

Small Group Discussion Guide

Healthy Purpose: For the week of August 30 - September 5, 2020

Opening Question: (20 minutes)

- What has been your greatest challenge this week with the ongoing COVID crisis, the changing restrictions, distance learning, work, etc.?
- Pray for one another through these challenges.

Main Thought and Scriptures: (20 minutes)

Jesus concluded His teaching on how to thrive amid crisis by praying to the Father for His disciples. His prayer reveals His heart and His purpose for all of us. From John 17:13-21:

"I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them..." (v. 13)

- True joy comes as we fulfill our purpose. God's desire is for us to experience true and lasting joy. This only comes as we live out our purpose in life.

"...I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. ²⁰My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me." (v. 14-21)

- Our purpose is to love God by helping others to know Him. Jesus' prayer was that other people would come to know Him through our lives. This is our primary purpose in life.
"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:1-2 NIV)

- We can live with purpose when we keep our focus heavenward. We can live out our purpose and make an eternal difference if we keep an eternal focus.

Discussion Questions:

- Who has God placed in your life that you can love by helping them to know Jesus? What steps can you take to help them grow closer to Jesus?

Prayer: (20 minutes)

- Pray for people by name whom God is calling you to reach with His love.
- Pray for strategic opportunities to connect with people whom God wants you to reach through this lockdown season.
- Pray for those who are struggling with health, finances, and family pressures during this time.
- Pray for our government leaders to come to salvation, and to lead with godly wisdom.