

YOU WERE MEANT FOR

THIS

SERIES OVERVIEW

PREMISE

God has a very specific call on your life, a role to play or a job to do or a task to accomplish that only *you* can do. It isn't just *anything* or *something* or *a* thing to be done at a random time in a nondescript location with whoever is around for no apparent reason. No, there is a very specific purpose for which you are called in **THIS** time, **THIS** place, with **THIS** group of people, for **THIS** reason. You weren't meant for just *any* thing. You were meant for **THIS**.

PURPOSE

Each one of us has a very specific "THIS," and this series is designed to help individuals explore their God-given purpose, using those four facets of their personal call: the specific time, place, person, and reason that God has meant for them. We'll be using a story from the Bible to help us understand this concept, the story of Esther. It's a powerful story that would (and did!) make an awesome Hollywood movie! There's love and murder and betrayal and suspense... it's good stuff! Each week, participants will read two chapters in preparation for the questions that follow. And hopefully by the end of the five weeks, they will have an understanding of their purpose, their "THIS."

PREPARATION

The included lessons are best utilized in the context of small group discussion groups. If your faith community does not have small groups, using a series like this to begin new short-term small groups, (that might then continue as longer-term spiritual formation groups), can be highly effective. Feel free to use the included graphics to promote the series through print and social media, and market the series as a church-wide study that all groups can participate in, (small groups, Bible studies, Sunday School classes, even your youth!) It can be catalyzing for everyone in your church to be working on the same thing!

PASTORS

Whereas this series package does not include sermon starters, sermons can easily be derived from the content of the discussion guides. Tell the story of Esther in two-chapter increments, and draw the parallels to your personal story, especially that of your call into ministry, as a way to talk about God's purpose for their lives. How did God use the *time* in which you were born, the geographic *place* in which you find yourself, the *person* group to whom you were called, and the overarching *reason* that drives you to direct you into ministry? Pairing the sermons each week with the discussion guide for your groups reinforces the message and builds momentum for your entire faith community. There's power in the entire church doing the same thing at the same time. Use it!

PRAYER

God of Meaning and Purpose, may each pastor and faith community that uses this resource discover the calling You have for their lives. Open eyes and hearts to the places where they may have an impact, making a difference in the world around them. May your guidance and direction be present in every conversation, and may your Spirit move powerfully in the church, that lives may be changed and your love be shared, as each person discovers their "THIS."