



Week 2 Message-Based Curriculum

Opening

- Begin with a brief welcome and prayer to set the tone for the group time.
- Introduce the theme: Today we're talking about purpose—not in the way the world defines it (success, status, or self-fulfillment)—but as God defines it: partnering with Him to bring order and reflect His heart in a broken world.

Discussion Questions

CONNECT

- When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up? Has your sense of purpose changed since then?
- What's something you enjoy doing—even if it's challenging or tiring—that feels deeply satisfying afterward? Why do you think that is?

DISCOVER

Read Genesis 1:26-28 and Genesis 2:15 together as a group

- According to these passages, what responsibilities did God give humans? What does this reveal about God's original design for our purpose?
- Genesis 2 says God didn't bring growth to the land until humans were there to work it. What does that say about God's desire to partner with us?
- Read Matthew 26:36–44. Compare Jesus' prayer in the garden to Adam and Eve's decision in Eden. What do these two garden scenes show us about obedience, surrender, and purpose?

APPLY

- The sermon pointed out that work is not a curse, but because of sin, work is cursed. How does that reshape your perspective on your daily responsibilities or vocation?

- What's one area of your life – home, work, school, relationships – where you feel God might be inviting you to bring order and healing?
 - Which of the five practical responses below most resonates with you right now? Why?
 - **Pray like Jesus prayed** – Seek God's will with honesty and persistence
 - **Be faithful in the silence** – Stay obedient even when direction feels unclear
 - **Govern your garden** – Steward what's already in your care
 - **Govern like God** – Reflect God's character in how you lead or influence
 - **Buckle up!** – Prepare to surrender control and follow even when it's hard
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RESPOND

- Take a moment to reflect silently or journal:
 - Am I chasing my own purpose or partnering with God to build His kingdom?
 - What's one way I can say "Not my will, but Yours be done" this week?
 - Challenge: Each day this week, pray, "Lord, not my will, but Yours be done." Keep a note of any decisions or moments where that prayer guided you differently.
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GROUP PRAYER

- **Thank God for Purpose:** Thank God for the honor of choosing us as His partners
 - **Pray for Submission to His Will:** Ask for clarity, humility, and boldness to live out His will
 - **Pray for Direction:** Pray for any group members struggling with decisions, purpose, or surrender.
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CLOSING

Encourage everyone to think about next week's topic: What does it mean to "worship in spirit and in truth?" [John 4:23-24]