

WEEK 7:

HOW CAN I MAKE THE MOST OF MY LIFE? PART 2

Objective: Continue looking at your heart and bringing it into alignment with that of Christ. Assess spiritual gifts and driving passions in each person's life. Determine how their lifestyle of service fits into God's plan of expanding His Kingdom.

PRAYER POINTS

- People would see they have a purpose bigger than living for themselves and want to use their gifts for the Kingdom of God.
- Each person would recognize their passions, move forward using their spiritual gifts, and join God in His work, bringing help and hope to a hurting world.
- Each Rooted participant and leader would not be afraid to dream BIG! God has unlimited capacity and resources for us to accomplish His will for our lives.

LEADER PREPARATION

- Set aside time to pray for each person in your group and review what you have seen God do in their lives on their Rooted journey. How might that relate to what God is calling them to do? This newfound passion and purpose moves them from service projects to a lifestyle of service.
- Prepare to pray over each person at the end of this session. First, reaffirm they are free of their stronghold(s), speak their new identity in Christ over them, confirm their unique and special role in the Kingdom of God using their passions and gifts. Pray that God would remind them of their purpose. Prepare what you are going to say and pray bold prayers that release them to God-sized dreams.
- You may want to send your group an email telling them you are praying for them and reminding them to be courageous in listening to God and what He might be calling them to do based on their spiritual gifts and passions. Encourage them to dream big!
- If you had your group complete a spiritual gifts test, ensure you take the test and understand the gifts it specifies so you can answer any questions that might arise. See appendix for spiritual gifts assessment resources.
- Familiarize yourself with serving opportunities in your community and church where group members can use their gifts to serve on an ongoing basis. Your group members will be given a card listing serving opportunities in the church. Collect these cards at the end of the night. Challenge them to pick one area and serve there in the next few weeks.

GROUP TIME

15 minutes - Welcome and Reconnection Time

Let future leaders you have identified lead the opening and closing prayers. This is now an easy and enjoyable part of your gathering. You should find it effortless now to reconnect and gather everyone together for great discussion time.

Icebreaker/Opening Questions if necessary:

- Where did you see God show up in your life this week?
- We studied the story of the Good Samaritan. Did you have a chance to selflessly serve someone in need this week?
- If you had more money in your bank account than you could count, what would you pour your life into?

20 minutes - Recap your Serve Experience

15 minutes - Introductory Question

The theme this week: Lifestyle of Service

- Who is your neighbor?
- What does poverty look like in your own life?
- What is your “go-to” gift or talent God has blessed you with?
What comes easily for you?

50 minutes - Discussion Time

- Do you see your spiritual gifts relating to your talents and passions? How do you see them working together? Have group members share what gifts they have and how they use them.
- If you took the spiritual gifts test for the first time, do you agree with the gifts it says you have? Do you see these gifts in your life?
- How long have you known you have your spiritual gifts? How do you use them?
- What do you think God is calling you to do with your gifts? Remember to dream big!
- Where in the church or community have you served before? What did you like most about it? What did you not like about that experience?
- How is it different for you to serve believers at church versus serving at-risk children, parenting/pregnant teens, or people living in a homeless shelter?
- Discuss serving opportunities in the church and community. Challenge group members to jump in. Have people fill out the Serve card and turn it in to you.

10 minutes - Discussion about Becoming a Life Group

- Continue the dialogue from last week about becoming a Life Group. Answer any additional questions.
- Remind everyone about the large group gathering next week before the smaller group time.

10 minutes – Prayer Requests/Close Group in Prayer

- Try something new. Have everyone pray simultaneously, thanking God for what He did during group time. Then close the whole session after a few minutes.
- Remind everyone of the importance of confidentiality.
- Remind group members to pray for opportunities to share their story of faith. Encourage them to look for where God is working around them.

WORKBOOK REVIEW

How Can I Make the Most of My Life? Part 2

The focus this week is on discovering and developing God-given gifts, in order to move into a lifestyle of service in our community and throughout the world.

Day 1 Compassion in Action

- Who are the marginalized people and outcasts of society today?
- Who is your neighbor?

Day 2 Hands-on Love

- Where have you seen Jesus “disguised” as someone in need? What was your response?
- Were you ever on the receiving end of another person’s help? What did the person’s actions tell you about him or her?
- Where are you more comfortable serving, in the church or in the community? Why?
- Why did Jesus instruct us to do both?

Day 3 Symbiosis (aka: Give and Take)

- How does this definition of poverty change your view of those in need?
- What is your reaction when you encounter situations of injustice?
- Where have you experienced the compassion of God in your life?
- Where have you experienced the compassion of others?
- Where have you experienced a lack of it?

Day 4 A Lifestyle of Service

- What are obstacles to a lifestyle of service that you have experienced?
- What are things you can do this week in service to someone in your life?
- How can you serve someone living in poverty?
- Have you served in your church? If so, what did you like about it? What didn’t you like? If not, why not?

Day 5 Return to Shalom

- What are your thoughts about our call to help bring peace – shalom – to our world? Is it overwhelming to you or does it excite you?