



“Discover Your Purpose” Series

Design Defines Purpose

Purpose: 1) To lead group members to understand the purpose and use of spiritual gifts in the Kingdom.
2) To lead group members to begin to investigate their design and spiritual gifts.

Notes: 1) This lesson is designed to be discussion based, not lecture. Therefore, you will have to leave out something. Teach what resonates with you. 2) Share your personal stories & experiences. 3) All notes and resources will be available online a week in advance at WestwoodGroups.com. 4) ABS Classes are asked to complete the study July 11 & 18, Home Groups at some point during the month of July.

Starting Point: Share overview of **STARTING POINT** (page 1) and discuss the questions. For the second question, both are true, but we sometimes neglect our calling for a purpose.

Scripture: Review the **SCRIPTURE** on the Learner Notes. Share your insights, commentary research, and these possible comments. **Option:** Say, “As we read these Scriptures, listen and share principles that will help us remain focused.”

1 Peter 4:8-11 **Take away:** We’re called to use our gifts to serve others. Notice the possible outline: love deeply, serve others, rely on God’s strength, God is glorified.

Colossians 3:23-24 **Take away:** We should work hard at our ministry and the reward comes from God. When we keep Christ as the focus of our work, we keep it in perspective.

1 Cor. 12:18 **Take away:** God puts the pieces of the puzzle together as He desires. Therefore, we’ve got to realize that He has a specific purpose for us in this specific part (Westwood) of the body of Christ.

Focus: Share an overview of the **FOCUS** section, adding anything you desire from your personal reading or experience. Ask, “How would you define spiritual gifts to your child?” Other topics in this section include: a) focus on the work, b) satisfaction when fulfilling our design, and c) gifts are given by God to us. (They are for His purposes, not ours.)

Truths to Remember: Review the statements from the **TRUTHS** section, adding these or your comments or questions. In preparation, read the Scriptures referenced and make any notes you need to share.

1. believers – As the Holy Spirit is the delivery mechanism for spiritual gifts, people without Christ may have abilities, but not spiritual gifts.
2. one – No one can say, “I don’t have a spiritual gift.” It may need development. How can you know you have the gift of evangelism if you have never attempted to share Christ?
3. all – Because no one has all, just like the human body, each part needs the other parts. It’s the same at church.
4. Holy Spirit – The Bible speaks about desiring gifts, but it is actually the spirit that determines it.
5. Develop – We develop our gifts by using them, by prayer, and by working at the ministry that uses that gift.
6. sin – Using our gift is a matter of obedience.
7. glorifies, grows – Spiritual growth through service is a very maturing growth! Don’t neglect it.

Questions for Discussion: As time allows, **choose some** of the questions in this section to review. Circle your “must use” Q’s.

1. <Personal answers> Possible: God uses the work to grow us.
2. People can have natural abilities that are similar, but real fruit comes from the Holy Spirit’s involvement and work.
3. <Personal answers> Possible: We are lazy and don’t feel guilt over sins of “omission.”
4. Possible: If we have found a ministry and God is blessing, then we could be using our gifts without having stopped to identify them. Yet Paul says in 1 Cor. 12:1 that he would not have us ignorant about spiritual gifts.
5. <Personal answers> Think through this before time so that you can offer suggestions, or share what your own gifts are.
6. Possible: There should be more obvious results and more lasting fruit when spiritual gifts are involved.

Just for Thought: Challenge group members to read that list and identify the truth that they most need to know or heed.

The Challenge: Discuss the challenges and encourage class members to get involved with the study further through the week. Next week is the fun lesson. Individuals will complete a group-time spiritual gift and personality style analysis. The session will also include talk about possible service opportunities that match one’s gifts, personality and passion.