

FROM **DREAM** TO **DESTINY**
FULFILLING GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOUR LIFE

The Purpose Test

- Focus** God has a dream and a destiny for every person, but we must pass some character tests before we can fulfill our destiny. Great character supports great destiny.
- Open** What is the most motivating or encouraging life story you've ever heard? Why?
- Read** Joseph discovered his purpose when his brothers came to him in Egypt for help during the famine. He realized that God sent him to Egypt in order to save his family (Genesis 45:3–8). His dream became his destiny.
- To fulfill *our* purpose, we must first believe that we *have* a purpose. According to Ecclesiastes 3:1, God has made a time and a purpose for everything, including each of us.
- We also must understand that God *is* in control. There are circumstances that He *brings about*, some that He *allows*, and others that He *turns* for our good (Romans 8:28). We can always have hope when we know that nothing can supersede God's purpose for us.
- Romans 12:4–8 lists several “motivational” gifts—natural abilities that God has given each of us to help other people. There's a reason God designed us the way He did, and as we discover our gifts, we can also discover our purpose.
- The key to discovering our purpose is to be as faithful as Joseph was. Then we'll come to know the specifics of our purpose *after* we do them. As we, like Joseph, faithfully serve others using the gifts God has given us, we'll eventually find ourselves living our destiny.

Talk

1. The Bible says God made everything with a purpose. Would you say that it has been difficult or easy for you to truly believe that God has a specific purpose for you? Why?
2. Read Romans 8:28.
 - a. What does this verse promise us related to our destiny?
 - b. How does this affect your perspective concerning your failures, mistakes, difficulties or unfair circumstances in your life?
3. How can you know that something is a *gift* in your life? What's the difference between just being *able* to do something, and being *gifted* in that area?
4. God has given at least one gift to each of us that we're to use to serve and help other people (1 Peter 4:10). Read Romans 12:4–8.
 - a. What “motivational” gifts are listed here?
 - b. Which of the “motivational” gifts in this list do you relate to most? Why?
 - c. Why must our gifts be focused on serving others?
5. Why doesn't God share the specifics of our purpose with us very often?
6. What does it mean to be faithful? Why is faithfulness the key to discovering our purpose?

Live

1. What have you done, great or small, to help or serve another person that you found very fulfilling? What in particular made you feel that way?
2. Look around your group. Specifically, what have you noticed in each others' lives that you believe is a gift from God? Take a few minutes to tell each other what you have seen.

Pray

Pray for each other and ask God to help each of you rely on Him through each of the tests communicated in this series. Pray that each of you will take the next step of discovering and using your gifts to help others. Ask God to help you be faithful in both big and small things. Ask God to bless each of you and to keep you on your journeys towards your destinies.