



Discover Purpose | Doug Wekenman | 1.23.22

Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around and answer the following question:

Describe your perfect vacation. If money wasn't an issue, where would you go? Who would you go with? What would you do?

SHARE

Welcome back to Group! This week, Doug continued our new series *Est. 2022*. Once we *Experience God* and *Find Family*, the next step is to *Discover Purpose*. God made you on purpose and for a purpose; discovering what that purpose is will help you establish your faith. But before we jump in, check-in with each other by answering these questions:

What was the best part of your week? What was the most challenging part of your week?

How are the 21 days of prayer and fasting going for you? What is one word you would use to describe the journey?

GROW

Read Matthew 19:16-22

What things have you pursued in life, hoping to find purpose, only to be left disappointed?

What are your thoughts on this story? How do you process challenging passages in the Bible?

What do you feel like God is calling you to step into this year? How can your Group rally around you to help you get there?

The story of the Rich Young Ruler is one of the clearest examples of someone searching for purpose. Three of the four Gospels include the story (Matthew 19, Mark 10, and Luke 18), which is important because repetition is a tell-tale sign that there is significant meaning in the text. On the surface, this story can seem extreme, as Jesus tells the man to sell all that he has. However, when we dig deeper and look at the context, a few details begin to jump out. This man was very rich, having achieved worldly status and fortune, but something was still missing in his life—purpose. He knelt at Jesus' feet, looking for answers to give him assurance, security, and meaning. Jesus looks at him with love and extends an invitation to drop everything and follow him.

As Doug reminded us this week, this is the starting point for discovering our purpose. If you want to know why you are on this earth, you must begin with God. As Rick Warren says, "The search for the purpose of life has puzzled people for thousands of years. That's because we typically begin at the wrong starting point—ourselves."

Jesus gives the rich young ruler the same invitation he gives all of us. He looks at us, loves us as we are, and invites us to leave behind our worldly identities and law-focused religion for a personal relationship.

To help us step into our purpose, Doug gave us three questions we should be asking ourselves:

Who did God make me to be?

Who am I becoming today?

What would Jesus do if he were me? (WWJDIHWM?)

Take a moment to talk about your responses to all three of those questions with your Group.

MOVE

We are two weeks into our 21-day prayer and fast as a church. We believe that these three weeks will result in us hearing from him! This is a time that we are dedicating to sit with Jesus, to be with him, and for him to be with us. Even if you still haven't started the fast, it's not too late! Join us for the final week!

Share your experience of this last week during your prayer and fast. What has God revealed to you during this time about him? About yourself?

Did you read the morning prompts and practice praying the Lord's Prayer this week? If so, how did that transform your prayer life?

Jesus invites us to pray for our daily bread (Matthew 6:11). When you pray that prayer, what are you asking God for? What do you need today, and how can your Group support you in prayer?

PRAY

As a group, take time to pray for our Church, pray for your Group and ask God to reveal his glory during this time dedicated to prayer and fasting. God is building his Church and has invited us to be a part of it. The enemy is prowling around, waiting to move in and bring destruction to God's people. Get real and pray for each other. Pray over your families. Pray for our RRC family. Your community. The nation. The world.

TO GO

Give us today our daily bread. – Matthew 6:11