

# Small Group Guide: QUESTIONS-WISDOM-THEOLOGY - Why Are We Here?

## Opening Question

What is one household item you have used as a tool even though it definitely was not made for that purpose?

## Opening Prayer

*God, thank You for bringing us together today. Help us to slow down, listen well, and be open to what You want to show us. As we talk about purpose, service, and living for Your kingdom, guide our conversation and encourage each person here. In Jesus' name, amen.*

## Key Takeaways from the Sermon

**God created each of us with purpose.** We are not random or accidental; God shaped us and designed us for meaningful kingdom impact.

**Living outside of God's purpose leads to frustration.** Like using the wrong tool for the wrong job, life becomes more difficult and confusing when we are not living according to God's design.

**Purpose brings energy, direction, and hope.** When we understand that God has plans for us, it changes how we approach each day.

**Believers are saved to serve.** Ministry is not only for pastors or church staff. Every follower of Jesus is called to serve others and participate in God's work.

**God uses our SHAPE.** Our spiritual gifts, heart, abilities, personality, and experiences can help us understand where and how God may want to use us.

**Availability matters.** If we are too busy or too focused on our own agenda, we may miss opportunities God places in front of us.

**Jesus is our model.** He came not to be served, but to serve, and He came to seek and save the lost. Our purpose is connected to His mission.

## Discussion Questions

1. **Read Ephesians 2:10.** What does it mean that we are God's workmanship? How does that shape the way we view our purpose?
2. **Read Jeremiah 29:10-11.** God spoke these words to the Israelites living in exile in Babylon, assuring them that He had not abandoned them and would eventually restore them. What does this passage teach us about God's faithfulness, even when His people face difficult circumstances?
3. **Read 1 Peter 4:10.** Why does Peter connect our gifts with serving others? What are some examples of gifts people can use to bless the church or community?
4. **Read Matthew 20:28.** Jesus said He came not to be served, but to serve. How does that challenge the way our culture often defines success or purpose?
5. **Read Luke 19:10.** Pastor Dan said Jesus' business was to seek and save the lost. What are some simple ways believers can participate in that mission in everyday life?
6. Pastor Dan used the example of tools being used for the wrong purpose. Why do people sometimes end up living for things that do not truly satisfy?
7. The sermon described three levels of living: survival, success, and significance. What is the difference between success and significance from a biblical perspective?
8. Pastor Dan said the enemy of compassion is often busyness. What are some practical ways Christians can stay available to God even with full schedules?

## Practical Applications (Choose one or two.)

1. **Pray each morning, 'Lord, make me available today.'** Ask God to help you notice opportunities to encourage, serve, or pray for someone.
2. **Identify one part of your SHAPE.** Think about your spiritual gifts, heart (what are you passionate about?), abilities, personality, and experiences. Ask how God could use these things to bless others.
3. **Serve someone in a simple way this week.** Look for a practical need at home, church, work, school, or in your neighborhood, and take one step to help.
4. **Create space for interruption.** Leave a little margin in your schedule so you are not too rushed to respond when someone needs encouragement or help.
5. **Evaluate what is driving you.** Reflect on whether comfort, success, fear, approval, or Christ is shaping your choices, and ask God to realign your heart with His purpose.

## Memory Verse for This Week

**Ephesians 2:10** - 'For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.'

## Closing Prayer

*Lord, thank You for reminding us that our lives have purpose in You. Help us not to live only for survival or success, but for significance in Your kingdom. Show us how You have shaped us, and give us willing hearts to serve others. Make us available this week, even when it means being interrupted. Use our lives to point people to Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen.*