

*Christ Church*



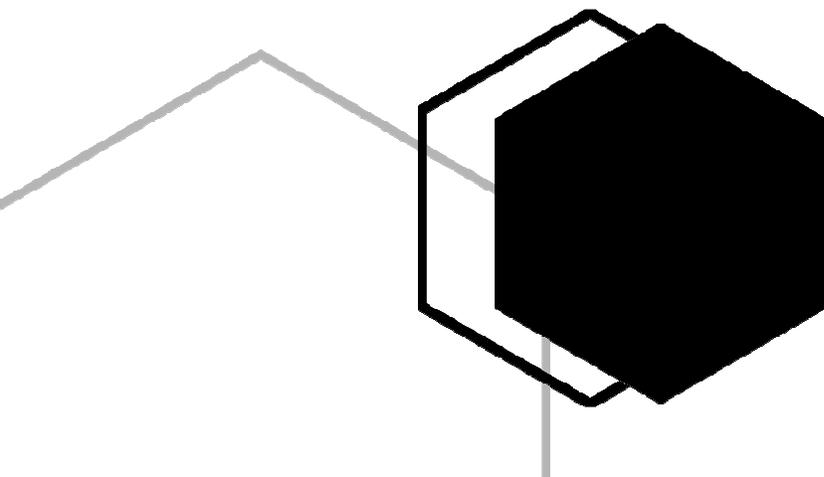
# Discovering Your Life's Purpose

---

## Lesson 2

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

*- Romans 12:6*



*Christ Church*

## Discovering Your Life's Purpose

---

**Anthony Dickerson**  
***Director of Operations***

© David D. Ireland, Ph.D.  
2018 All Rights Reserved  
140 Green Pond Road  
Rockaway, NJ • 07866  
Phone: 973.783.1010 • Fax: 973.783.0818

### *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.

**Discovering Your Life's**

**Purpose** is the same as discovering the mind of God for you. And answers the question: Who did God create me to be?

## Discovering Your Life's Purpose

*Following God's lead so that He can point you to your life's purpose.*

**T**o 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.

In **Discovering Your Life's Purpose**, you are helped by 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.

### DISCOVERING YOUR LIFE'S PURPOSE

-  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. It will also help you outline your most important annual goals through the identification of your primary gifts—which you will learn how to develop.

### Study Teams



This evening, we will continue on the journey of confirming your life's purpose through a series of self-discovery exercises. Self-discovery is about becoming more aware of who you are and who you are not.

Throughout this course you will be asked to go through an exercise with your Study Team—no more than two other people—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.

## God Has a Specific Life Purpose for You

Your Life's Purpose is about arriving at your own "aha" moment as a delightful response to the internal question: **"Who did God create me to be?"**

- **Burning Bush Experience.** Sometimes it seems as though we are stopped by God in our tracks. When Moses saw the bush burning in the wilderness he stopped in his tracks.
- **Damascus Road Experience.** God may stop you from going in one direction and lead you in another. Paul's encounter with God in Acts 26 gave him the conviction to stop going in one direction and to go the opposite way. His obedience led to his life's purpose and he spent the rest of his life fulfilling it.
- **Prince of Egypt.** God has likely been preparing you for years for a specific life purpose. Joseph went from hated brother to slavery to prison to the second in command of Egypt.
- **America's Evangelist.** Billy Graham's fiancée, Emily Regina Cavanaugh, broke his heart by telling him that she was more in love with another suitor, Charles Massey. Rather than wallowing in sorrow, the young Billy Graham decided to turn to God for comfort. During that time, he also came to accept his life's purpose to evangelize. Dr. Graham wrote: "I now had a purpose, an objective, a call. That was when the growing up began, and the discipline to study."<sup>1</sup>

---

**YOUR LIFE  
PURPOSE**

---

 Originates with God and seeks to unite you to God

---

 Must be discovered

---

 Matures over time

---

 Is fulfilled as you serve it

---

1. Being effective in your life's purpose means that you have or will go through some preparation and you will see fruit along the way.

A) Your **Vocation/Volunteering** may help you with your preparation.

i. What has God got you **Doing**? \_\_\_\_\_

B) Your **Education** may help you with your preparation.

i. What has God got you **Learning**? \_\_\_\_\_

---

<sup>1</sup> John Pollock, *The Billy Graham Story* (Grand Rapids, Mich: Zondervan, 2003), 23

C) Your **Mentors** may help you with your preparation.

i. Who has God got **Mentoring** you? \_\_\_\_\_

## Sample the Fruit to Discover Your Life's **PURPOSE**

"When they reached the Valley of Eshkol, they cut off a branch bearing a single cluster of grapes. Two of them carried it on a pole between them, along with some pomegranates and figs ...They gave Moses this account: "We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit..." - Numbers 13:23, 27

In your quest to discover your life's purpose, sample fruit along the way. The fruit gives you a glimpse of what you should expect when you are fully engaged in your life's purpose. If you discover that the fruit is inadequate, you must reconsider whether you're headed toward God's purpose in your life.



FIGURE 1.1 depicts the 12 spies carrying the large fruit of the Promised Land.

**"How can one pity anyone who is doing the will of the Lord? Is there anything sweeter on Earth than to do the will of Him one loves? And if it gives one some trouble to carry it out, the sweetness is all the greater."**

**- Charles de Foucauld**

## What Are Examples of Good Fruit?

2. Discovering your life's purpose can occur by asking yourself the question: What are some **EXAMPLES** of good fruit (success) that you have had in the past? This point will be illustrated as we take a glance at the fruit of Joseph's life.

**Example 1:** When Joseph was purchased as a slave to Potiphar (Genesis 39:3-6). What was obvious about Joseph's fruit?

- A) Successful in everything
- B) Potiphar was very happy
- C) Ruler of the House
- D) Potiphar didn't have to worry

**"For the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth."**

**- Ephesians 5:9**

**Example 2:** Joseph was sent to prison after he refused to have an affair with Potiphar's wife (Genesis 39:21-23). What are the distinctive features of Joseph's work in prison?

- A) Well liked
- B) Put in charge
- C) \_\_\_\_\_
- D) \_\_\_\_\_

**Conclusion:** Based on Joseph's work in both Potiphar's house and the prison, what can we learn about his life's purpose? What single word or phrase describes elements of his life's purpose? Any one of these words can describe the pillars of Joseph's life purpose:

- A) Administrator
- B) Leader
- C) Well liked
- D) Trusted



**"I believe there are no bad leaders, only bad followers."**

**FIGURE 1.2** shows a boss making excuses for his bad leadership. Don't try to be who you are not in discovering your life's purpose. Flourish in the areas God is blessing you in!



**Study Team: Exercise #1**

Please go into your study team to answer this question: **What are examples of good fruit in your life?** Be patient with the members of your study team as they probe your experiences for further clarity of your answer. Also, be prepared to answer **why? Why are these examples of your good fruit?** 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 examples of good fruit.

**The secret of success is constancy to purpose.**

– Benjamin Franklin

A) \_\_\_\_\_ B) \_\_\_\_\_

C) \_\_\_\_\_ D) \_\_\_\_\_

**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 life's purpose. If the words are totally different, then this suggests that this question reveals two of your pillars.

A) \_\_\_\_\_ B) \_\_\_\_\_

**Who Does Your Fruit/Life's Purpose IMPACT?**

**3.** Another dimension of Joseph's life purpose can also be discovered by asking the question again: *Who does our life purpose IMPACT?*

**Example 1:** Joseph's life purpose was for more than just himself. When the Pharaoh had a dream that no one could interpret he called Joseph who gave Pharaoh the interpretation from God. Joseph interpreted the dream and then gave a plan to the entire country of Egypt, and surrounding areas, on how to prepare for the famine (Genesis 41: 33-36).

When Joseph interpreted the dream of Pharaoh, what information regarding his purpose can be learned by the interpretation and his plan of action (Genesis 41: 33-36)? What was fueling his plan? He saw the need for:

- A) Implementing Orderly Systems    B) Avoiding Confusion/Panic
- C) Protection of the People        D) The Longevity of the Country

**Focus on how you can serve others and you may discover a surprising aspect of your life's purpose.**

**Example 2:** Joseph's life purpose impacted many generations. The famine was used by God to bring Joseph's family to Egypt where they were preserved from death (Genesis 50:20-21).

His life purpose was accompanied by:

- A) Forgiveness
- B) Conflict-Resolution Skills
- C) \_\_\_\_\_
- D) \_\_\_\_\_

**Conclusion:** Based on the IMPACT of Joseph's fruit, we learn that his life's purpose can be described in a single word or phrase like:

- A) Administrator
- B) Discerner
- C) Problem Solver

**“Outstanding people have one thing in common: An absolute sense of mission.”**

**– Zig Ziglar**

### The Enemy of Your Life's Purpose!

4. Problem = Fear

Solution = Courage

**Example 1:** When Joseph was propositioned by Potiphar's wife, he needed to have courage to refuse her. He knew that what was being asked of him was wrong, but he also knew the consequences of not submitting to her request (Genesis 39:7-11).

When have you been courageous for God?

- A) \_\_\_\_\_
- B) \_\_\_\_\_
- C) \_\_\_\_\_
- D) \_\_\_\_\_



FIGURE 1.3 shows a husband too nervous to tell his wife “sorry.”

## Determine Who is in Charge

### 5. Determine Who is in Charge.

**Example 1:** Do you know how I can tell right from the beginning that Joseph believed God was in charge? The answer is: He never got bitter at God.

Some of the questions we can ask ourselves to determine if God is in charge in our lives include:

- A) How Do My Family and Friends Respect and Recognize My Relationship with Christ?
- B) How Do I Carry Out God's Commands?
- C) How Do I See My Life's Purpose As a Spiritual Calling from God?
- D) How Am I Intentional About My Spiritual Development?

**Conclusion:** Based on your determination of who is in charge, what have you learned about your life's purpose? What **single** words or phrases capture where you can change to better discover your life's purpose?

A) \_\_\_\_\_ B) \_\_\_\_\_

**“Firmness of purpose is one of the most necessary sinews of character and one of the best instruments of success. Without it, genius wastes its efforts in a maze of inconsistencies.”**

**– Lord Chesterfield**

### Study Team: Exercise #2

Please go into your study team to answer this question: *How can I grow so that God is more in charge in the areas listed above?* 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 will making adjustments in that area draw you closer to Discovering Your Life's Purpose?** 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 reasons to grow.

A) \_\_\_\_\_ B) \_\_\_\_\_

C) \_\_\_\_\_ D) \_\_\_\_\_

**“When you discover your mission, you will feel its demand. It will fill you with enthusiasm and a burning desire to get to work on it.”**

**– W. Clement Stone**

**PILLARS #3 & #4:** What one idea ties each (or most) of your answers from Exercise #2 together into a single word or phrase? The word is to be one of the keys to discovering your life’s purpose. If the words are totally different then this suggests that this question reveals two of your pillars. This is another motivating reason to discover your life’s purpose.

A) \_\_\_\_\_ B) \_\_\_\_\_

### Homework

**1.** To confirm the accuracy of the **four pillars** of Discovering Your Life’s Purpose ask three people (close friends or relatives) the following questions:

- A) In your opinion, what are the top two things that I do best that have made a difference in the life of an individual or group?
- B) How can I best help a larger group of people with that talent?
- C) What is the most courageous thing I have ever done for God?
- D) If you could only choose one thing, what could I do to grow closer to God?
- E) If I relocated to another country, what one thing would you wish I would have accomplished here?

**Pillar #1:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Pillar #2:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Pillar #3:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Pillar #4:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2.** Before we meet on Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup> please **memorize** Ephesians 1:11, which says: “In Him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will.”