

Welcome, and thanks for your interest in this class!

Your persistence and commitment to this subject matter will enhance your spiritual growth.

There is nothing like knowing God's purpose for your life and living in it!

We are looking forward to you joining other Rock Church servants in making a difference in people's lives!

Serve/Reach

Part 1 – Lesson 1

Program Introduction

OVERVIEW

This lesson is an introduction to the Serve/Reach curriculums. This lesson builds upon the Belong curriculum. In Belong, you learned the following:

- The Rock Church's Statement of Faith, which covers what the church believes and practices regarding God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, Human Beings, Salvation, and Eternity
- The Rock Church's Core Values
- The Rock Church's strategy regarding its 5 Circles of Commitment
- How the Rock Church is relationally and organizationally structured

The aforementioned topics serve as a foundation for the next steps of learning. The goal of this course is to not only teach what the Bible says about God's purpose for our lives, spiritual gifts, and ministering to others, but to also encourage and motivate Rock Church members towards continuous growth and fruitful service.

This curriculum discusses five phases of learning. They are:

- Knowing God's purpose for your life and your potential
- The discovery of spiritual gifts
- Developing your gifts and talents
- The application of gifts and talents for service
- Discipleship and mentoring others

ACTIVITIES

- Introduction of class members
- Questions and answers
- Reading of 1 Corinthians, Chapter 12

Serve/Reach

Part 1 – Lesson 2

The Need and the Challenge

OVERVIEW

Whether it's everyone or everywhere, there is need. God calls and equips every Christian with the tools and abilities to minister to others. However, we often miss the opportunity to do so because of unawareness, and sometimes indifference. In addition, the culture in our society often present challenges that resists our desire to impact it for the cause of Christ. We can indeed make a difference, if we are willing to seek God's will for our lives and serve others.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- Identify the five responsibilities we have as members of the Body of Christ
- Identify some of the challenges Christians face when deciding to share their faith with others
- Discuss how your testimony plays a role in outreach

ACTIVITIES

- The “One Minute” testimony
- Closing prayer

The Need and the Challenge

INTRODUCTION

We live in a world where each and every person needs something and someone. God has met our need for salvation through Jesus Christ. He also has given us the responsibility to help meet the needs of others. Each Christian is a member of the Body of Christ, which is the Church. Like the human body, its members serve a particular purpose. Our physical bodies are equipped to be industrious and produce desired results, and so has God equipped us to minister and meet the need of others. Many churches today consist of anywhere from hundreds to thousands of congregants who have varying levels of spiritual growth and maturity. In addition, we live in a society that often espouses a world view contrary to our Christian beliefs. Our challenge is two-fold, living in God's purpose for our lives while encountering resistance to our desire to impact others for the cause of Christ.

"For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ." (1 Corinthians 12:12)

THE BODY OF CHRIST

In America, millions profess to be born-again believers in Christ and attend church either regularly, intermittently, or even not at all. Of those who attend regularly, only a fraction seriously pursue and fulfill God's purpose for their lives through service.

The Bible teaches that as members of the Body of Christ, we are to:

1. **Evangelize.** *"And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15)*
2. **Make disciples.** *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28: 19-20)*
3. **Show love and compassion:** *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." (John 3:16-17)*

"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come." (Matthew 24:14)

Additional References:

*Ephesians 2:12
Romans 1:14
2 Corinthians 5:14*

4. **Obey God's sending.** *"As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."* (John 20:21)

5. **Be witnesses.** *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."* (Acts 1:8)

"...always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you..."
(1 Peter 3:15)

As members of the Body of Christ, we are called to be of service to others and we will be accountable for following God's commands.

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." (2 Corinthians 5:10)

Your story is like no other!

THE VALUE OF YOUR TESTIMONY

Each believer has a story of how they came to the knowledge of Christ and salvation. Personal testimonials often prove to be among the most effective ways of persuasion. There are several characteristics of testimonies that make them effective, including:

1. Their uniqueness. Testimonies are not the same.
2. They are personal and easy to understand.
3. Personal authority – they are difficult to argue with.
4. People love to hear personal stories and they remember them.
5. People can relate to them. They build relational bridges.
6. Their effectiveness in our postmodern world.

You may be the only church some will ever see!

Word of mouth often carries the greatest influence.

We are called to be salt and light.

Activity

The "One Minute" Testimony

For most believers, there were a series of situations and events that led them to a decision to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. However, what would happen if you were in a situation where you only had *one minute* to share your testimony with someone who wanted to know why you became a Christian?

Please take one minute to share with the class your testimony.

“The world is unprincipled. It’s dog-eat-dog out there! The world doesn’t fight fair. But we don’t live or fight our battles that way—never have and never will. The tools of our trade aren’t for marketing or manipulation, but they are for demolishing that entire massively corrupt culture. We use our powerful God-tools for smashing warped philosophies, tearing down barriers erected against the truth of God, fitting every loose thought and emotion and impulse into the structure of life shaped by Christ. Our tools are ready at hand for clearing the ground of every obstruction and building lives of obedience into maturity.”
(2 Corinthians 10:15)

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”
(Ephesians 6:10-18)

“Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.”
(Ephesians 6:10-18)

CHALLENGES WHEN SHARING OUR FAITH

As Christians, we should have a strong desire to share the good news of Jesus Christ and the salvation he provides with unbelievers. However, it is not unusual for Christians to shy away from opportunities that could lead others to life-changing encounters with the Lord. There are internal and external factors that Christian should consider when reaching out to others:

Internal factors include:

1. Questioning God’s ability to use us.
2. Fear of rejection.
3. Unpreparedness.
4. Complacency

External factors include:

1. Satanic opposition.
2. Secular worldview and system.

However, we can overcome these hindrances by using God’s antidote, the Word of God.

Internal Factors	Antidote
Questioning God’s ability to use us	Ephesians 4:12, 1 Corinthians 7:7b,
Fear of rejection	Joshua 1:9, 2 Timothy 1:7, Luke 10:19
Unpreparedness	2 Peter 3:18, 2 Timothy 2:15
External Factors	Antidote
Satanic opposition	Luke 10:19, Romans 12:21
Secular worldview and system	1 John 4:4, 1 John 5:4-5

SUMMARY

We are God’s workmanship and each of us have a specific purpose. Collectively we are of one body and are called to serve God in a unique way. Our unique testimonies can be of value to others, if we prepare ourselves to share our stories and are not afraid. We have purpose, and we will look more closely at purpose in the next lesson.

Serve/Reach

Part 1 – Lesson 3

Purpose and Potential

OVERVIEW

As Christians, we have a purpose. We were created to do God's will and follow His plan for our lives according to His word. We worship through obedience and service. In this lesson, we discuss who we are in Christ and fulfilling his purpose for our lives. We also will discuss the consequences of not living in God's will.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- Explain what it means to be "Christ-Like"
- Explain the relationship between worship and service
- Explain the relationship between purpose and potential
- Describe the consequences of being out of purpose

ACTIVITIES

- Group discussions on the topic "Purpose"
- Group discussions on the topic "Potential"
- Prayer

PURPOSE AND POTENTIAL

"...for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose." (Philippians 2:13)

*"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."
(1 Peter 2: 9-10)*

INTRODUCTION

God created us with a purpose. He also gives us potential. He equips us and empowers us for service through the Holy Spirit. It is important not only to realize God's purpose for our lives, but to also live in it.

PURPOSE

*"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."
(Ephesians 2:10)"*

God has a purpose for each Christian. He enables us to do good works. He equips us for His service. In His service, we are to:

1. **Show how God called us out of darkness into light.**
2. **Use the gifts that God has bestowed upon us** (1 Peter 4:10).
3. **Be ambassadors for Christ** (2 Corinthians 5:20).
4. **Perform our responsibilities as members of the Body of Christ** (1 Corinthians 12:27).

When we acknowledge and understand our purpose, we also discover our potential.

POTENTIAL

The root word of "potential" is "potent", which means "powerful" and "might." Another definition includes "having or exercising great power or influence." As Christians, we have the potential to do great works for the glory of God. However, potential has no effect unless it is applied and unleashed!

CHRIST, OUR EXAMPLE

Jesus Christ is the ultimate example of purpose and potential. While on earth, his purpose was to be teach and bring salvation to the

“God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.” (John 4:24)

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” (Matthew 7:7)

“...he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” (Hebrews 11:6)

One of the greatest tragedies in life is a purpose unfulfilled.

condemned. He also set the example for us to follow. Among the many things Christ has taught us is the need to:

1. **Worship.** Acknowledge Christ as our Savior and Lord. Through worship, we enable God to prepare our hearts and minds to receive His purpose and potential for our lives.
2. **Be Christlike.** Be his witnesses and live by his teachings (1 Peter 2:21)
3. **Serve.** Love others and help meet their needs (Mark 9:35).
4. **Fulfill God’s plan.** Seek God’s will and do it.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF BEING OUT-OF-PURPOSE

When we do not seek God’s will for our lives we do not fulfill our true purpose. He wants us to be of service to others, and share his love and compassion. When we fail to fulfill our purpose, there are consequences for ourselves and others. Among the consequences are:

1. Not being good stewards of God’s gifts (Matthew 25:14-30)
2. We miss the opportunity to be a blessing to others (1 Peter 4:10)

Activity

Group Discussion on “Purpose”

15 Minutes

In groups of two or more members, discuss the following:

1. What you believe is God’s purpose is for your life?
2. What you consider to be your greatest potential for God’s service?
3. If you have ever found yourself not fulfilling God’s purpose for your life; and if so, what were the consequences?
4. Give an example of a person in the Bible who was not in God’s purpose and the consequences he or she faced.

PURPOSE

Persevere in
your pursuit

Unite with
spiritually
mature
Christians

Read the Bible
for revelation

Pray fervently

Observe the
needs of others

Submit to the
Holy Spirit

Emulate Christ

- Arnold Huntley

FINDING YOUR PURPOSE

Through the reading of God's word, along with prayer and meditation, we can know God's purpose for our lives. If we diligently search for God's will, we will experience the joy of discovery.

SUMMARY

God created us after his own image and has created us with a purpose. He has specified our purposes in the Bible. It is not only our responsibility to know our purpose, but to live in it. God has given us potential to do mighty works in His name – we just have to use it.

