

Christ Church

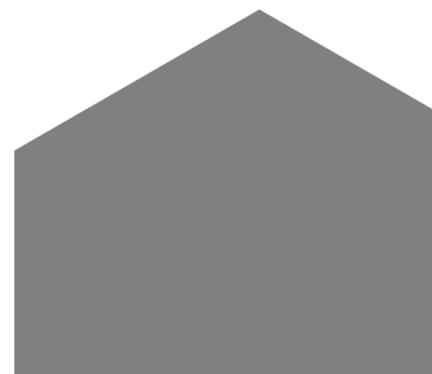
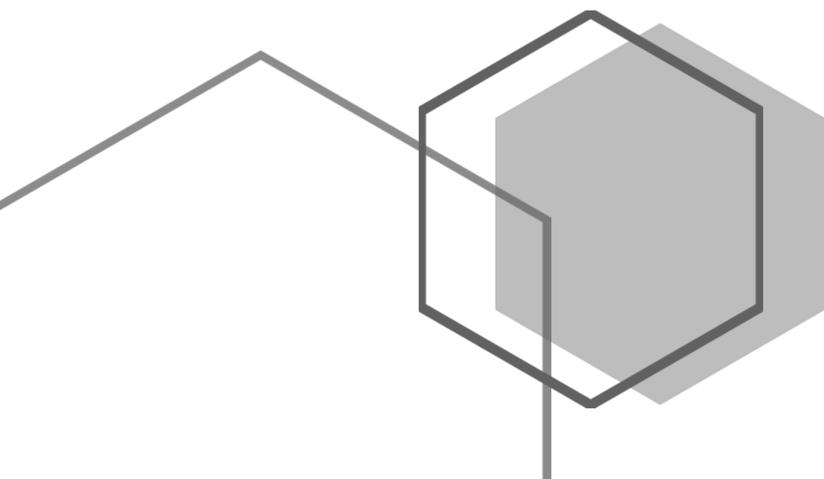


Creating a Life Development Plan

Lesson 1

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to us."

- Romans 12:6



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Creating a Life Development Plan

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Discovery Wednesday

We've agreed to meet the first Wednesday evening of every month to discover together our gifts and explore ways of developing them for the glory of God. Life has many seasons to it. Each season we must accomplish specific goals through the array of gifts God has given us. Therefore, it is our responsibility to discover our primary gifts and learn to develop them to their fullest potential, making every season of life enjoyable and satisfying.

Creating a Life Development Plan

Planning is a surefire way to guarantee success in life!

To bring sharp focus to your life, it is most prudent to think, strategize, and create a Life Development Plan. This plan captures three major areas of your life. It outlines your life's purpose, goals for the next several years, and it helps you to identify your major gifts and skill sets.

A Life Development Plan is a written document that provides a structured approach to fulfilling your life's priorities and goals. These objectives and purpose are arrived at through a well-guided discussion; and by your careful answers to some well-crafted questions.

A LIFE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

-  Helps you map out your life
 -  Captures your purpose
 -  Ensures focused actions
 -  Must be reviewed regularly
-

Benefits of Discovery Wednesday

This course is designed to help you understand how your purpose, goals, and gifts all intersect to form a life development plan. This hands-on teaching will help you better articulate your purpose in a very succinct way; outline your most important annual goals because you would have identified your primary gifts. Following the identification of your major gifts you will be taught how to develop them.

Study Teams



Throughout this course you will be asked to go through an exercise with your Study Team—no more than two other persons—who will help you craft, discover, or think through the answers for a particular question or series of probing questions. The intent is that your study team will help you to reinforce the principles you are attempting to learn.

Life Has Purpose and Meaning

Your goals and plans should stem from a clear understanding of your life's purpose. Purpose answers the questions: *Why did God create me? What is the mission of my life?* Finding out your purpose is like finding a valuable diamond. A diamond's value is determined by the five C's—Certification, Cut, Clarity, Color, and Carat. When you become aware of your life's purpose, you will experience the value of the 5 C's at work in your purpose.

Discovering Your Purpose

will make you more effective in achieving a satisfying life.

- **Clarity.** Purpose helps to answer life's paradoxes. You will know why you've been placed on the earth by your Maker. Purpose makes your path clear because it removes ambiguity and aimlessness.
- **Cohesiveness.** Purpose unites your life's mission with your gifts and calling. Cohesiveness is realized as the fruit of an engaged purpose.
- **Constraint.** Someone who has chosen to direct her life by purpose is someone who has a built-in constraint. Constraint channels energy, resources, and time towards noble targets.
- **Courage.** Purpose awakens courage—the inner stuff of life that tells you “keep going” when obstacles are encountered along the path towards your destiny.
- **Contentment.** The truly happy people are the ones who live purpose-driven lives. They experience an inner peace because they are living out their God-given purpose. Their life has alignment and purpose.

“Many people have a wrong idea of what constitutes true happiness. It is not attained through self-gratification, but through fidelity to a worthy purpose.”

– Helen Keller

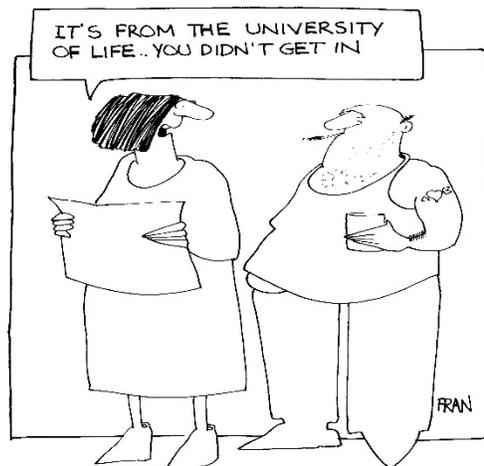


FIGURE 1.1 shows us that some people choose not to live life to the full or even try.

PURPOSE is Your Life's Foundation

You've been created for a purpose. You're not an accident! Once you discover your God-given purpose you will have a strong foundation for all aspects of life—your relationships, career choices, spending plan, and even your community life. Everything that's important in life flows from our purpose.

"For when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep...."

- Acts 13:36

YOUR PURPOSE	
	Originates with God and seeks to unite you to God
	Must be discovered
	Matures over time
	Is fulfilled as you serve it

1. Executing your purpose brings satisfaction to all aspects of life.
 - A) You feel **internally** fulfilled and satisfied. David served "God's purpose."
 - i. You feel at peace within—satisfied with who you are and who you're becoming.
 - ii. You feel at peace with your Creator because you're pleasing Him. Your conscience bears witness to that reality.
 - B) You feel **externally** connected with the community around you. David served God's purpose "in his own generation." This includes his community.
 - i. You feel like you have a role to play in the world.
 - ii. You feel connected with others and valued by them.
2. Purpose has a foundation—pillars that support your life. To identify the four main pillars that anchor you to your purpose learn to ask key questions. Jesus did. Although He didn't need to discover God's purpose for His life, the questions, once answered, helped His disciples to form a firm foundation as to who He was.

"My mother said to me, 'If you become a soldier, you'll be a general; if you become a monk, you'll end up as the Pope.' Instead, I became a painter and wound up as Picasso."

- Pablo Picasso

Mark 8:27-30—²⁷ Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?" ²⁸ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Christ." ³⁰ Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

Pillar #1: The Anointed One **Pillar #2:** The Son of the Living God

Pillar #3: The Savior of the World **Pillar #4:** The Son of Man



Study Team: Exercise #1

Please go into your study team to answer this question: **What do I hate the most?** Be patient with the members of your study team as they probe your feelings for further clarity of your answer. Also be prepared to answer **why? Why do you hate what you hate?** Write down single word answers after you've shared your thoughts. The single words or phrases you jot down should capture the strongest, clearest, and most depicting idea behind your feelings of hate.

A) _____ B) _____

C) _____ D) _____

E) _____ F) _____

PILLARS #1 & #2: What one idea ties each (or most) of your answers from Exercise #1 together into a single word or phrase? The word is to be one of the four pillars of your purpose. If the words are totally different then this suggests that this question reveals two of your pillars.

A) _____ B) _____

Look beyond the feelings of hate and you may discover a surprising aspect of your life's mission.

4. Another dimension of Moses' purpose can also be discovered by asking the same question again: *What did Moses **HATE** the most?*

Example 1: When Moses tried to stop two Hebrew men from fighting each other, what information regarding his purpose can be learned by his hatred of their act (Exod. 2:13-15)? What was fueling his hate? He saw the need for:

- A) A Moral Code B) Conflict Resolution Skills
C) A Judge D) Appropriate Civic Life

Example 2: When Moses was judging the disputes of the Hebrew people, his purpose can be learned by his hatred of their impotence in matters of conflict resolution (Exod. 18:13-21). His hate stemmed from his concern for:

- A) A Moral Code
- B) Conflict Resolution Skills
- C) A Judge
- D) Appropriate Civic Life

“My life has no purpose, no direction, no aim, no meaning, and yet I'm happy. I can't figure it out. What am I doing right?”

**– Charles Schulz
Creator of Peanuts
Comic Strip &
Charlie Brown**

Conclusion: Based on what Moses hates, we learn that one of the four pillars of his purpose can be described in a single word or phrase like:

- A) Peace-Maker
- B) Bridge-Builder
- C) Advocate

What Do You Love the Most?

The opposite of hate is love. This strong human emotion is also self-disclosing of your God-given purpose. Let's use Moses again as our case study to learn how love can point us to something nobler.

- 5.** What did Moses **LOVE** the most? You know when you love something because it encourages and relaxes you.

Example 1: When Moses was leading the children of Israel to their Promised Land, he relaxed and was energized with his father-in-law Jethro in the presence of God (Exod. 18:9-12). Moses loved:

- A) Intimacy with God
- B) The Presence of God
- C) The House of the Lord
- D) Spiritual Fellowship

Example 2: During an upsetting time in Moses' leadership he vowed to God that he would not lead the people into the Promised Land unless “Your presence” goes with us (Exod. 33:12-16). What do we learn of Moses' love?

- A) Intimacy with God
- B) The Presence of God
- C) Vulnerability with God
- D) Transparency

Conclusion: Based on what Moses loved, what can we learn about his purpose? What **single** word or phrase captures another pillar of Moses' purpose?

A) Facilitator of Spiritual Intimacy with God B) Pastor/Shepherd

C) Spiritual Connector D) _____

The purpose of life is to have a life of purpose.

– Robert Byrne,
Chess Olympiad & Author

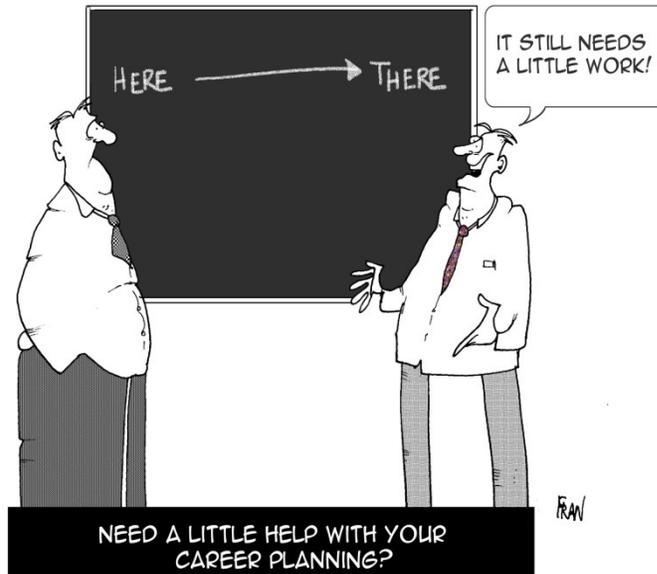


FIGURE 1.3 shows a guy on the left who's in need of career planning advice. The professional is not too helpful because of his simplistic approach to development and growth.

What was Moses' Purpose?

In recognition of these exercises, the four pillars of Moses' purpose can be best summed up in these single words or phrases.

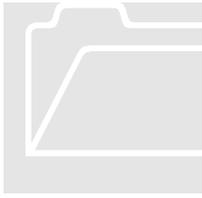
Pillar #1: Deliverer

Pillar #2: Social Justice/Peace-Maker

Pillar #3: Spiritual Connector

Pillar #4: Shepherd (Pastor)

Love reveals insight into your life's purpose.



Study Team: Exercise #2

Please go into your study team to answer this question: *What do I love the most?* Be patient with the members of your study team as they probe your feelings for further clarity of your answer. Also be prepared to answer why? Why do you love what you love? Write down single word answers after you've shared your thoughts. The single words or phrases you jot down should capture the strongest, clearest, and most depicting idea behind your feelings of love.

A) _____ B) _____

C) _____ D) _____

PILLAR #3: What one idea ties each (or most) of the answers from Exercise #2 together into a single word or phrase? The word is to be one of the pillars of your purpose.

A) _____ B) _____

6. Purpose is also discovered by recognizing that what you love recharges your emotional tank. In order to keep our emotional energy at a high level, God has wired us to be able to replenish our strengths by doing what we LOVE.

A) What makes me feel good about myself?

B) What activities energize me?

C) What do I like doing?

D) What did I like doing as a child?

PILLAR #4: What one idea ties each (or most) of your answers from the four questions of Point #6 together into a single word or phrase? The word is to be one of the pillars of your purpose.

A) _____ B) _____

“Purpose serves as a principle around which to organize our lives.”
– Anonymous

What is Your Purpose?

In recognition of these exercises, the four pillars of your purpose can be best summed up in these single words or phrases. The purpose and mission of your life rest on these four important pillars.

**“Mix a conviction
in a man and
something
happens.”**

**– Adam Clayton
Powell,
Politician & Pastor**

Pillar #1: _____

Pillar #2: _____

Pillar #3: _____

Pillar #4: _____

Homework

1. To confirm the accuracy of the **four pillars** of your life’s purpose ask three (3) people (close friends or relatives)—the following questions:

- A) In your opinion, what are the top two things I speak about as a wish list (personal goal or dream) for my life?
- B) What are the top two things you’ve witnessed or heard me say I hate the most? And the two things you’ve heard me say I love the most?
- C) What would you say are my top three primary gifts or things I do really well?
- D) If I relocated to another country, what one thing would you remember most about me?

Pillar #1: _____ Pillar #2: _____

Pillar #3: _____ Pillar #4: _____

2. Before we meet on Wednesday, March 7th please **memorize** Ephesians 2:10, which says: “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”