

# **Introduction to Life Purpose**

# INTRODUCTION

Jesus is telling a story. It's comprised of a grand narrative that includes men and women, old and young, powerful and powerless, cities and nations, and the good and evil. As the story of people and families and cities and cultures unfolds, it spans every generation, from the beginning of time to the end.

This means our individual stories are part of the story Jesus is telling. When we say "yes" to His redemption, reconciliation, and restoration, the content and direction of our story changes. We become part of His people, members of His family, disciples who are being changing into His image.

In a very real sense, discipleship is nothing more than learning to align our lives with the story Jesus is telling in the world—and then helping others do the same thing.

So, living with purpose is knowing the story Jesus is telling, discovering the part we play in His story, and then cooperating with our part in His story.

This material is designed to help you discover the story Jesus is telling through your life and then give you resources to help you align your life with His story.

## **THE PATH: THREE QUESTIONS**

- The Identity Question: Who Am I?
- The Purpose Question: Why Do I Exist?
- The Vision Question: What Am I Called to Do?

## **OUR DESTINATION: A DAILY TOOL**

As you explore these questions, you'll end up with a one-page document that captures your personal identity, purpose, and vision. From this one-page document, you can quickly and easily remind yourself who you are, why you exist, and where you're going.

We'll refer to this document as your **Personal I.D.**

# DEFINING EVENTS

## DEFINING EVENTS

A defining event is any relationship, experience, or circumstance by which we we've been affected for the rest of our lives. Because of the nature of the event, it defines us forever—for good or bad.

Good events bring life. They are the experiences we have that bring joy, hope, or opportunity. Bad events bring death. They are the experiences we wish could have been different. Or maybe never happened at all.

No matter how many defining events we have and no matter how many we think are good or bad, they make up the story of our life. Whether we like it or not, our life is the sum total of the relationships and circumstances we've experienced. In our stories, we begin to find God's design for our lives.

## DEFINING EVENTS WORKSHEET INSTRUCTIONS

On the following page, you'll list the defining events of your life on the **Defining Events Worksheet** (you'll need more than one copy of this worksheet). You *don't* have to record your defining events in any particular order. Just list them as they come. Make sure you: number the event, title the event, and describe it in a few sentences. Then make this assessment: did this event bring life or death? Use the scale from -10 to +10 to help you assess this question.

### A Few Helpful Tips

1. The first time you work on these worksheets, set aside a concentrated period of time. Do your best to work on them until you can't remember anything else. Then, go back to it for short periods of time every day or so.
2. Include more events than less. If something comes to mind, write it down. We'll prune as we go along.

# Defining Event # \_\_\_\_\_

Event Title: \_\_\_\_\_ death (-) (+) life  
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Event Summary: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Defining Event # \_\_\_\_\_

Event Title: \_\_\_\_\_ death (-) (+) life  
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Event Summary: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Event Summary: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# TIMELINE

## **WHAT IS A TIMELINE?**

A timeline is a way to see the events of our life in concentrated form. It helps us see things we wouldn't otherwise see, like looking out an airplane window at the city we live in. It's a different view.

We can discover aspects of our life hidden by daily routine, the pain and loss of sin, and the failures of the past. And just as important, we can see things we knew were there but view them with different eyes.

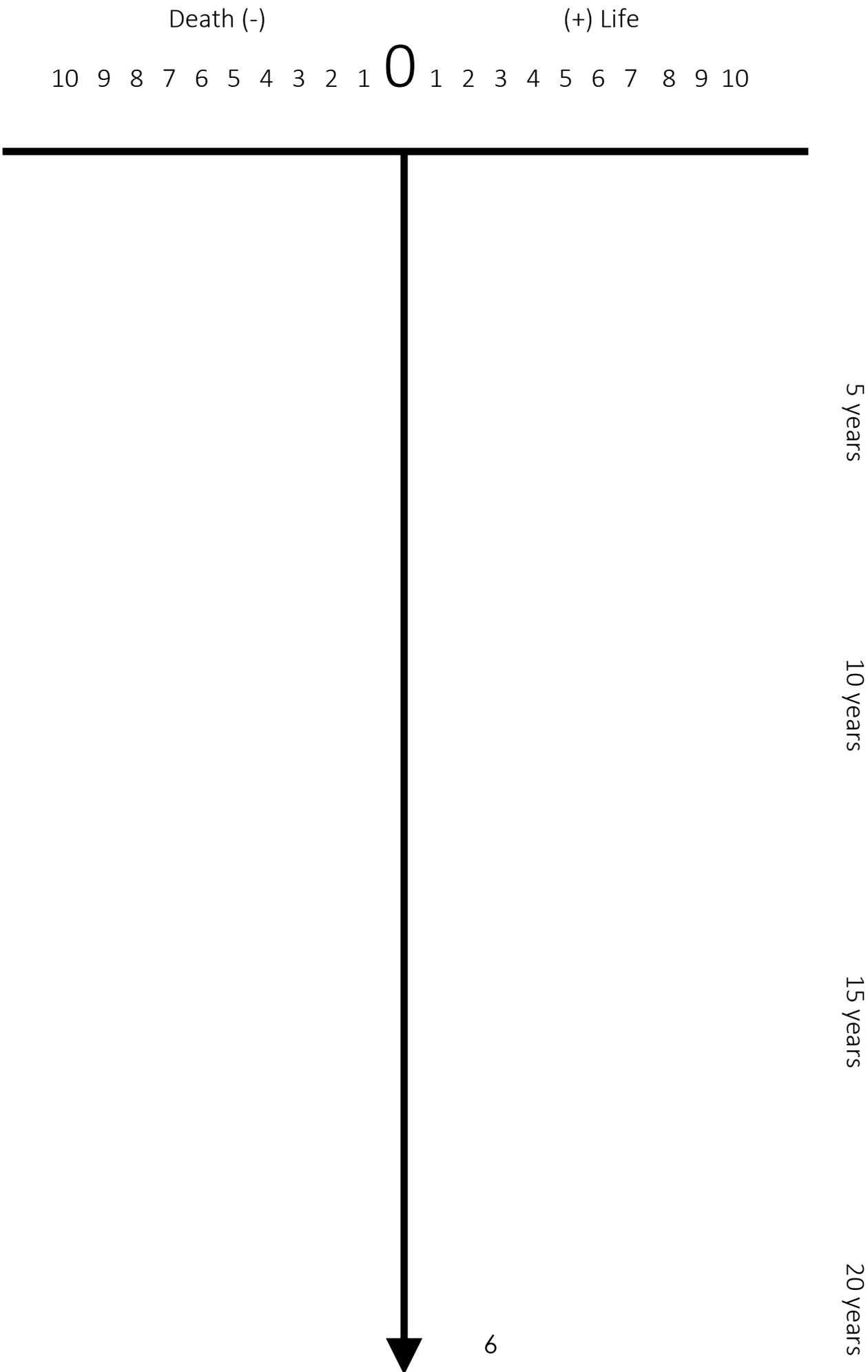
## **TIMELINE WORKSHEET INSTRUCTIONS**

Print out all the **Timeline Worksheets** applicable to your age. Then, take each event from the **Defining Event Worksheets** and place it on the timeline. Each event will be placed on the timeline in the order the events occurred (across the horizontal axis). And they will be placed on the timeline scaled from -10 to +10 (across the vertical axis). This will help you see them in proper relationship to one another.

### **A Few Helpful Tips**

1. Use a pencil.
2. Write the event number (from the **Defining Event Worksheet**) and a one or two-word description of the event.

# Timeline: Foundation & Preparation (0-20)



# Timeline: Growth & Maturity (21-40)

25 years

30 years

35 years

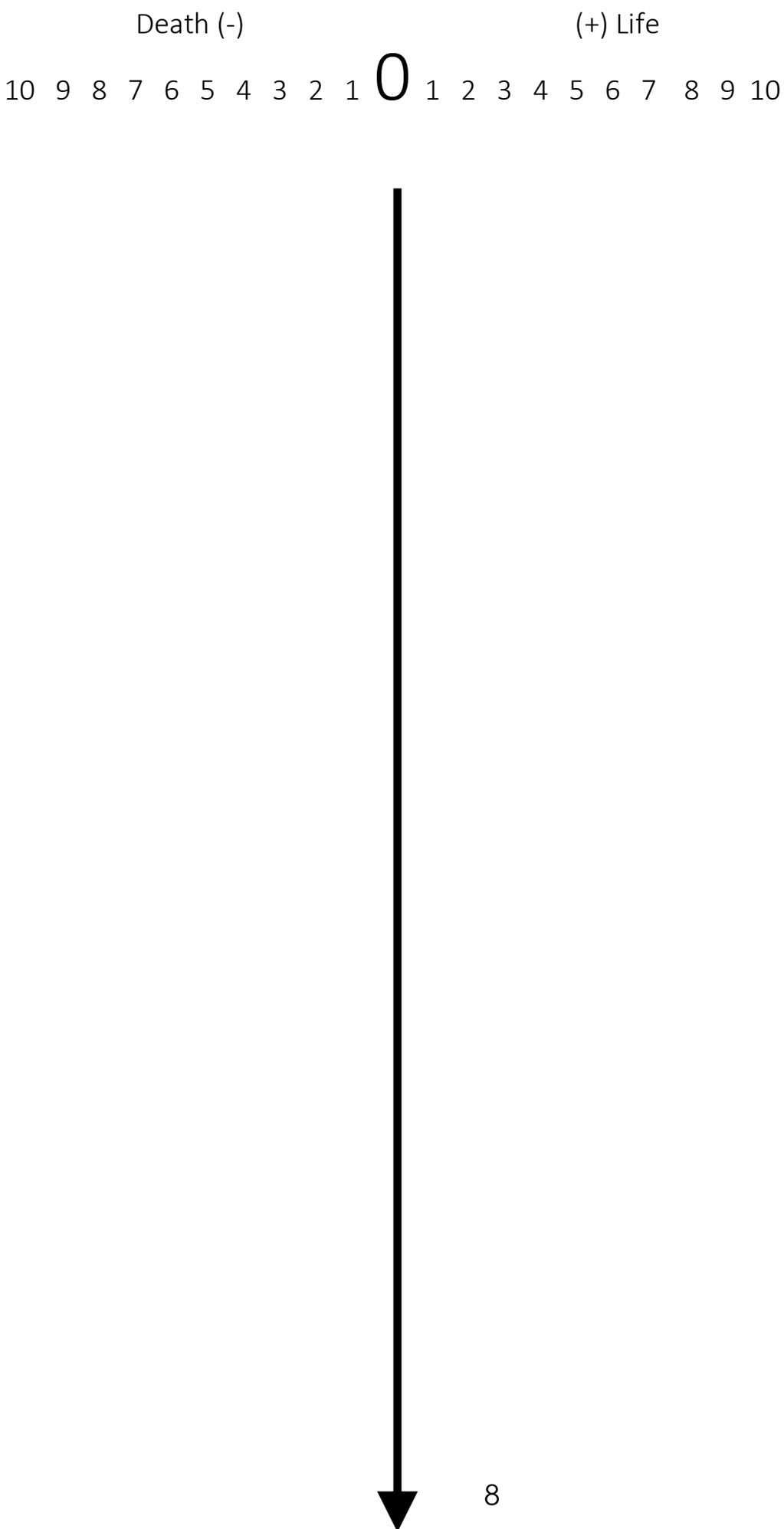
40 years

Death (-) (+) Life  
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



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# Timeline: Influence & Authority (41-60)





# A REDEEMPTIVE PARADIGM

## WHAT IS A REDEEMPTIVE PARADIGM?

A redemptive paradigm is interpreting our story—past, present, and future—with confidence God will give us good no matter what happens (Romans 8:28). Because we’re sure God will give us good, we respond to our circumstances with obedience to God’s ways (I Peter 2:18-25). Psalm 25:10 says, “All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.” Those who live with a redemptive paradigm operate from this conviction.

### Notes on Romans 8:28

- All things work together for good doesn’t mean all things are good.
- All things mean “everything”. Don’t give into the lie your life is the exception.
- God’s redemption isn’t limited by the severity of our brokenness or failure.
- Our love toward God doesn’t earn God’s redemption—it’s a free gift.
- Our love for God doesn’t need to be perfect to receive God’s redemption.
- When we state God works all things for good, we mean:
  - **Redemption**, which refers to the aspects of Jesus’ ministry that remedy the domination of sin, death, and the devil.
  - **Reconciliation**, which is the aspects of Jesus’ ministry that reconnect us—and creation—to the Father so we can receive His life.
  - **Restoration**, which refers to the aspects of Jesus’ ministry that return our identity and dominion to that which He intended.

### Notes Hebrews 12:1-2

- The “cloud of witnesses” are those who have lived a redemptive paradigm.
- A redemptive paradigm empowers us to set aside “weights” and “sins”.
- A redemptive paradigm crushes the lie we can’t win the race.
- Jesus endured the cross because He interpreted His story with the confidence He would receive His Father’s goodness (Hebrews 12:1-2). His faith caused Him to see the present through the lens of God’s goodness.

- Jesus is our example—He perfectly embodied a redemptive perspective.
- Jesus looked beyond suffering to promise, the heart of a redemptive paradigm.
- At the heart of a redemptive paradigm is this conviction: God is good!

When we commit to live with a Redemptive Paradigm, we interact with relationships and circumstances—most especially Jesus—in ways that release us to embrace an eternal perspective.

# REDEMPTIVE EVENTS

## WORKSHEET INSTRUCTIONS

1. Transfer each of the defining events you labeled “death” to the **Redemptive Events Worksheet** (you’ll need multiple copies). Carry over the title and event number.
2. Write down how you’ve seen each event in the past.
3. Write a new version of your defining event from a redemptive paradigm.
4. *NOTE: See the next page for examples.*
5. When you’re finished, answer the following questions.

1. What did I discover about Jesus’ involvement in the “death” events?

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2. What are some reasons I’ve not yet tasted God’s full redemption in these events?

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3. Are there still some “death” events that are difficult to look at? If so, what are they? Why might they be hard to think about?

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4. What are steps you can take to experience Jesus’ redemption in these events?

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# REDEMPTIVE EVENTS

## **EXAMPLE**

**Defining Event Title & #:** My Parent's Divorce

**How I've Seen It:** I got ripped off in life because I didn't have an intact family. My father didn't come around much so I began resenting him for not wanting to be part of my life. My mom was always working. So I didn't end up with either parent really around to grow up with.

**Ways Jesus Might See It:** Jesus was deeply saddened by the loss of my family not only for my sake but also for the sake of my parents and siblings. I think He sees it as a tragedy. Now that I'm thinking about it, I think He might want me to know that even though my parents weren't there for me, He was there for me. I didn't feel it at the time but I'm open to the possibility He was there and I didn't know it.

**Redemptive Perspective of the Event:** Jesus is teaching me to trust Him by trusting others. Even though I lost trust in my parents' love for me, I can trust Jesus' love for me. And when I trust Him, it doesn't have to pull me away from others—it can draw me closer to them. I've used the divorce to justify my distance from family and friends. Because Jesus is involved, and I can trust Him, I can get close to and trust others because Jesus is present in the situation.

# REDEMPTIVE EVENT

Defining Event Title & #: \_\_\_\_\_

How I've Seen It: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ways Jesus Might See It: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Redemptive Perspective of the Event: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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Defining Event Title & #: \_\_\_\_\_

How I've Seen It: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ways Jesus Might See It: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Redemptive Perspective of the Event: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# LIFE THEMES

## WHAT IS A LIFE THEME?

A life theme is a thread that weaves its way through the relationships, events, and circumstances of life. Life themes revolve around questions like:

- What patterns do I see? What are the exceptions?
- What appears to be loss that might be gain?
- Where was God? Where were the important people in my life?
- What was the result of each event—or a group of events?
- Who is in my story? Who is not in my story?
- What prophetic words and experiences have I received?

Life themes help us connect our relationships and circumstances to meaning. As we wrestle through the challenges of relationships, spiritual growth, and ministry, life themes provide us with a thread to understand what our life means and how God tends to use us for His purposes.

## Notes from Hebrews 11

- Abel—Hebrews 11:4: The events of Abel's life are interpreted through the lens of faith (like everyone in Hebrews 11). Notice he was declared righteous and that God accepted him. If we look at Hebrews 12:24, we see that his blood speaks from the grave. So Abel's life themes can be considered: righteous, accepted, and speaking.
- Noah—Hebrews 11:7: Noah built the ark in an unrighteous generation. He did this in reverent fear. His actions condemned the wickedness of the world and he was commended as an heir of righteousness. In II Peter 2:5, we see that Noah was a herald to the generation in which he lived. So, Noah's life themes can be considered: reverent fear and a preacher of righteousness.
- Abraham—Hebrews 11:8-12: Abraham left his home to travel to an unknown land. His sons lived in the same land as travelers and strangers. As he lived in the land, he hoped in God's promises. His wife Sarah received power to have a child when she was barren. So, their life themes could be considered: leave and follow by faith,

intergenerational inheritance, strangers, and fruitfulness in barrenness.

- Moses: Meekness, revelation, leadership.
- King David: A man after God’s own heart—warrior poet—leadership.
- Nehemiah: Rebuilder—single-minded.

### **Examples of Life Themes**

- Reconciliation—Rebellion—Healing—Leadership—Devotion—Alienation
- Acceptance—Hope—Depression—Betrayal—Idolatry—Immorality
- Negative Example: “I have experienced rejection from my spiritual authority. In response, I pursued friendships to avoid authority.”
- Positive Example: “God has guided my steps in financial areas and, as a result, I now live in the blessing of financial freedom.”

## **LIFE THEME WORKSHEET INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Examine your **Defining Events Worksheets**, **Timeline Worksheet**, and **Redemptive Events Worksheet** to identify as many life themes as you can. Jot them down on your **Timeline Worksheet**.
2. Identify the life themes you think are most prominent in your story. Summarize each theme into one word. Transfer each theme to the **Life Themes Worksheet** and complete the worksheet (you’ll need more than one worksheet). *Decide on three-to-five themes—and no more!*
3. **The Goal:** The goal of this exercise is to identify key life themes around which you’re able to understand your identity and calling. Our life themes should convey concepts of blessing to us—not cursing.

# LIFE THEME

Life Theme in One Word: \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation of Life Theme: \_\_\_\_\_

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Possible Ways God Might Use Me as a Result: \_\_\_\_\_

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# LIFE THEME

Life Theme in One Word: \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation of Life Theme: \_\_\_\_\_

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Possible Ways God Might Use Me as a Result: \_\_\_\_\_

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# THE END OF MY LIFE

## **LIVING WITH ETERNITY IN FOCUS**

One way to identify our life purpose is to imagine where we're going to end up—in the grave in a coffin. Just before we're laid to rest, our family and friends will attend our funeral. What do we want them to say about our life?

More importantly, what do we want Jesus to say to us (II Corinthians 5:10)? When we stand before His Throne, He will reveal what's in our heart. If we loved Him, He'll know. If we didn't, we'll know. On Judgment Day, the true passions of our heart will be revealed. What did we love? What did we want? Who was valuable to us? Whom did we fear?

When we take time to thoughtfully describe what our life will look like when it's over, we're able to align our life with Jesus' heart and kingdom.

In John 13:1-3, Jesus gives us an essential key to help us understand the importance of our origins and our future. Jesus' ability to endure the Cross depended on His connection to His origins in the Father's presence. Before the world was created, Jesus lived in God's presence in perfect communion with Him. Possessing some awareness of this, Jesus drew on the assurance that His origin was foundational to His mission. Even more, Jesus knew His mission would lead to restored glory (John 17:1-5). Because He was convinced the Father would fulfill His promise of resurrection and glory, then He could endure the misery and shame of the Cross in hope.

Moses says the same thing differently in Psalm 90:12: "So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." In Psalm 90, we're taught that God is eternal and that we're temporal, like a breath. So Moses admonishes us to seek heaven's wisdom to grasp the significance of our days. If we're willing to do the work necessary to see through God's eyes, each day becomes a window into His eternal purpose and life.

Paul says the same thing differently in I Corinthians 3:10-15. Notice the flow of thought

in this passage. First, Jesus and His salvation are our foundation (3:11). On the foundation of Jesus, God calls us to build something of eternal significance (3:12). We're all building something but the question is this: what are we building? Both now and in the future, we'll know whether we built with eternity in mind. How? God will test and prove our work (3:13). If we built something that's eternally significant, it will endure through trials and we'll inherit eternal rewards (3:14). If we build ignoring or neglecting eternity, we'll inherit eternity but won't have any rewards in it (3:15).

## **THE END OF MY LIFE WORKSHEET INSTRUCTIONS**

On the following worksheet, you'll write your eulogy. This will take more than one session to finish so take that into account during your weekly scheduling. Here are few things to keep in mind.

1. Start in silence. Listen. Just listen. Collect yourself to hear God's voice.
2. Read I Corinthians 3:10-15 and ask yourself this question: what am I building with my life—my priorities, affections, relationships, and pursuits?
3. Then, start writing. Don't wait for ideas to come. Just write.
4. Don't look for a perfect product. Just write down your ideas.
5. Start this activity by setting aside a concentrated period of time. Then, go back to work on it multiple times in short spurts.
6. Use more paper if you need to—you'll probably need to.
7. On the End of My Life Worksheet, you're introduced to relational spheres. Here are some examples to help defined the parameters of each sphere.
  - a. **Personal:** Relationship with Jesus; devotional life; health; ongoing education; reading commitments; hobbies; emotional replenishment.
  - b. **Family:** Marriage and marital growth; parenting and discipling children; financial growth; vocation; extended family; family ministry.
  - c. **Community:** Ministry in the body; friendships.
  - d. **World:** Reaching the lost; friendships; social justice.
8. **Goal:** Edit End-of-Life statements to two-to-three sentences for each life sphere.

# THE END OF MY LIFE WORKSHEET

**What do I want Jesus to say about my personal life?**

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**What do I want Jesus to say about my family life?**

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**What do I want Jesus to say about my relationships with His people and His bride, the church?**

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**What do I want Jesus to say about my life and ministry to the world?**

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# IDENTITY

Everything has a nature that makes it what it is: rocks, trees, stars, and angels. When God made humans, He created us in His image, which is the essential element of humanity that makes us who we are (Genesis 1:26-28). When we follow Jesus, we receive His identity. Formation and maturity are essentially the process of learning to manifest our new identity in our lifestyle.

## **Notes from Colossians 2:9-10**

- The fullness of God's deity dwells in Jesus.
- We have been filled with Jesus. "Filled" means filled up or completed. The sense is Jesus' fullness dwells in us and has made us full and complete.
- Because Jesus dwells in us, we'll never be more complete than we are now.
- I Corinthians 1:30 says we are "in Christ Jesus". Because we're in Him, what's true of Him is true of us.

## **Notes from Ephesians 4:22-24**

- "Self" refers to more than actions or behaviors—it refers to our entire being. Paul says our new self is created after God's likeness, referring to His nature or identity. Since the new self is created after God's likeness, the old and new "self" summarize more than actions. They're identity statements. While the old and new self is more than actions, it also includes them.
- There is an old self and a new self—and we must address both of them.
- The old self belongs (is connected) to our old lifestyle and passions.
- In our lifestyle, we can see both the old and new "self". So if we want to understand what's happening on the inside, we can look at the outside.
- The new self is created by God's grace (Ephesians 2:10). When God makes us new in Jesus, we receive His likeness. Our essential nature has been transformed so righteousness and holiness now define our identity.
- Because we receive Jesus' likeness, when we think of our "self", we must exercise enough faith to ask, *who is Jesus?* If we're willing to ask and answer this question as

God does, then we can connect Jesus' identity to ours—rather than maintain a “sinner saved by grace” paradigm.

- The old self is something we can “put off” and the new self is something we can “put on”. So we have a role to play in the expression of our identity.
- The Spirit-empowered psychological dynamic at work in this process is called “renewing the mind”, which literally means we “make our minds new”. Mind refers to the entire inner life of humans, going beyond our conscious thoughts, including perceptions, attitudes, motives, etc. To be renewed in the spirit of our minds is to cultivate the inner atmosphere with the conviction Jesus' nature is our nature. On the basis that we're new and have Jesus' nature, we're empowered to align outer lifestyle with our nature.
- Sanctification or walking in the Spirit is the process of learning to surrender to the Spirit's authority and power in the moments of life so we live in ways consistent with our identity.
- Maturity is the consistent application of the Word and Spirit so that our habits are transformed and we naturally, automatically fulfill God's will.

## **DEVELOPING OUR IDENTITY**

Now we're going to write an identity statement that concisely describes who we are.

To do this, use all the worksheets you have completed so far: **Defining Events**, **Timeline**, **Redemptive Events**, **Life Themes**, **Life Verses**, and **The End of My Life**.

Identity statements can come from...

- Biblical **identity** descriptions, such as, *you are a chosen generation*.
- Biblical **character** descriptions, such as, *love, joy, peace, or humility*.
- Biblical **ideals** or **realities**, such as, *vision, life, passion, authority, or power*.
- Biblical **promises**, such as, *redemption, reconciliation or restoration*.

# IDENTITY

## WORKSHEET INSTRUCTIONS

On the Identity worksheet, you'll begin working on your identity statements. To help you, use all the worksheets you're completed so far: *Defining Events*, *Timeline*, *Redemptive Events*, *Life Themes*, *Life Verses*, and *The End of My Life*. As you do, keep the following in mind.

This is a fluid process. You will very likely include concepts about your purpose (why you exist) and vision (what you're called to do). Because these aspects of our life are intertwined, don't be concerned. Just write. We'll directly address purpose and vision later. As you work on this project, keep the following in mind.

1. Start in silence. Listen. Just listen. Collect yourself to hear God's voice.
2. Then, start writing. Don't wait. Just write. And don't strive for perfection.
3. Use scratch paper if you need to—you'll probably want to.
4. NOTE: Examples are provided on the next page.

**Goal:** Summarize each Identity Statement into a few sentences and copy them on the worksheet on the next page. Then, choose a word or short phrase that captures your identity statement and write it on the next page.

# IDENTITY

## IDENTITY EXAMPLES

Listed below are examples of identity statements. As you write your identity statements, you can combine a variety of the following ideas.

- I am a **Beloved Son of the Father**. I receive and extend Jesus' **Sacrificial Love** to others.
- I am **God's Friend**. He has promised to give me His heart and I have promised to give my heart to Him. Intimacy with Jesus is a keynote of my life. Every aspect of my life is sustained and guided by intimacy.
- I am **Healed** by God's grace and am called to live as a **Healer**.
- I am a man of **Vision**, a man of **Hope**, and a man of **Creativity**. By grace, God's kingdom vision is ever before me, His eternal hope flows from me, and His creative life expresses itself through me.
- I am a **Humble Servant**, offering my life to Jesus to do whatever He wants me to do, no matter how big or small. I am **Content** with who God is to me, and I am **Content** with who He's forming me to be.
- I am a woman of **Heaven's Joy**, filled with **Happiness** because Jesus has captured my heart. Passion, laughter, and joy fill my heart and mouth.

# IDENTITY WORKSHEET

## **What Are My Life Themes?**

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## **How would I describe my identity as a person?**

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Identity Statement in Key Word/Phrase: \_\_\_\_\_

## **How would I describe my identity as a family member?**

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Identity Statement in Key Word/Phrase: \_\_\_\_\_

## **How would I describe my identity as a member of Jesus' people?**

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Identity Statement in Key Word/Phrase: \_\_\_\_\_

## **How would I describe my identity in relation to the world?**

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Identity Statement in Key Word/Phrase: \_\_\_\_\_

# LIFE PURPOSE

## DISCOVERING OUR PURPOSE

Identity answers the question *who am I?* Purpose answers the question *why do I exist?*

In purpose, we're attempting to discover our driving motives, those things that move us to action. From our motives, we discover why we do what we do. As God shapes our motives and brings them into alignment with His, we're empowered to align our inward and outward life with His purposes.

It's clear in God's Word that the two primary purposes of God's kingdom are *glory* and *life*. Glory is the manifestation of God's nature in time and space. So to speak of glory, we're focused on who God is and how He reveals Himself in and through us. Life is the state in which we exist when we're rightly connected to the Father through Jesus.

All believers are called to embrace and expand God's glory and life. However, God's wired us differently so we're motivated to spread His glory and life for different reasons. To discover purpose, then, is to read God's Word and listen to the Spirit for the ways we're motivated toward God's glory and life.

Like our identity, our life purpose can be captured by:

- Biblical **identity** descriptions, such as, *you are a chosen generation*.
- Biblical **character** descriptions, such as, *love, joy, peace, or humility*.
- Biblical **ideals** or **realities**, such as, *vision, life, passion, authority, or power*.
- Biblical **promises**, such as, *redemption, reconciliation or restoration*.

### Notes from John 17:1-3

- Jesus' ultimate purpose was to glorify God (John 17:1; Isaiah 49:3)
  - Glorify refers to praise; honor; possess exceptional value deserving of praise; clothe with splendor; something shines, actually or conceptually.
  - Glory is a physical reality, like the light of the sun (Exodus 33:22).
  - Glory is an experienced-based ideal (Exodus 14).
  - Jesus' prayer in John 17:1: "Magnify and make beautiful what I'm doing so

people see Your greatness and ability to give life.”

- Glory is our natural response to beauty and worth.
- Glory is the Natural Response to One Who Can Give Life (John 17:2).
  - God deserves glory because He alone grants abundant, eternal life and rescues us from death through Jesus (John 3:16,17; 10:10)
  - Jesus’ prayer in John 17:2: “Father, help me glorify You since You’ve given me the right to grant life”
  - By rescuing us from death, Jesus looks to God saying, “He did it!”
- What is Eternal Life? Knowing the Father through the Son (John 17:3)
  - “Know” is covenant language: United by an unbreakable agreement in which life is shared.
  - Since God alone possesses life, unity with Him is the only way to life.
  - We are united when we taste the expanse of redemption, reconciliation, and restoration through faith in Jesus (Jeremiah 31:34).
  - God wants us to know Him because He’s the only source of life—and He wants us to know that idols kill us.
  - We know if we “know God” and trust Jesus by what we glorify.

### **Notes from II Corinthians 4:10-12**

- The Gospel brings life to the receiver and death to the giver.
- Jesus glorified the Father by dying so others could have life.
- The only way to bring glory to the Father is to walk in Jesus’ footsteps and give up our life (Luke 9:23-27).
- For what are you willing to give up your life so you glorify the Father?

# LIFE PURPOSE

## **WORKSHEET INSTRUCTIONS**

1. As you explore your Life Purpose, your ideas will blend into your Identity (who you are) and Vision (what you're called to do). Right now, don't worry about keeping all this straight. You'll figure it out along the way. This process is organic and fluid that takes time, prayer, more time, and more prayer.
2. You'll begin by answering a series of questions about life purpose. As you do, just write. Don't worry about perfection. Just start writing and answer the questions. Erase, scratch out ideas, add ideas.
3. To help you, review all the worksheets you've completed so far as you begin to think about your Life Purpose (Defining Events, Timeline, Redemptive Events, Life Themes, Life Verses, The End of My Life, and Identity). Add or change anything to the previous worksheets you think is helpful (remember, you can change what you've already done).
4. NOTE: Example are included on the following page.

# LIFE PURPOSE

## LIFE PURPOSE EXAMPLES

- I exist for God's **Kingdom, Power, and Glory**. I commit myself to these wholeheartedly, every moment of every day, for as many days as I have.
- I respond in **faith** and **obedience** to Yahweh's purpose and power. I am committed to become like Jesus' Image and do what He's doing. I live a **Word-Saturated, Spirit-Empowered, Radically Balanced** life.
- I walk in Marital and Family **Integrity**. I impart Jesus' life and Kingdom to my family so they joyfully receive and impart it to one another, those in their circle of influence, and future generations that will come from them.
- I am called to raise children who **know** and **love** Jesus.
- I order my life around God's eternal purposes of Faith, Hope, and Love.
- I am an **obedient, faithful** son of the Living God. He's my Master, Lord, and Shepherd. What He's doing, I am doing. When He's resting, I rest. When He's ready to move, I move with Him.
- I exist to show Jesus' **mercy** and **compassion** to broken, dying people. I go where others won't go. I give what others won't give. I do what others won't do. I am dedicated to reach the lowest, broken, lost people for Jesus' glory.

# LIFE PURPOSE QUESTIONS

1. To what kingdom ideals am I most drawn?
2. What consumes me? What do I deeply desire?
3. What priorities are most important to me and why?
4. What activities do I consider of greatest worth, whether I do them now or not?
5. When my mind is in neutral, what do I usually think about?
6. When I lead, or am led, what has to take place for me to be satisfied?
7. What character qualities do I most want God to develop in my life?
8. What types of people and relationships most draw me?
9. If I were going to write a novel about my life, what would I absolutely include as the conflict and the climax?

# LIFE PURPOSE WORKSHEET

## **Statement of Personal Life Purpose**

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## **Statement of Family Life Purpose**

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## **Statement of Congregational/Body Life Purpose**

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## **Statement of Life Purpose in the World**

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# IDENTITY & PURPOSE

Now, you'll combine all the work you've done so far. First, review all the worksheets you've completed so far including: Defining Events, Timeline, Redemptive Events, and Life Themes (write your Life Themes in the space below).

Life Theme: \_\_\_\_\_

Then, review the **End of My Life Worksheet**. Edit whatever needs to be changed, added, or removed.

Then, review the **Identity Worksheet**. Edit whatever needs to be changed, added, or removed. Review the single word or phrase that captures the identity statement for each role (write your Identity Key Words in the space below).

Personal Identity: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Identity: \_\_\_\_\_

Community Identity: \_\_\_\_\_

World Identity: \_\_\_\_\_

Then, on the **Personal I.D. Worksheet**, combine your identity and life purposes statements into a three-to-five sentence paragraph.

# IDENTITY & PURPOSE

## PERSONAL I.D. EXAMPLES

### Example One

- **Identity Statement:** I am a man of **Vision**, a man of **Hope**, and a man of **Creativity**. By grace, God's kingdom vision is ever before me, His eternal hope flows from me, and His creative life expresses itself through me.
- **Purpose Statement:** I exist to show Jesus' **mercy** and **compassion** to broken, dying people. I go where others won't go. I give what others won't give. I do what others won't do. I am dedicated to reach the lowest, broken, lost people for Jesus' glory.
- **Combined Statement:** I am a man of **Vision**, **Hope**, and **Creativity**. By grace, God's kingdom vision is ever before me, His eternal hope flows from me, and His creative life expresses itself through me. I express my identity of vision, hope, and creativity through **Mercy** and **Compassion** to broken, dying people. I go where others won't go. I give what others won't give. I do what others won't do. I am dedicated to reach the lowest, broken, lost people for Jesus.

### Example Two

- **Identity Statement:** I am a woman of **Heaven's Joy**, filled with **Happiness** because Jesus has captured my heart. Passion, laughter, and joy fill my heart and mouth.
- **Purpose Statement:** I raise children who **know** and **love** Jesus.
- **Combined Statement:** I am a woman of **Heaven's Joy**, filled with **Happiness** because Jesus has captured my heart. Passion, laughter, and joy fill my heart and mouth. Relying on my identity as a woman of joy, I raise children who **know** and **love** Jesus. Because I enjoy Jesus, I draw my children into the beauty of enjoying Him.





# VISION

## GRASPING VISION

Identity answers the question *who am I?* Purpose answers the question *why am I here?* And vision answers the question *what am I called to do?*

Philippians 3:12 says Paul's great aim was to grab hold of Jesus' life because Jesus had grabbed hold of him. God apprehended Abraham so the blessing of life would invade the world through Israel (Genesis 13:14-18). Nehemiah was apprehended by God to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and reveal God's desire to rebuild Israel's spiritual lives (Nehemiah 2:17,18). Ezra was called by God to know, do, and teach God's Word (Ezra 7:10). Paul tells us we were saved to do good works (Ephesians 2:10). Jesus has apprehended all of us for His purpose. So, we ask: for what have I been apprehended?

When we see what we've been apprehended for, it lays the foundation to discover God's vision for our life. So, what is vision? **Vision is a picture of the future toward which we can act in the present, providing us with strength sufficient to overcome the obstacles we face** (Hebrews 12:2).

## WHAT ARE WE BUILDING?

We're building something. The question isn't whether we're building. The question is *what are we building?* When we realize we are building something, we can stop and ask this important question: what am I building? Jesus calls and empowers us to build what will endure the fires of testing (II Corinthians 3:12-15). This means our vision must align with His so we build something of eternal significance. No matter how big our vision is (to be the president) or noble (to be the best parent) or small (eat chips and watch football), we need the Holy Spirit to reveal Jesus' heart so we can be revived with His passions for His kingdom.

## **The Necessity of Vision (Proverbs 29:18)**

- A prophetic vision is a prophecy or prophetic word; it is to speak a prophetic word or as a prophet; a person who “sees” (hence: seer, prophet) God’s will or word; pure spiritual understanding.
- When we live without vision, our lives are filled with the corruption of meaninglessness, disobedience, and unfaithfulness. But when we cultivate and actualize God’s vision, we walk in blessing and obedience.

## **Jesus Glorified the Father by Accomplishing His Task (John 17:4)**

- Jesus’ task was to break the power of death and give life to the world by becoming king. He had a specific task. The Father communicated it and it was possible by grace. Like Jesus, we glorify the Father by fulfilling our task (Philippians 1:9-11).
  - We discover the task given to us—we don't make it up.
  - We trust God with the task given to us—we don’t pursue others’ tasks or gifts or calling.
  - We do the task given to us with faith and obedience.

## **The Father Glorified Jesus for Faithfulness to His Task (17:5)**

- Jesus did what the Father asked Him to do and He received glory. His glory is that He’s the reigning king.
- We were designed to seek and receive the Father’s glory (Romans 2:7).
- When we glory the Father by fulfilling our task, He glorifies us (II Thessalonians 1:10-12).
- While we decay in the physical realm, God is prepared for us a weight of glory that’s eternal in scope and power (II Corinthians 4:16-18).

# VISION QUESTIONS

1. In what direction am I naturally motivated? Where am I heading? Where has God taken me and where is He now taking me?
2. What burdens and needs has God given me special faith to act upon?
3. What things do I want to do—not feel obligated to do?
4. What are some ways God leads me to take risks? What are risks I avoid due to fear or doubt? What risks have I taken and what have I learned from doing so? See Matthew 25:14-30.
5. If resources, location, health, or \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank) were not obstacles, what would I do?
6. What do my past successes and failures tell me about potential limitations?
7. What is the greatest contribution I think I could make to God's kingdom?
8. When people talk about passion for the kingdom, I often think about...
9. People who know me well believe I am most used by God when I...
10. What spiritual gifts have I observed working in my life?
11. What talents and skills do I possess that most affect me?
12. For what am I willing to give up my life?

# POSSIBLE VISION WORKSHEET

After you've completed the vision questions, brainstorm vision for your life by asking the question, "What if...?"

## **POSSIBLE LIFETIME VISION: PERSONAL**

- First Possibility: \_\_\_\_\_
- Second Possibility: \_\_\_\_\_
- Third Possibility: \_\_\_\_\_

## **POSSIBLE LIFETIME VISION: FAMILY**

- First Possibility: \_\_\_\_\_
- Second Possibility: \_\_\_\_\_
- Third Possibility: \_\_\_\_\_

## **POSSIBLE LIFETIME VISION: COMMUNITY**

- First Possibility: \_\_\_\_\_
- Second Possibility: \_\_\_\_\_
- Third Possibility: \_\_\_\_\_

## **POSSIBLE LIFETIME VISION: WORLD**

- First Possibility: \_\_\_\_\_
- Second Possibility: \_\_\_\_\_
- Third Possibility: \_\_\_\_\_

# TEMPERAMENT

## INTRODUCTION

We wired to do certain things well. Knowing how we're wired gives us grace and clarity to cooperate with God's design for us. Two tools are helpful: StrengthsFinder 2.0 and the Enneagram Assessment.

### StrengthsFinder 2.0

Gallup's Clifton StrengthsFinder 2.0 assessment is a helpful tool to help people identify their operational strengths and how to discuss and develop their unique combination of skills, talents, and knowledge—also known as strengths.

- Go to: [www.gallupstrengthscenter.com](http://www.gallupstrengthscenter.com)
- Take the assessment entitled "Top 5 Strengths Access"
- The cost is \$15.

### Enneagram Assessment

The Enneagram Assessment provides feedback about your temperament, how you perceive and interact with others, how you approach life, and how you can assess aspects of your personal health.

- Go to: <https://tests.enneagraminstitute.com/>
- Take the assessment entitled "RHETI" assessment. The cost is \$12.

**Bring the printed results of both assessment with you to our next meeting.**

# SPIRITUAL GIFTS

The following list of spiritual gifts provides a basic definition of the spiritual gifts mentioned in the Bible. Bobby Clinton wrote it.

## **SPIRITUAL GIFTS WORKSHEET INSTRUCTION**

1. Read through the “Spiritual Gifts” numerous times.
2. Identify the Spiritual Gifts you think you possess or have a sense you may possess. CIRCLE them.
3. Then, narrow your choices to those you know are present in your life based on the way you’ve already been used by God or others have noticed are present in your life. HIGHLIGHT them with a highlighter.
4. Then, narrow your choices again. Put a STAR next to the Spiritual Gifts you sense you may possess or are strongly attracted to.
5. Give a copy of the “Spiritual Gifts” worksheet to at least two people and have them choose those gifts they see present in you now or are beginning to manifest in your life. Use this information to modify your choices, if you think necessary.
6. Then, make a final list. Those gifts you know are present in you and those gifts you’d like to explore.

# SPIRITUAL GIFTS WORKSHEET

## THE WORD-CLUSTER GIFTS

- **Teaching:** The gift of teaching is the ability to instruct, explain, or expose Biblical truth in such a way as to cause believers to understand Biblical truth. The central thrust of this gift is to *clarify truth*.
- **Exhortation:** The gift of exhortation is the capacity to urge people to action to apply Biblical truths, to encourage people generally with Biblical truths, or to comfort people through the application of Biblical truth to their needs. The central thrust of this gift is to *apply biblical truth*.
- **Prophecy:** A person operating with the gift of prophecy has the capacity to deliver truth in a public way of a predictive nature or as a situational word from God. This is done to bring correction to believers through exhortation, edification, or consolation. Also, it serves to convince/convict non-believers of God's truth. The central thrust of this gift is to *provide correction or perspective on a situation*.
- **Apostleship:** The gift of apostleship refers to a special leadership capacity to move with authority from God to create new ministry structures—specifically churches or cross-congregational ministries—to meet needs and develop and appoint leadership in these structures. The central thrust of this gift is to *create new ministry*.
- **Pastoral:** The pastoral gift is the capacity to exercise concern and care for members of a group so as to encourage them in their growth in Christ that involves modeling maturity, protecting them from error, and disseminating truth. The central thrust of this gift is to *care for the growth of followers*.
- **Evangelism:** The gift of evangelism in general refers to the capacity to challenge people through various communicative methods to receive the Gospel of salvation in Christ so they respond by taking initial steps in Christian discipleship. The central thrust of this gift is to *introduce others to the Gospel*.
- **Ruling/Leadership:** A person operating with a ruling gift demonstrates the

capacity to exercise influence over a group so as to lead it toward a goal or purpose with a particular emphasis on the capacity to make decisions and keep the group operating together. The central thrust of this gift is to *influence others toward vision*.

## THE POWER-CLUSTER GIFTS

- **Word of Wisdom:** The word of wisdom gift refers to the capacity to know the mind of the Spirit in a given situation and to communicate clearly the situation, facts, truth or application of the facts and truth to meet the need of the situation. The central thrust of this gift is to *apply revelatory information*.
- **Word of Knowledge:** The word of knowledge gift refers to the capacity or sensitivity of a person to supernaturally perceive revealed knowledge from God which otherwise could not or would not be known and apply it to a situation. The central thrust of this gift is to *receive and communicate revelatory information*.
- **Faith:** Faith refers to the unusual capacity of a person to recognize in a given situation that God intends to do something and to trust God for it until He brings it to pass. The central thrust of this gift is a trusting response to a challenge from God.
- **Gift of Healing:** The gift of healing refers to the supernatural release of the Spirit's healing power to cure all types of illnesses [and restore all types of non-physical brokenness outside the normal biblical processes]. The central thrust of this gift is to *release God's power to heal*.
- **Working of Powers/Miracles:** The working of powers, or gift of miracles, refers to the releasing of God's supernatural power so God's miraculous intervention is perceived and He receives recognition for the supernatural intervention. The central thrust of this gift is to *release of God's supernatural power to give authenticity*.
- **Discerning of Spirits:** The discerning of spirits gift refers to the God-given ability to perceive issues through the lens of spiritual truth, know the fundamental source of the issues, and give judgment concerning those issues. This includes the recognition of [the realities and effects of sin and death in and through the hearts

of individuals and group dynamics] and the spiritual forces [demonic powers] operating in the issue. The central thrust of this gift is *sensitivity to truth and its sources*.

- **Tongues:** The gift of tongues refers to a spontaneous utterance of a word from God in unknown words to the person giving the word to a person or group of people. The central thrust of this gift is to *deliver a word from God in an unknown tongue [to authentic the message being delivered]*.
- **Interpretation of Tongues:** The gift of interpretation of tongues refers to the ability to spontaneously respond to an authoritative message delivered in tongues by interpreting the word and clearly communicating the message. The central thrust of this gift is to *interpret a message given in tongues*.

## THE LOVE-CLUSTER GIFTS

- **Governments/Administration:** The gifts of governments/administration involve a capacity to manage [the structures, processes] and details of service functions to support and free other leaders to prioritize their efforts. The central thrust of this gift is to *provide supportive organizational abilities*.
- **Giving:** The gift of giving refers to the capacity to give liberally to meet the needs of others and do so with pure motives, convinced the giving is nothing more than simply sharing what God has given. The central thrust of this gift is *sensitivity to God to channel His resources to others*.
- **Mercy:** The gift of mercy refers to the capacity to feel sympathy for those in need, especially the suffering, and express sympathy in practical, helpful ways with a cheerful spirit to bring encouragement and help those in need. The central thrust of this gift is to *demonstrate empathetic care for those who are hurting*.
- **Helps:** The gifts of helps refers to the capacity to unselfishly meet the needs of others through practical means, without expectation of recognition from those we serve or return from God outside His revealed principles of reward. The central thrust of this gift is *the attitude and ability to aid others in practical ways*.

## **GIFTS I KNOW ARE PRESENT IN MY LIFE**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
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## **GIFTS I'D LIKE TO EXPLORE**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
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# LIFETIME VISION WORKSHEET

## LIFETIME VISION WORKSHEET INSTRUCTIONS

Using your Combined Identity and Purpose Statement, the Possible Life Vision Worksheet, StrengthsFinder 2.0 and the Spiritual Gifts Worksheet, write down ONE THING you believe Jesus has called you to accomplish for each role—ONE THING you're willing to give your life away to fulfill.

### Personal Vision: One Thing

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### Family Vision: One Thing

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### Congregational Vision: One Things

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### World Vision: One Thing

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# LIFE VERSE

## WHAT IS A LIFE VERSE?

A life verse is a scripture passage that captures one or more of our life themes.

The point of life verses is this: we have an unshakeable revelation of God's heart for our personal life to which we can return for stability, clarity, and vision.

## HELPFUL TIPS TO CHOOSING A LIFE VERSE

1. Choose a passage that *directly* captures one or more of your life themes.
2. Choose a passage that stirs something deep within you no matter how many times you read it. Very likely this passage will align with your life themes—and you could even discover your life themes in it.
3. For the sake of simplicity, choose no more than one passage for each life theme. If possible, choose a passage that captures more than one theme.
4. Choose those that are most meaningful to you.
5. Life verses can change over the course of your life. However, if you're tempted to change them frequently, you may not have found your life verse.

## LIFE VERSE WORKSHEET INSTRUCTIONS

1. Brainstorm life verses for each theme. Write down any verses that come to mind—even if you think they're not applicable. Write them on the worksheet.
2. Read each passage at least once. Highlight words and ideas that capture your life themes. Jot down why you think these words capture your life theme. It's best to start with a concentrated period of time and then return to your work for short periods of time.
3. Then, allow the Holy Spirit to help you decide on **one-to-three** life verses. You can have one verse for multiple life themes.
4. Add these verses to your Personal I.D. statement.

# LIFE VERSE WORKSHEET

## **FIRST LIFE THEME:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Possible Life Verse: \_\_\_\_\_
- Possible Life Verse: \_\_\_\_\_
- Final Life Verse: \_\_\_\_\_

## **SECOND LIFE THEME:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Possible Life Verse: \_\_\_\_\_
- Possible Life Verse: \_\_\_\_\_
- Final Life Verse: \_\_\_\_\_

## **THIRD LIFE THEME:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Possible Life Verse: \_\_\_\_\_
- Possible Life Verse: \_\_\_\_\_
- Final Life Verse: \_\_\_\_\_

## **FOURTH LIFE THEME:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Possible Life Verse: \_\_\_\_\_
- Possible Life Verse: \_\_\_\_\_
- Final Life Verse: \_\_\_\_\_

## **FIFTH LIFE THEME:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Possible Life Verse: \_\_\_\_\_
- Possible Life Verse: \_\_\_\_\_
- Final Life Verse: \_\_\_\_\_

# PERSONAL I.D.

## **A DAILY TOOL**

The goal of Introduction to Life Purpose is to turn our work into a one-page document that captures our personal identity, purpose, and vision. With this one-page document, we can quickly and easily remind ourselves of who we are, why we exist, and where we're going.

On the next two pages, you will consolidate all the work you've done. As you rewrite and edit your work, remember that it's okay to clarify, make changes, and reassess.

# PERSONAL I.D. WORKSHEET

**My Life Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **My Identity & Purpose Statement**

- Personal: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- Family: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- Community: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- World: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **My Lifetime Vision**

- Personal: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- Family: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- Community: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- World: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# MY PERSONAL I.D. WORKSHEET

## My DISC Assessment Insights

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## My StrengthsFinder 2.0 Insights

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## My Spiritual Gifts

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# HOW TO USE THE PERSONAL I.D.

## **PLANNING: DAILY, WEEKLY, MONTHLY, YEARLY**

1. **Daily:** Each day, we can skim our Personal I.D. to connect to our identity and call. This helps assess and adjust our daily schedule in light of our Personal I.D. We can prepare for relationships and meetings so we can be fully present and engaged. And we can assess goals, projects, habits, and tasks to ensure we're doing those things that are most important.
2. **Weekly:** Each week, we can read our entire Personal I.D. to connect to our identity, life verse, and monthly and yearly goals. This helps us to identify the most important relationships we must prioritize and engage. And we can identify the goals, projects, habits, and tasks we must achieve in the coming week. When we're finished, we're empowered to build our weekly schedule (and components of the next few weeks).
3. **Monthly/Quarterly:** In our monthly planning times, we can read our entire Personal I.D. multiple times. This helps us renew our connection to our identity, calling, and life verse. We can also read through and assess our yearly goals and gain long-term perspective by reviewing our five-year and lifetime goals. As we do this, we're empowered to outline, review, or edit the goals, projects, habits, and tasks necessary to achieve our one-year goals. Then, we can prioritize the next month/quarter based on our yearly and long-term goals. It's also helpful to identify relationships in which we must invest. All this must be put into our monthly schedule.
4. **Yearly:** It's empowering to schedule one entire day to read, update, and edit our Personal I.D. before we do yearly planning. As we do this, take time to study, pray, fast, and journal as we revisit your Personal I.D. Statement. Then, we can set aside another entire day to do our yearly planning.

## **Questions to Ask as You Plan with Your Personal I.D.**

1. Do my priorities reflect my identity and calling? In what ways?

2. Does my schedule reflect my identity and calling? In what ways?

## **DECISION MAKING & COMMITMENTS**

The Personal I.D. can be a highly effective resource to assess decisions and commitments before we make them. By connecting to our identity and calling, decisions and commitments can be filtered through an eternal perspective. When we do this, we resist the tendency to say yes when we should say no, and say no when we should say yes. It's important to keep in mind that both big and small decisions and commitments should be scrutinized through our Personal I.D. Big decisions are obvious: they're big. However, most change and forward movement is affected by the succession of small decisions. So before we make big or small decision, we can consult our Personal I.D. and ask the following questions:

1. Does this reinforce and help me express my identity? How?
2. Does this lead toward or away from my life's calling? How?
3. If I say "yes", what will happen? If I say "no", what will happen?
4. Does this fit within my lifetime, five-year, and one-year goals? If yes, "how"?
5. Does this fit within my gift mix (DISC, StrengthsFinder, and Spiritual Gifts)?
6. Who can help me assess this decision honestly in light of my Personal I.D.?

## **DEVOTIONAL LIFE**

The way each person experiences formation and intimacy with Jesus depends on how He made us. While it's important to strive for a breadth of formative and intimate encounters with Jesus, it's also imperative we work with our individual design and not against it. By cultivating a growing sense of personal awareness, we're able to cooperate with our identity and calling. Our Personal I.D. can direct and enhance the time we spend in Jesus' presence, personally and corporately. Here are questions to consider.

1. How can I use my Personal I.D. to do a Bible study of my identity, life themes, and call?

2. How can I use my Personal I.D. to do a Bible study of the chapter and/or book in which my life verses are found?
3. How can I use my Personal I.D. and life verses to cultivate my prayer life?
4. How can I use my Personal I.D. to identify areas of spiritual growth and development I'd like to address?
5. How can I use my Personal I.D. to create a devotional plan?

## **RELATIONAL FOCUS & DEVELOPMENT**

Relationship is the context of kingdom life. Everything we do that carries eternal significance ultimately expresses itself in relationship. As a result, our Personal I.D. can help focus our relational heart and priorities in ways consistent with who we are and what we're called to do. Consider the following questions.

1. Do my closest friendships encourage me to be who I'm created to be? If so, how? If not, what do I need to do?
2. Do my closest friendships encourage me to move toward my life's call? If so, how? If not, what do I need to do?
3. Based on my identity and call, what areas do I need to receive input from those beyond me in spiritual maturity, relational maturity, or skills? Who can do this for me that I currently have in my life? What relationships do I not currently have that I need to pursue in order to move forward?
4. Are there relationships in which I need to invest more? If so, what will I do?
5. Are there relationships in which I need to invest less? If so, what will I do?
6. Are there relationships that need reconciliation? If so, what will I do?

## **CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

Conflict resolution is most successful when we're clear about our identity and calling. When we remember who we are, we can address problems and conflicts without the pressure to let them define who we are and where we're going. When we know who we are and what we're called to do, we're can engage problems and conflict within the

bigger picture of Jesus and His kingdom. So as you face conflict resolution, consider the following questions.

1. Based on my identity, who do I need to be in this situation?
2. Based on my identity, what criticisms and concerns should I be able to hear to which I'm currently resistant?
3. Based on my identity, what can I give to the others I may be currently withholding?
4. If I know who I am and where I'm going, what might keep me from giving myself in mature love to those with whom I'm experiencing conflict?
5. Based on my life's calling and personal uniqueness, what can I contribute to resolution and reconciliation? What will be harder for me to contribute and so need to look to others for help and perspective?
6. Based on my life's calling and personal uniqueness, what could I do differently that might bring about reconciliation?