

Chi Alpha Fall Retreat

“God’s Purpose for Your Life”

I. What are we?

Ephesians 1:3-14

chosen	
sealed	heirs/ sons/ daughters
blessed	pre-destined
full of grace	pleasurable to Him
holy and blameless	knowledgable about his will
forgiven	adopted

II. Why do we do what we do?

Colossians 3:17

“Whatever you do in word or in deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him”

I Corinthians 10:3

“Whether you eat or drink, or whatsoever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”

Romans 12:1

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to the Lord, which is your spiritual act of worship.”

III. How are we called?

Who? Doing what? How called? Ref.

Moses	shepherd	burning bush	Ex. 3:7-10
Gideon	in the winepress	angel	Judges 6:12-14
Abram	with family	voice of God	Gen. 12:1
David	shepherd	Prophet	I Sam. 16:1-12
Isaiah	alone	Vision	Isaiah 6
Ezekiel	among exiles	Vision	Ezekiel 1
Paul	Pharisee	On the Road	Acts 9:3-6
Disciples	Tradesmen	Called out of a crowd	Mark 3:13

What do they all have in common?

- 1.) They weren't asking for it
 - 2.) The call was obvious
 - 3.) There was nothing special about them
 - 4.) They were called to be leaders
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IV. Non-Full-Time Ministry Vocations

Esther-

WHO: Queen who saves her people

HOW: Her Uncle comes to her

REF: **Esther 4:12-14** "For such a time as this"

Daniel and Friends-

WHO: Children of Captives / King's advisors

HOW: Forced to stay in the King's house in Persia

REF: **Daniel 1**

Bezaleel and Aholiab-

WHO: Goldworkers, Craftsmen for the temple

HOW: God spoke to Moses

REF: **Exodus 35:30-35**

V. How should we fulfill our role (ministry or non)?

I Thessalonians 4:11

Endeavor to live a quiet life, working with your hands, so your works can testify to others

Acts 18:3

Paul, though he was an evangelist/apostle, he worked as a tentmaker to not be a burden on others

***Vocation-** What you most need to do and what the world most needs done.

***Vocation-** An outward, visible sign of our sacramental partnership with God

VI. Who am I supposed to be?

"Know Thyself." Augustine

Self Evaluation Worksheet:

- 1.) I feel I have the ability to...

- 2.) My strongest natural ability is...
- 3.) Abilities I desire to develop or mature are...
- 4.) How would I describe my spiritual life at this point...
- 5.) What are significant experiences that have shaped my heart for ministry and service?
- 6.) What are some painful times in my life that I could use to help empathize/sympathize with others?
- 7.) What are my current areas of activity/service?
- 8.) What are some people groups I have affinity/passion/remote concern for?

(For a complete worksheet see Dan Guenther)

Analyzing the results:

- 1.) *Know your abilities-*
Every ability can be used for God's glory
- 2.) *Know your weaknesses-*
*Disillusionment- "The dissing of illusions"
*Don't live in the dream, weaknesses are often the working of the Holy Spirit
***II Corinthians 12-** God's grace is sufficient for us, His strength is made perfect in our weaknesses
- 3.) *Know your experiences-*
This first hand knowledge can provide guidance for others in similar situations or create empathy/sympathy that is very effective in ministry
- 4.) *Be confident that God is speaking to you-*
Psalms 32:8
Psalms 25:9
James 1:5
- 5.) *Know that you need help-*
Ask for mature advice
Wait- seek God

VII. Booklist

"The Purpose Driven Life"- Warren
 "The Pursuit of God"- Tozer
 "Out of the Saltshaker and into the World"- Manley-Pippert
 "What Color is your Parachute?"- Bowles
 "Choices"- Reinhart
 "Out of Solitude"-Nouwen
 "The Practice in the Presence of God"- Lawrence
 "Finding the Career that Fits You"- Burkett
 "Life on the Edge"- Dobson
 "Mere Christianity"- Lewis

VIII. What are we here for anyway?

Ephesians 2:10

We are created for good works
You were put on this Earth to make a contribution

Romans 7:14

You were raised from the dead to bear fruit to God

We are called to

- change the world
- give ourselves

"Give up your small ambitions; come with me to save the world!"

I Corinthians 10:31

Do everything for the glory of God

I Corinthians 9:19

I am a servant to everyone to bring them to Christ

IX. How do I decide on a life path?

Can I be passionate about it?
Will it bring glory to God?
Is it constructive and beneficial?
Is it characteristic of the world or the Father?
Will it lead me into temptation?
Does it adversely affect others?
Does it make me self-reliant or prideful?
Can I care about the people I would work with?
How much confirmation do I have from others?

X. What characteristics should I possess as a Christian seeking God's will in my life?

1.) Be Hard-working:

I Thessalonians 4:11-12

Work with your hands so you are not dependent on others

II Thessalonians 3:6-13

Don't be idle, don't be a burden on others, never tire of doing what is right

Ephesians 4:28

Be as useful as you can be, share with those in need

Proverbs 6:6-11

Go to the ant and observe how he labors without a taskmaster

Ecclesiastes 2:17-22

Typical of work done without God's guidance or direction: All was in vain, nothing he worked for meant anything to him, his mind was on earthly things

How do I apply this as a student?

Do my share in group projects
No cheating/plagiarism
Go to every class
Be on time to class/ assignments
Time management skills

2.) Participate in Evangelism

Who is in my life?

Who should I be praying for?

-Spend time with those people
-Purposeful partying
-Know the gospel

The Gospel:

I Peter 1:16

God is Holy and Loving

John 3:16

Romans 3:23

Man is sinful and separated

Isaiah 59:2

I Peter 3:18

Jesus is the merciful redeemer

John 1:12-13

Faith in Jesus

Acts 2:38

3.) Be involved in the Church

I Corinthians 12:12-

We are all one Body. The Universal Church is every Christian, the Local Church is in our community

Galatians 6:10-

As we have opportunity, let us do good