

PURPOSE IN LIFE

The Christian Teachings of Virtue (Series 1, Part 5, Teaching #5)

Leader Guide...

See the back page for detailed facilitator instructions.

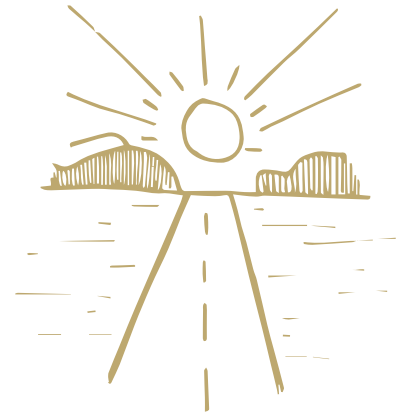
Instructions: Watch video, read aloud, underline what stands out to you most, discuss

Your purpose in life is not something you need to search for like a lifelong treasure hunt. No—your purpose has already been planted within:

To seek to glorify God in all you do by pursuing a virtuous life.

This is the one pursuit that sanctifies all others.

God will place in your path a companion to love, a vocation to serve, people to impact, trials to endure, and goals to strive toward. But these are not the purpose itself—they are the means by which your purpose is lived out. You need not grow impatient with the circumstances, but trust that “all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28). Your task is not to question the journey, but to glorify God along the journey.



The secret to fulfillment is not discovering your hidden calling—it’s faithfully fulfilling God’s calling. Those who pursue self eventually find emptiness at the end of every road. But those who pursue God—no matter what road they take—find fulfillment at every turn.

The modern world tells you to “find yourself,” to chase personal expression, comfort, and recognition. But the soul was not designed to orbit the self. A life centered on self bends inward and collapses. A life centered on God expands outward and becomes radiant. The difference between emptiness and fulfillment is not achievement—it is alignment with God’s will.

“God freely created us so that we might know, love, and serve Him in this life and be happy with Him forever” (St. Ignatius of Loyola). This is the calling of every soul. This is the calling of your soul.

So lace up the shoes of your character. Fire up the spirit of your soul. Let your heart be set ablaze with holy ambition. Never forgetting that the virtuous one pursues a virtuous life not for their own sake, but for God’s sake. For God is not glorified by your works, but by your willful submission to and union with His divine will—unlocking the power of the Holy Spirit within you to work through you.

This is the mystery of fulfillment: when you let go of self, the Holy Spirit takes hold. And when the Spirit moves freely through a soul lifted in virtue, grace flows—powerfully, beautifully, virtuously. You become a vessel through which God shines. You become who you were made to be.

So walk the narrow path. Choose virtue over ease. Wherever you are right now—confused or confident, weary or hopeful—you are not behind. The call is not to start over somewhere else, but to begin right here. From this moment forward, seek God’s glory in every task. For this is your purpose. And when you live for that purpose, you will never live in vain.



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/purpose-in-life

You do not need to search endlessly for some hidden purpose. God has already given you one: to glorify Him in all you do by pursuing a virtuous life. Your vocation, relationships, goals, and trials are the circumstances through which that purpose is lived. Fulfillment comes not from finding the perfect path, but from faithfully glorifying God along the path before you.

1. Your purpose has already been given. You were created to know, love, serve, and glorify God. → Are you searching elsewhere for a purpose God has already revealed?

2. Circumstances are the means, not the purpose. Every season provides opportunities to live your purpose. → Are you waiting for life to change before fully living for God?

3. Fulfillment comes through alignment. The soul finds lasting fulfillment by aligning itself with God's will. → Where has the pursuit of self displaced the pursuit of God?

4. Virtue makes purpose visible. Virtue allows God's will to take form through your character and actions. → Which virtue is God calling you to practice more intentionally?

5. Surrender makes room for the Spirit. The less life revolves around self, the more freely the Spirit can work through you. → What part of your will are you reluctant to surrender?

6. Purpose begins where you are. You need not wait for another season or opportunity. → How can you glorify God through the life before you today?

CHARACTERISTICS OF A PURPOSEFUL LIFE

Those who live to glorify God exhibit these traits:

1. God-Centered. They seek God's glory rather than their own.

2. Trusting. They believe God can work through every season.

3. Surrendered. They increasingly submit their desires to God.

4. Virtuous. They form their character to reflect Christ.

5. Present. They recognize their purpose can be fulfilled here and now.

6. Fulfilled. They find meaning in knowing, loving, and serving God.

Signs You Are Searching for Purpose in the Wrong Places...

- You believe new circumstances will finally give life meaning.
- You measure fulfillment by success, recognition, or comfort.
- You resent your season rather than seeking God within it.
- You focus more on finding yourself than surrendering to God.
- You pursue your own glory rather than God's.
- You delay faithful living while waiting for something better.

Think: I do not need to search endlessly for my purpose. God has already given it to me: to glorify Him in all I do by pursuing a virtuous life. My circumstances may change, but my calling remains. Wherever I am, I can fulfill my purpose by surrendering my will, choosing virtue, and allowing His Spirit to work through me.

Pray: Lord, free me from searching for purpose apart from You. Help me see every circumstance as an opportunity to glorify You. Turn my heart away from self, align my will with Yours, and form virtue within me. Wherever You place me, help me faithfully live the purpose for which You created me. 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 = I often seek meaning in circumstances or outcomes
10 = I consistently seek to glorify God throughout life

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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← (avoid 5) →

Why did you give yourself this rating?

Where are you impatient with your circumstances rather than trusting God?

Which virtue would help you glorify God more faithfully in your present season?

What part of your life will you intentionally approach as an opportunity to glorify God this week?

Daily Affirmation: I will live the purpose for which God created me. By His grace, I will seek His glory, choose virtue in every circumstance, and surrender my will to His—so that His Spirit may work within me and through me.

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).