

LEADING A
MISSION-DRIVEN
LIFE





Dear Brother,

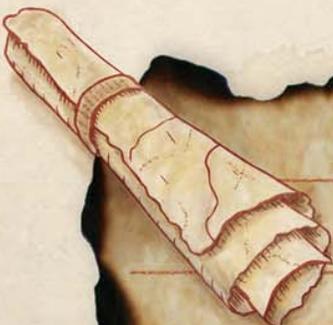
I've heard men ask, "Why should I write a Life Purpose Statement?" Let me answer that with another question; how many of us could say at one time or another, "I've been a fool. I've been living out a role that others have scripted for me—a role that doesn't celebrate or showcase my talents and gifts. This is not the real me"?

Virtually every man reaches a point at which he realizes he has spent 10, 15, 20, or more years playing a role that he thought would make other people happy or get him where he wanted to go.

This workbook has been designed to help you make sure you are giving your life to something real. In the next six sessions, you will map out how to move from living a role that pleases others to discovering authenticity for the balance of your journey. Why not begin right now with a prayer asking God to give you His wisdom in the weeks ahead?

Sincerely,

Pat Morley

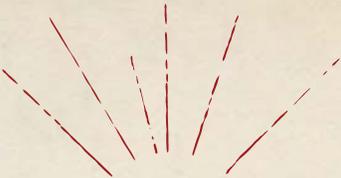


WHAT IS A WRITTEN MAP FOR THE MISSION?

A written map for the mission, or Life Purpose Statement, is a process to help you reevaluate things at key points in your life. The core areas of the map are...

- ✦ **A PURPOSE.** Why do I exist?
- ✦ **A CALLING.** What do I give myself to?
- ✦ **A VISION.** What do I want to accomplish?
- ✦ **A MISSION.** How will I go about it?

By the end of this workbook, you will have a map that provides a clearer course for the rest of the journey. The goal is to write a purpose statement for your life, but it's also a process by which you can clarify the new dream, cause, or task God has put on your mind.



INTRODUCTION

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

Never done a Bible study before? No problem! You only need two things: this workbook and a pen. If you want to look up additional Scripture, bring your Bible, too.



FIRST THINGS FIRST: Don't try to use a Life Purpose Statement as a way to organize your life in your own strength. Rather, let it guide you through a process of learning how to trust God to show you the direction of your life that He has for you.



FOR THE NEXT SIX WEEKS, meet with a small group (4-8) of men weekly for 60-90 minutes.

- ◆ **BEFORE EACH MEETING,** read through the introductory section and the key passage for the week, completing the questions under the KEY PASSAGE. Set aside about 10-15 minutes two days per week to work on the REFLECTION QUESTIONS at a time when your mind is fresh.
- ◆ **AT THE MEETING,** go through the GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS found at the bottom of each section. End each meeting by praying for each other.



HAVE FUN WITH IT! Don't get too hung up on technique. There is no one right way to complete this workbook. This process can be as flexible or rigid, as long-term or short-term, or as narrow or broad as you want it to be. Our hope is that you will emerge with a renewed focus and sense of God's calling on your life—and some new brothers for the journey!

DISCUSSION GROUP LEADERS: A good schedule for a 60-minute meeting is 50 minutes for sharing and discussion and 10 minutes for prayer. (For a 90-minute meeting, use the extra time for deeper discussion.) The goal is air time for every man, every week. Aim to keep discussion personal and practical, as opposed to just theological and theoretical. Give every man a quick call or text every week to check in and remind him of your meeting.

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BEGINNING THE PROCESS

AN AUDIT OF THE ROAD SO FAR

A wise man once said that you can't determine where you want to go until you know where you are. So, the first step in developing a map for the mission is to make sure you understand where you are—your current reality and circumstances.

KEY PASSAGE



PHILIPPIANS 3

⁴ If someone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

⁷ But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.

1) When Paul did an audit of his life so far, what did he see and what did it mean to him?

2) How did Paul characterize his past in verse 7? How does this apply to you?

The space provided below gives you an opportunity to reflect on your life so far. Since writing makes a more precise person, it's important to journal this understanding on paper. You may write anything you want, being as detailed or general as you wish. However, here are some things to reflect upon as you assess the road you've traveled so far:

- Your overall satisfaction
- Milestones
- Major goals, met and unmet
- Significant achievements and satisfying results
- Priorities, right and wrong
- Failures, sins, and lessons learned
- Regrets and things you want to improve
- Met and unmet dreams
- Fears, doubts, pressures, and concerns about the past, present, and future

Be balanced in your approach. Resist the urge to beat yourself up, but also come with humility and a willingness to peer into the hard places. Consider using the 80-20 rule—80% of the space for positive reflections and 20% for improvement opportunities.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Using the list above as a guide, in the space provided below assess the current situation of your life in your major priority areas: your relationship with God, spouse, children, relatives, work, health, finances, education, rest, recreation, and any other areas that come to mind. Use extra paper if you need more space.

X The Road So Far: How are you doing in these major priority areas?

What did you feel and think when you recognized the major milestones you've reached?

What has been your most significant achievement? Why?

What major area would you most like to change? Why?

If you could only use one word to describe the last year of your life, what would it be? Why?

Are you generally content in your day-to-day life? Why or why not?

After answering the questions, put this workbook down for a day or two. Then pick it up again and reread your answers, adding in anything new that comes to mind, before meeting to discuss this section with your group.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) What was the most surprising thing you realized about yourself as you worked through this audit of the road so far?
- 2) What is the area of your life that you feel most satisfied with, and why? What is the area that you feel you have most neglected, and why?
- 3) Take some time to pray for one another, thanking God for what has turned out well, and asking for His guidance in the areas you need Him to redeem.



A PURPOSE

WHY DO I EXIST?

In terms of the map for the mission, “purpose” describes what God wants you to give your life to at both the highest and the most basic levels. It can cover any time horizon, but it’s generally long term—a decade or longer. Said another way, this purpose is the ultimate reason you draw breath. It may focus on being, doing, or both. However, it’s impossible to do what God wants us to do until we become what God wants us to be. For that reason, your purpose should first reflect the kind of man you want to become and then, if you like, what you want to do.

As an example, one man’s purpose is, “To live the rest of my earthly life for the will of God.” This certainly zeroes in on doing, but notice that he cannot do this successfully until he understands the will of God. And he can’t understand the will of God unless he spends time with Him in solitude, study, and reflection. So while this purpose may seem doing-oriented, it also contains a number of other, more reflective ideas about becoming and being.

Your purpose should go beyond the narrow scope of, “What do I do today?” or “What are my functions in this life?” Instead, it should reflect your examination of life’s larger meaning of why God put you here.

Getting to your life’s purpose can be the hardest kind of work—exacting and exhausting—but well worth the effort. Once settled, it is a constant reminder of why you exist. Like a compass, it points the way to the meaning and significance we all yearn for. Like a gyroscope, whenever you are knocked off balance it will help you stand upright.

KEY PASSAGE



2 THESSALONIANS 1: 11-12

¹¹With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith.¹²We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1) To what extent have you thought that God is interested in your purposes (v11)?

2) What happens when God fulfills our good purposes (v12)?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Here are some steps to help you discover your purpose.

1. Ask God in prayer to reveal your personal earthly purpose to you. Search the Scriptures for verses or phrases that capture your sense of God’s purpose for your earthly life.
2. Read some or all of the following verses and jot down ideas that resonate with you:

Joshua 24:15 _____

Proverbs 3:5-6 _____

Matthew 6:33 _____

Matthew 22:37-40 _____

Matthew 28:19-20 _____

John 4:34 _____

John 15:1-9, 15 _____

1 Corinthians 10:31 _____

Ephesians 2:10 _____

Proverbs 30:7-9 _____

Micah 6:8 _____

Other Verses _____

X Once you find the verses and phrases that you believe express God's earthly purpose for you, use them to create a concise summary statement. Write a draft of what you believe about your purpose in the space below.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Why is having a purpose a powerful thing? Can you think of a time in your life when you were motivated by a strong sense of purpose? What happened?
- 2) Which verses or phrases did you choose to be a part of your draft purpose? Share these with the group. What drew you to these ideas?
- 3) Read the draft of your purpose statement out loud and explain your reasoning.

(Note: It isn't necessary to provide positive feedback or criticism, unless requested.)