us God’s View of Life:
  - Can you name the first one mentioned? Ans: **Life on Earth Is a Test**
  - Can you think of a benefit of enduring and passing a test of life?
3. **1Cor 10:13** - The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.
  - Could you paraphrase this promise in your own words? (What does it mean?)
  - How might this promise currently encourage you?

4. What’s the second metaphor of God’s view of life? Ans: **Life on Earth Is a Trust**
  - What has God entrusted to us?

Ans: Our time, our energy, intelligence, opportunities, relationships, and resources are all gifts from God that he has entrusted to our care and management.

5. **Lk 16:11** says: And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?
  - The lesson stated, “How I manage my money (worldly wealth) determines how much God can trust me with spiritual blessings (true riches)!”
  - Do you agree? Explain . . .

6. Do you remember God’s third metaphor of His view of Life? Ans: **Life on earth is a Temporary Assignment –**

Rom 12:2a - Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

- How does our culture influence us to focus on this world while ignoring eternity?
- What are some practical steps, actions, habits we could use to keep us from getting too attached to this temporary world, and remind us of the benefits in eternity with Christ?



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### Lesson 4 – You Were Planned for God’s Pleasure

#### Discussion Guide

1. God created humans with a universal longing to worship him. What happens when people choose not to worship their creator?
  - They worship other things, idols, etc.
2. Can you think of a bible example when people stopped worshipping their creator and worshipped idols?
  - How did the worship of false gods affect their families, leaders, culture, future generations?
3. Read JN 4:23, 24 - But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. <sup>24</sup>God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”
  - What does it mean to worship God in spirit and truth?
  - Why is it important that churches keep these two spiritual characteristics in proper balance?
4. How is our worship enhanced when we worship together with other Holy Spirit filled believers?
  - Why is worshipping God alone beneficial?
  - Why do we need both to worship God alone and in the congregation of believers?
5. **Psa 113:3** says: From the rising of the sun to its going down, The Lord’s name *is* to be praised.
  - In the bible people praised GOD at work, at home, in battle, in jail, and even in bed!
  - Where is your favorite place to worship God? Why?
6. Every activity can be transformed into an act of worship when you do it for the praise, glory, and pleasure of God.
  - How could you expand your personal worship to God in a new way this week? (Share ideas, when? Where? How?)



## What on Earth Am I Here For? - Fall 2017 Life Group Series

### Lesson 5 – You Were Formed for God’s Family

#### Discussion Guide

1. Tonight, we learned that we become part of the human family by our first birth, but we become a member of God’s family by our second birth.
  - How does the New Testament describe our second birth? – What does it mean to be “born-again”?
2. On the Day of Pentecost, Peter proclaimed the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. The audience cried out, “What should we do?” RD: Acts 2:38
  - How did people obey and apply this gospel message throughout the New Testament churches? - **Repentance** from sin (death to sin), **water baptism** in the name of Jesus Christ (burial with Christ), and receiving the **Holy Spirit** (new life in Christ).
3. In your opinion, why has the modern American gospel become ineffective to transform lives today? (the New Testament application of the gospel is not taught and practiced)
4. RD: **Gal 4:7** - Therefore you are no longer a slave (to sin) but a son, and if a son, then an **heir** of God through Christ.
  - What does it mean to be an heir of God through Christ?
  - What will we inherit from God throughout eternity. (All of heaven! No tears, sorrow, to rule & reign with Christ etc.)
5. List some of the benefits of being in God’s family here and now?
  - Which benefit is most valuable to you? (have each person name one)



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### Lesson 6 – Created to Become Like Jesus

1. We learned in the teaching that - God's ultimate goal for your life on earth is not comfort but what? (character -development.)
  - God wants to transform your character to be like, who? (Jesus!)
  
2. Read Gal 5:22 - the Fruit of the Spirit - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control.
  - What fruit do you believe God is developing right now in your life? Why do you believe that?
  
3. Paul explains our three responsibilities to become like Jesus RD: Eph 4:22-24. Can you list them?
  - a. We must choose to "throw off" or let go of (harmful) old ways of acting. V-22
    - What does mean, and how might we do this? (3-4 responses)
  
  - b. We must change the way we think – Transformed by a renewed mind.
    - How does God transform our minds? How do we allow that? (3-4 responses)
  
  - c. We must "put on" the character of Christ by developing new, godly **habits**. *Your character is essentially the sum of your habits; it is how you habitually act.* V-24
    - How do we develop godly habits?

(**God's word** provides the truth we need to grow, **God's people** provide the support we need to grow, and **circumstances** provide the environment we need to practice Christlikeness.)

4. God is much more concerned about your character development than your career.
  - Can you think of a time when your career collided with God's plan for your life? How do you discern when your off course of God's plan?



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### Lesson 7 – You Were Shaped for Serving God

1. Tonight's teaching revealed - Whenever God gives us an assignment, he always equips us with what we need (tools) to accomplish it.
  - Could you share a biblical character whose life's message proved this truth?

2. What are the five factors that of your S.H.A.P.E.?

Spiritual gifts

Heart

Abilities

Personality

Experience

3. We were warned of two problems to avoid: *Gift Envy* and *Gift Projection*.
  - What is Gift Envy? What is Gift Projection?
  - How do these problems harm God's people?
4. What does your **H**ear feel passionately about, and how could that direct you in serving others, for God's glory?
5. Think about how your life **E**xperiences (family, educational, painful) have shaped your life. How might you use them to help others?



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### Lesson 8 – Made for a Mission

1. What was Jesus' mission? (Why did He come to earth?)
  - RD: **Luke 19:10** - for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."
  - And what is our mission, as His church?
  -
2. **2Cor 5:20** tells us, "We are Christ's ambassadors . . ."
  - What does it mean to represent Christ as His ambassadors?
  - How could you remind yourself daily to be His ambassador?
3. Jesus calls us not only to *come* to him, but to *go* for him!
  - What are we to GO and do? (Mt 28:19)
4. "You are the only Christian some people will ever know, and your mission is to share Jesus with them."
  - What are the "Christlike" behaviors that will help our lost friends the most?
  - What do you think the most effective way of sharing Jesus with your lost friends & family is?
5. To fulfill your mission will require that you abandon your agenda and accept God's agenda for your life.
  - How can you personally live out God's agenda for your life's mission right now?