A SIX WEEK DEVOTIONAL-STUDY TO FIND AND FULFIL
OUR PURPOSE AND CALLING

LEADERS GUIDE

In his book, *Garden City: Work, Rest, and the Art of Being Human*, John Mark Comer writes: **"Calling is something you unearth. You excavate. You dig out**." If you look at all the people in the pages of the Bible and the people who serve God in our church and other churches, very few of them discovered their calling through a blazing light experience, an audible voice or something similar.

For most people, discerning God's calling is something you discover one piece at a time. In this six-week series, we go on a journey to unearth, excavate, and dig out our God-given purpose (or calling).

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

Download the six mid-week videos at: www.churchresources.org.za/purpose

SMALL GROUP STUDY - SUGGESTED MEETING OUTLINE

IN-PERSON MEETING (90 minutes)

If you're gathering in person, we suggest using the following format:

TEA, COFFEE & SNACKS (15 min)

ICEBREAKER – START TALKING (10 min)

WATCH THIS WEEK'S VIDEO (20 min)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – START THINKING & START SHARING (25 min)

WRAP UP – START PRAYING & START DOING (20 min)

TIPS FOR THE LEADER

1. The study guide material is meant to be your servant, not your master. The point is not to race through the sessions; the point is to take time to let God work in your lives. Nor is it necessary to "go around the circle" before moving on to the next question. Give people the freedom to speak, but don't insist on it. Your group will enjoy deeper, more open sharing and discussion if people don't feel pressured to speak up.

2. Keep an eye on the time during your meeting. Sticking to the agreed start and finish time is important to build trust in your group. If people want to discuss something further, they can do so after the group session has been 'officially' closed - by doing this, it gives people who need to leave promptly a chance to do so.

NOTES:

TOP TEN IDEAS FOR NEW LEADERS

CONGRATULATIONS! As the leader of your group, you have courageously stepped out in faith to help others to grow in their faith! Thank you for the important contribution you will be making. As you prepare to facilitate your group, here are a few thoughts to keep in mind: Remember you are not alone. God knows everything about you, and He knew you would be facilitating your group. Even though you may not feel ready, this is a common feeling for most good leaders! God promises, *"Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you"* (Hebrews 13:5 NIV). Whether you are facilitating for the six weeks of the Purpose series or on a long-term basis, you will be richly blessed as you serve.

1. **Don't try to do it alone.** Pray right now for God to help you build a healthy team. If you can enlist a co-host to help you shepherd the group, you will find your experience much richer. This is your chance to involve as many people as you can in building a healthy group. All you have to do is ask people to help. You may be surprised by the response!

2. **Be friendly and be yourself.** God wants to use your unique gifts and temperament. Be sure to greet people at the door or online with a big smile … this can set the mood for the whole gathering. Remember, they are taking as big a step to show up at your group as you are taking to lead a group! Don't try to do things exactly like other leaders; do them in a way that fits you. Admit when you don't have an answer and apologise when you make a mistake. People appreciate authenticity.

3. **Prepare for your meeting ahead of time.** Preview the session and write down your responses to each question.

4. **Pray for your group members by name.** Before your group arrives, take a few moments to pray for each member by name. You may want to review the **Small Group Prayer List** at least once a week. Ask God to use your time together to touch the heart of each person in your group. Expect God to lead you to whomever He wants you to encourage or challenge in a special way. If you listen, God will surely lead.

5. **When you ask a question, be patient.** Someone will eventually respond. Sometimes people need a moment or two to think about the question. If silence doesn't bother you, it won't bother anyone else. After someone responds, affirm the response with a simple "thank you" or "great answer". Then ask, "How about somebody else?" or "Would someone who hasn't shared like to add anything?" Be sensitive to new people or reluctant members who aren't ready to say, pray, or do anything. If you give them a safe setting, they will blossom over time. If someone in your group is very quiet and sits silently through every session, consider talking to them privately and encouraging them to participate. Let them know that they are important to you and that the group would value their input. Remember, still water often runs deep.

6. **Provide transitions between questions.** Ask if anyone would like to read the Bible verse, for example. Don't call on anyone, but ask for a volunteer, and then be patient until someone begins. Be sure to thank the person who reads aloud.

7. **Break into smaller circles of three or four occasionally.** With an opportunity to talk in a small circle, people will connect more with the study, apply more quickly what they're learning, and ultimately get more out of their small group experience. A small circle also encourages a quiet person to participate and minimises the effects of a more vocal or dominant member.

8. **Small circles are also helpful during prayer time.** People who are unaccustomed to praying aloud will feel more comfortable trying it with just two or three others. Also, prayer requests won't take as much time, so circles will have more time to actually pray. When you gather back with the whole group, you can have one person from each circle briefly update everyone on the prayer requests from their subgroups. The other great aspect of sub-grouping is that it fosters leadership development. As you ask people in the group to facilitate discussion or lead a prayer circle, it gives them a small leadership step to build their confidence.

9. **Rotate facilitators occasionally.** You may be perfectly capable of leading each time, but you will help others grow in their faith and gifts if you give them opportunities to host the group.

10. **One final challenge (for new or first-time leaders).** Before your first opportunity to lead, look up each of the six passages listed on the opposite page. Read each one as a devotional exercise to help prepare you with a shepherd's heart. With your heart prepared in this way, you will be more than ready for your first meeting.

VERSES ON GOD'S HEART FOR PEOPLE

MATTHEW 9:36 (NIV)
When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

JOHN 10:14-15 (NIV)
I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me – just as the Father knows me and I know the Father – and I lay down my life for the sheep.

1 PETER 5:2-4 (NIV)
Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers – not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-5 (NIV)
If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider other better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of other. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.

HEBREWS 10:23-25 (NIV)
Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

1 THESSALONIANS 2:7-8, 11-12 (NIV)
But we were gently among you, like a mother caring for her little children. We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so clear to us … For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW LONG WILL THIS GROUP MEET?

This series is six weeks long. You might like to add a seventh session for celebration.
In your final session:

- new group members may decide to join your existing LifeGroup on a more permanent basis
- in the case of a six-week group set up for the Purpose series, you may decide to continue to meet on a more permanent basis
- in the case of a six-week group that is closing at the end of the series, you may need to help with connecting new group members into other existing LifeGroups.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE GROUP LEADER?

The primary role of the group leader is to care for people and to coordinate and facilitate your group meetings. A few weeks into the series, you may want to encourage one or two members to lead one of your group discussions. Other responsibilities, such as refreshments, prayer requests, or keeping up with those who miss a meeting, can be rotated or allocated to group members. Shared ownership in the group helps everybody grow.

HOW DO WE HANDLE THE CHILD-CARE NEEDS IN OUR GROUP?

Child-care needs to be handled very carefully. This is a sensitive issue. We suggest you seek creative solutions as a group. One common solution for in-person meetings is to have the adults meet in the living room and share the cost of a babysitter (or two) who can be with the kids in another part of the house.

SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES

It's a good idea for every group to have a guide regarding shared values, expectations, and commitments. These are not a set of rules but a guide to enable the healthy functioning of the group. We suggest you briefly discuss these 5 guidelines during your first meeting in order to lay the foundation for a healthy group experience.

IMPORTANT GROUP VALUES:

1. CLEAR PURPOSE	To grow healthy spiritual lives and develop friendships with others.
2. GROUP ATTENDANCE	To give priority to group meetings (let us know if you are unable to make it or coming late).
3. SAFE ENVIRONMENT	We want to create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved (no quick answers, snap judgments, or simple fixes).
4. BE CONFIDENTIAL	To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group.
5. LIMIT OUR FREEDOM	To limit our freedom by not serving or consuming alcohol during small group meetings or events so as to avoid causing someone else to stumble (1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Romans 14:19-21).

We have also discussed and agreed on the following items:

CHILD CARE _____

STARTING TIME _____

ENDING TIME _____

SMALL GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

This is a place where you can write each other's requests for prayer. You can also make a note when God answers prayer. Pray for each other's requests. If you're new to group prayer, it's okay to pray silently or to pray by using just one sentence.

"God, please help _____ to _____."

DATE	PERSON	PRAYER REQUEST

SMALL GROUP CALENDAR

Healthy groups share responsibilities. Shared ownership ensures that responsibility for the group doesn't fall to one person. Use the calendar to keep track of who's bringing eats (if you're meeting in-person), communicate changes in venue etc. Complete this calendar at your first meeting. Planning ahead will increase attendance and shared ownership.

DATE	SESSION	SNACKS	NOTES
	Session 1		
	Session 2		
	Session 3		
	Session 4		
	Session 5		
	Session 6		

WEEK 1 – FINDING YOUR PURPOSE, PART 1

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (Pick at least one question from each section)

START TALKING

1. If this is your first time meeting as a group, or if you have any new group members, introduce yourselves if you haven't done so already.
2. If you could have dinner with anyone in the world (living or dead; a real person or fictional character), who would you pick and why?

START THINKING

1. What is one thing you hope to learn during this Purpose series? **[Leaders: write these things down to re-visit in Week 6]**
2. What was your No. 1 takeaway from this week's video talk?

START SHARING

1. Read Ephesians 2:10. How do you respond to the idea that you are God's masterpiece? And how would you describe your relationship with God (the Designer) at present?
2. Steve mentioned 5 general purposes that we are all called to: Christ, Christlikeness, Community, The Common Good, and The Great Commission. Can you think of someone you know that has modelled one of these purposes to you really well? Explain.

START PRAYING

Does anyone in the group have a prayer request? Use the SMALL GROUP PRAYER REQUEST page to write these down and then pray for them.

START DOING

Pick one simple daily task and start doing it as if you're doing it for Jesus. Make a note of how you feel about that daily task at the beginning of the week, and at the end of the week, observe if you've noticed any change in attitude or approach to how you do that daily task.

WEEK 2 – FINDING YOUR PURPOSE, PART 2

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (Pick at least one question from each section)

START TALKING

1. Which point from this week's video most challenged you?
2. Last week, Steve said there is "no call without a caller". Is there anyone in the group who responded to the prayer at the end of the video to answer The Caller? **[As a group, please celebrate and encourage anyone who responded to the salvation call].**

START THINKING

1. Steve said that it's important to experiment and experience different things in our journey to discover our calling. Are you someone who is open to trying new things and new experiences? Why or why not?
2. Read Nehemiah 1:1-4. What does Nehemiah learn about the condition of Jerusalem from Hanani? How does Nehemiah respond to this news? What stands out to you from these verses?

START SHARING

1. One of the steps to helping us discover more of our purpose (calling) is to expose ourselves to real needs. Have you ever done this? Explain? What are some of the obstacles that get in the way of us getting close to real people in real places with real problems?
2. What is a real need that you've felt called to respond to? How did you identify that calling? How have you outworked the calling on a practical level?

START PRAYING

Re-visit the prayer requests from last week. Have any prayers been answered? Does anyone have something more to add to the list? Spend some time praying for these things.

START DOING

This week, identify one new "experiment" or "experience" you'd like to try. Write it down, and set yourself a deadline to take the first step towards that this week - it could be doing some research, making a call etc.

WEEK 3 – FINDING YOUR PURPOSE, PART 3

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (Pick at least one question from each section)

START TALKING

1. Which point from this week's video most challenged you?
2. Last week, our action point was to take the first step to try something you've always wanted to do. Did anyone act on this? Would you like to share what you did?

START THINKING

1. In the video, Steve gave a definition of purpose: Our unique PURPOSE is an awareness of specific areas of service to others that we need to invest our best energies into as a matter of continued priority and sustained passion. What stands out to you as you read this quote?
2. Read Romans 12:6-8. Our gifts and talents are clues to our purpose. How can we make the best use of the talents/gifts/skills that God has given us?

START SHARING

1. In this week's video, Steve spoke about connecting our gifts, talents, and skills to our purpose. Do you know someone who models this well? What stands out to you about that person's gifts/talents/skills and how they are linked to their calling?
2. If you look back on your life - what are some of the unique skills and talents you possess that have positively influenced the lives of others? **[Note to leaders: sometimes a friend or spouse can see these things more clearly than the person. Use this opportunity to get people to 'call out' the good they see in others]**

START PRAYING

Re-visit the prayer requests from last week. Have any prayers been answered? Does anyone have something more to add to the list? Spend some time praying for these things.

START DOING

1. If you haven't already identified your spiritual gifts, use the spiritual gift assessment tool at www.churchresources.org.za/gifted to discover yours.
2. This week, make a list of your gifts, talents and skills. Is God highlighting a specific gift, talent or skill that you could be used to serve a need in His church, your LifeGroup or the local community?

WEEK 4 – FINDING YOUR PURPOSE, PART 4

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (Pick at least one question from each section)

START TALKING

1. Which point from this week's video challenged you the most?
2. Share a personal highlight from the last week

START SHARING

1. One of the steps to discovering our calling (purpose) is to engage with others. Steve mentioned 4 categories of people who play a part in shaping our calling:
   a. Heroes who inspire us by their example
   b. Mentors who guide us with their wisdom
   c. Partners who help us to fulfil our purpose
   d. Encouragers who fill us with courage and call out some of our future

   Share about a Hero, Mentor, Partner or Encourager who has made an impact in your life.
2. Our past experiences have an impact on our purpose. Look at the list of experiences in your notes. Can you recount one key experience that has shaped some of who you are today?
3. From today's talk - what is one action step that you will put in place? (e.g., connect with a key influencer in your life more intentionally, repair a broken relationship, reflect & journal on your past experiences - (see below), encourage someone else, exit a partnership that is "unequally yoked", etc.)

START PRAYING

Re-visit the prayer requests from last week. Have any prayers been answered? Does anyone have something more to add to the list? Spend some time praying for these things.

START DOING

This week, set some time aside to "map your past":

1. Create a list of the highest high points, lowest low points, and turning points in your life to date.
2. Then arrange them chronologically and describe how these events marked your life.
3. Ask God to highlight to you any events on this list that are linked to your unique purpose.

WEEK 5 – FINDING YOUR PURPOSE, PART 5

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (Pick at least one question from each section)

START TALKING

1. Which point from this week's video challenged you the most?
2. Did anyone do the exercise of mapping their past this week? Would you like to share anything you discovered about your purpose through this exercise?

START THINKING

1. One of the steps to discovering our purpose is listening to God's direct guidance. What are some examples of the ways in which He guides us?
2. Read John 10:27. What are some of the benefits you've experienced by listening and responding to the gentle nudges and whispers of the Good Shepherd?

START SHARING

1. When it comes to tapping into our passions, why should looking outwards precede looking inwards?
2. Frederick Buechner said: "The place God calls you to is where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." What needs and opportunities for service in the church and society move you most?

START PRAYING

One of the most powerful forms of prayer is thanks. Spend a few minutes thanking God for as many things as you can think of before heading to the PRAYER REQUESTS list.

START DOING

This week, consider the following question: If you didn't need to be paid for it and you had no one to impress, what things would you choose to do anyway?

WEEK 6 – FINDING YOUR PURPOSE, PART 6

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (Pick at least one question from each section)

START TALKING

1. Which point from this week's video challenged you the most?
2. What has been your personal highlight of the Purpose series?

START THINKING

1. Our key verse for this series has been Ephesians 2:10. How many of you know it off by heart yet?! (No need to recite it). In your own words, what is the overall message of this verse?
2. Which of the 7 questions posed in today's talk most resonates with you?

START SHARING

1. In Week 1, we wrote down a list of things we hoped to learn during the Purpose series. Now, at the end of the series - have you learned what you hoped to? Please share with the group.
2. How has your view of your life purpose/s changed because of doing this series?

START PRAYING

Do a final review of your prayer requests. Thank God for prayers answered!

START DOING

Group leaders - ask your group if they are keen to continue as a group after the Purpose series is completed. Plan one more get-together at least to connect with each other and celebrate what God has done in your lives.

ANSWER KEY

SESSION ONE

- For we are God's **handiwork**, created in Christ Jesus to do **good works**, which God prepared in **advance** for us to do.
- We won't find our **specific** purpose if we don't live in God's general purposes for our lives.
- PURPOSE #1: **Christ**
- PURPOSE #2: **Christlikeness**
- PURPOSE #3: **Community**
- PURPOSE #4: The **Common Good**
- PURPOSE #5: The Great **Commission.**
- Therefore **go and make** disciples of all nations …
- Our unique PURPOSE is an awareness of specific **areas of service** to others that we need to invest our best **energies** into as a matter of continued **priority** and sustained **passion**.
- Our purpose and calling is not something we **create.** It is something we **discover.**
- There is no Purpose without a **Designer.**
- There is no Call without a **Caller.**

SESSION TWO

- For we are God's **handiwork**, created in Christ Jesus to do **good works**, which God prepared in advance for us to do
- PURPOSE #3: **Community**
- PURPOSE #4: The **Common Good**
- PURPOSE #5: The Great **Commission**
- **EXPERIMENT**—TRY STUFF.
- … will not sow and he who looks at the clouds **will not reap**."
- "A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a **single step**"— Lao Tzu
- "In all effort there is profit, but **mere talk** tends only to poverty."
- Actively Experiment To Find Your **Gifts.**
- Actively Experiment To Find Your **Callings.**
- There May Be **Layers** To Your Purpose**.**
- Some callings may last for a **season** other callings for a **lifetime**.
- Write what we discover in **pencil** not **pen**.
- It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike, **"What's next, Papa"**?
- **EXPOSE YOURSELF TO REAL NEEDS.**
- The words of Nehemiah: … and I **questioned** them … When I **heard** these things, I sat down and **wept**…
- Ask **questions**
- **Listen** to needs
- Feel the **pain**
- This often leads to **action**
- I **went to** Jerusalem, and after staying there three days...
- What **problems** in the world can I heal, … Which parts of the population am I poised to **help**?

- **Spiritual** poverty
- **Global** threats.
- **Sin** problems.
- **Personal and social** problems.
- The **need** does not constitute the **call.**

SESSION THREE

- For we are God's handiwork, **created** in Christ Jesus to do **good works**, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
- PURPOSE #3: **Community**
- PURPOSE #4: The **Common Good**
- PURPOSE #5: The Great **Commission**
- Our unique PURPOSE is an awareness of specific areas of **service** to others that we need to invest our best **energies** into as a matter of continued **priority** and sustained passion
- **EXPERIMENT**—TRY STUF**F**
- EXPOSE **YOURSELF** TO REAL NEEDS
- CONNECT OUR **GIFTS, TALENTS** AND **SKILLS** TO OUR PURPOSE.
- Our **Gifts** and **Talents** Are Clues To Our Purpose
- We have different **gifts,** according to the grace given to each of us
- …but the purpose of giftedness is **service,** not **selfishness.**" (Os Guinness in The Call)
- "...You will be most successful in whatever you do by building your life around your greatest **natural abilities** rather than your **weaknesses**."
- Then the Lord said to him, 'What is that in your hand?' 'A staff,' he replied.
- Our **Skills** Are Clues To Our Purpose
- … knowledge and with all kinds of **skills**— to make artistic designs…
- How can God use these **skills** in my hand?
- "Each of you should use whatever **gift** you have received to **serve others**, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."
- We are to **develop** our gifts & skills.
- "If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed, but **skill** will bring **success**."
- We are not meant to be **limited** by our gifts & skills
- "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in **weakness.**"

SESSION FOUR

- For we are God's **handiwork**, created in Christ Jesus to do **good works**, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
- PURPOSE #1: **Christ**
- PURPOSE #3: **Community**
- PURPOSE #5: The Great **Commission**
- **EXPERIMENT** - TRY STUFF
- **EXPOSE** YOURSELF TO REAL NEEDS
- **CONNECT** YOUR GIFTS, TALENTS AND SKILLS TO YOUR PURPOSE
- EVALUATE YOUR PAST **EXPERIENCES**
- "**Remember** the days of old. Consider the years of all generations…

- **Family** experiences
- **Educational** experiences
- **Vocational** experiences
- **Ministry** experiences
- **Painful** experiences
- God never **wastes** a **hurt**!
- God is the Father of all compassion who comforts **us** in all our troubles, so that **we** can comfort **those** in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.
- **ENGAGE** WITH OTHERS
- "The fastest way to gain wisdom is to learn from **others**. Read good books…
- **Heroes** inspire us by their example.
- **Mentors** guide us with their wisdom.
- "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But a wise man is he who **listens** to counsel."
- Only **fools** make all of their own mistakes.
- Seek out **many, not** just one wise person.
- Do not outsource **decisions** for your life to these people.
- **Partners** help us to fulfil our purpose.
- Two are **better than** one, because they have a good return for their labour.
- Walk with the **wise** and **become** wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.
- 2 Corinthians 6:14 warns us against partnerships with people who **don't follow Christ**
- **Encouragers** fill us with courage and call out some of our future**.**
- "Encourage **one another** and build each other up."

SESSION FIVE

- For we are **God's** handiwork, created in **Christ Jesus** to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
- PURPOSE #2: **Christlikeness**.
- PURPOSE #4: The **Common Good**.
- EVALUATE YOUR PAST **EXPERIENCES**
- ENGAGE WITH **OTHERS**
- TAP INTO YOUR **PASSIONS**
- "As a face is reflected in water, so the **heart** reflects the real person."
- What needs and opportunities for service in the church and society **move you** most?
- … where your deep **gladness** and the world's deep **hunger** meet."
- **Compassion** is an important kind of passion.
- What tasks and activities make you **come alive**?
- 'If you didn't need to be **paid** for it and you had no one to **impress**, what things would you choose to do anyway?'
- What **energises** you?
- I have learned to pay attention to my **energy** levels in response to different activities... if I feel particularly **energized** by a certain person or activity…
- LISTEN FOR GOD'S DIRECT **GUIDANCE**
- Jesus said, "My **sheep** will hear my **voice**."
- Listen for the heavenly shepherd's gentle **nudges** and whispers.
- Don't expect your purpose to come in a **blaze of light**.

- … My experience is that most of us have **multiple** conversations and calling moments …
- Look for **confirmation** of messages that you believe are from God.
- Don't expect supernatural guidance to translate into a straight-line **sprint**.

SESSION SIX

- For we are God's **handiwork**, created in Christ Jesus to do **good works**, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
- Our unique PURPOSE is an awareness of specific **areas of service** to others that we need to invest our best **energies** into as a matter of continued **priority** and sustained **passion**.
- TAP INTO YOUR **PASSIONS**
- LISTEN FOR GOD'S DIRECT **GUIDANCE**
- I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you **gave me to do**.
- What areas of purposeful activity have I **experimented** in?
- What **real needs** in the church and world am I seeing?
- What are my **gifts**, talents and skills?
- What themes emerge from my past **experiences**?
- What have **others** affirmed about my contribution?
- What makes me **come alive**?
- Has God **spoken** to me about anything specific?
- "What am I **called to do**
- "For the sake of the **common good**, I believe God is calling me to… "
- "For the sake of **my church** and the **Great Commission,** I believe God is calling me to…"
- "What may be clear to us in our **twenties** may be far more mysterious in our **fifties**…
- How to Align Your **Life** To Your **Purpose**
- "Creating this **alignment** between what you are called to do and what you are really doing…
- If possible, do work that **aligns** with your calling.
- The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to **work it** and keep it.
- Once a week, set aside a time slot to **prepare** for the coming week.
- Commit your work to the Lord, and your **plans** will be established. Proverbs 16:3
- Align your **calendar** to your **callings**
- **I am** God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for **me to do**.