

MANY GOALS, ONE PURPOSE

The Christian Teachings of Virtue (Series 1, Part 4, Teaching #4)



Leader Guide...

*See the back page for
detailed facilitator
instructions.*

Instructions: Watch video, read aloud, underline what stands out to you most, discuss

Virtue teaches this: you are to pursue many goals—but only one purpose. The vision for your life, all your goals, your every endeavor, should be subordinate to your one singular, unwavering purpose.

You may have the goal of finding a spouse, raising children, or building a successful career. The possibilities are endless—and those would all be worthy goals. But they must be aligned with your purpose, meaning that in the process of pursuing them, you simultaneously pursue your purpose.

This way, whether you succeed or fail in achieving a goal, your sense of purpose prevails. For if you place your purpose in any single goal—no matter how noble—you risk losing your sense of direction the moment that goal is met or missed. Achieve it, and you may feel strangely empty, like a traveler who reaches the destination only to wonder what's next. Fail to achieve it, and you may feel hopelessly lost altogether.

Your life will be filled with seasons—some marked by progress, others by setbacks. Your dreams may change. Your ambitions may evolve. But your purpose must remain constant. It must be so deeply rooted in your soul that no success can inflate it and no failure can uproot it.

To avoid the trap of hollow success, every goal must serve a higher aim. You must pursue your goals in such a way that you never stop pursuing your purpose. That way, whether you achieve the goal or fall short, your sense of meaning remains unshaken.

So what should your one purpose be? It must be something that never changes. Something you can pursue in seasons of joy or sorrow, success or suffering. It must be the same in youth and old age, in victory and loss, in public triumph or hidden faithfulness. The one purpose in life you are called to fulfill is this: ***To seek to glorify God in all you do by pursuing a virtuous life.***

As the Word says, “All who are called by my name I created for my glory...” (Isaiah 43:7), and again, “...do everything for the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31). This is the thread that ties every calling, every task, every breath to eternal meaning.

This kind of purpose does not shift with the seasons of your life—it sanctifies them. It turns mundane moments into holy offerings. It transforms labor into worship and ambition into service. It means that whether you're washing dishes or leading nations, parenting children or persevering through suffering, you are glorifying God—and thus fulfilling your purpose.

The virtuous life is not merely the means to that end—it is the end itself. For virtue is what aligns the soul with God. It lifts the sails of your spirit so the winds of grace can carry you toward your true destination—not just success, but sanctity. Not just impact, but intimacy with God. Not just legacy, but eternal life.

So write goals. Pursue dreams. Climb mountains. Build things. Do things. Grow. But never let your purpose be replaced by any goal—however worthy it may seem. Let every pursuit be a path toward holiness. Let every endeavor be an offering of worship. Let every success or setback draw you closer to the One who made you.

“All the activities of life should be pursued with the aim of glorifying God” (Jerry Bridges). For when your goals pass away—as they all will—your purpose remains. And by fulfilling this one purpose, God fulfills you.



Watch Video: Scan the QR code to access the video for this teaching as well as additional resources such as related Scripture, quotes, and more.

Or, visit horseandchariot.com/many-goals-one-purpose



Life presents countless worthy goals—to build, achieve, serve, grow, and love. But no earthly goal can bear the weight of becoming your ultimate purpose. Goals change, succeed, and fail. Your purpose must transcend them all: to glorify God in all you do by pursuing a virtuous life.

1. Goals change; purpose remains. Dreams and circumstances evolve, but your highest purpose remains constant. → Have you confused a current goal with your deeper purpose?

2. Every goal should serve your purpose. Career, family, and ambition become meaningful when pursued for God's glory. → Are your goals drawing you toward greater virtue?

3. Success cannot fulfill you. Accomplishment leaves the soul wanting when it becomes an end in itself. → Are you expecting some achievement to fulfill you?

4. Failure cannot defeat your purpose. A goal can be missed without your life losing meaning. → Can you still glorify God when things do not go as planned?

5. Ordinary life can become holy. Everyday acts become meaningful when performed with virtue and offered to God. → How can you glorify God in your ordinary duties today?

6. Virtue transforms every pursuit. What matters is not only what you accomplish, but who you become. → Are your pursuits forming you into the character of Christ?

CHARACTERISTICS OF A PURPOSE-DRIVEN LIFE

Those who pursue many goals, but one purpose exhibit these traits:

1. Rooted. Their meaning is grounded in God, not circumstances.

2. Intentional. They pursue goals with a higher purpose in mind.

3. Virtuous. They care about who they become along the way.

4. Resilient. Success does not define them, nor failure defeat them.

5. Faithful. They glorify God in both great and ordinary moments.

6. Fulfilled. They seek satisfaction in growing closer to God.

Signs Your Goals Are Replacing Your Purpose...

- Your happiness depends heavily on success or failure.
- You believe the next milestone will finally fulfill you.
- You compromise virtue to achieve what you desire.
- You feel empty after reaching an important goal.
- You lose direction when a dream does not work out.
- You neglect God or others in pursuit of ambition.
- You measure your life by achievement, wealth, or recognition.

Think: I will pursue many goals, but I was created for one enduring purpose: to glorify God through a virtuous life. My successes cannot fulfill that purpose for me, and my failures cannot take it away. Every pursuit can become an opportunity for holiness. My goals will pass away, but who I become will echo into eternity.

Pray: Lord, keep my heart fixed on the purpose for which You created me. Help me pursue worthy goals without making them my purpose. In success, keep me humble; in failure, keep me faithful. May every pursuit form virtue within me, glorify You, and draw me closer to Christ. Amen.

SELF-EVALUATION & ACTION STEP

Of the areas you underlined throughout this teaching, which stood out to you most and why?
(Reflect, write down, discuss)

Rate yourself from 1-10

1 = My purpose depends on achieving my goals

10 = My goals consistently serve my purpose

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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(avoid 5)



Why did you give yourself this rating?

Which goal or dream are you most tempted to make the source of your fulfillment?

If that goal were achieved—or lost—would your sense of purpose remain?

How can you pursue an important goal in a way that forms virtue and glorifies God?

Daily Affirmation: Today, I will pursue my goals without losing sight of my purpose. By God's grace, I will glorify Him in all I do, allowing every success and setback to form virtue within me and draw me closer to Him.

FACILITATOR INSTRUCTIONS

Courageous Facilitator,

Your willingness to step forward and lead is a gift of grace to your community and a brave act of faith. God bless you for answering the call to inspire others to grow in virtue and pursue the character of Christ.

The Holy Spirit thrives in fellowship and community, working powerfully through the connections and shared experiences of small groups. That's why these lesson plans are designed to cultivate genuine relationships, inspire meaningful conversations, and foster a spirit of transformation through shared wisdom and grace.

Facilitating these lessons is both simple and impactful. While many forms of teaching rely on one-way communication, where one person speaks and others listen, true transformation happens through two-way communication. In this format, ideas aren't merely taught—they're explored together. You'll guide, but everyone will share and learn from one another, creating a rich environment where the Holy Spirit can move and grow each mind, heart, and soul.

These lesson plans succeed because they:

- **Encourage connection** in a collaborative small group setting that fosters action and accountability
- **Empower every voice** with opportunities for each participant to share and contribute
- **Inspire growth** through educational, inspirational, and transformational teachings

Your role as a facilitator is to:

- **Follow the instructions and trust the process**—the wheel is already built, you're here to guide it.
- **Honor the schedule** by being punctual and respecting the time of your group.
- **Lead with love** and rely on God's grace to inspire, guide, and uplift everyone in the group.

Your courage to create a space for growth and fellowship will not only bless others but will deepen your own journey of faith and virtue. Together, with God's help, lives will be transformed.

To God be the glory!

FACILITATOR CHECKLIST

1. Getting Started (5-10 mins)

- ☐ Give everyone a few minutes to join before getting started. Be friendly and greet people as they arrive. Get them talking! Come prepared with some good ice-breaker questions you can ask during this time.
- ☐ 3-5 minutes in, do quick introductions for anyone new to the group. What brought them to the group? Spend a moment getting to know them.
- ☐ Open with a short prayer (facilitator or volunteer).

2. Watch & Read the Teaching (5-10 mins)

- ☐ Watch the video of the teaching as a group.
- ☐ Have a volunteer read all of page 1. Have others follow along and underline what stands out to them most.

3. How it Applies (5-10 mins)

- ☐ Have a volunteer read all of page 2. Have others follow along and underline what stands out to them most.

4. Reflection & Discussion (20-30 mins)

- ☐ Have everyone quietly take 5 minutes to complete the "Self-Evaluation & Action Step" on page 3.
- ☐ Then, going around the group, have each person take a minute to share what stood out to them most about the teaching and why.
- ☐ If time allows, continue the discussion using the remaining self-evaluation questions as a guide.

5. Wrap Up (5 mins)

- ☐ Remind everyone to do the daily affirmation until you meet again next time.
- ☐ Ask for any prayer requests from the group.
- ☐ Close with a short prayer (facilitator or volunteer).