

PART 3

The Purpose

Theologian Frederick Buechner once said, “The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” Greg puts it another way: “Somewhere between your dreams and the things that give you righteous indignation is probably your purpose.” In other words, your purpose is discovered by what stirs your heart—for example, righteous indignation over suffering or injustice plus your dreams to make a positive difference in that situation. This is what God’s Kingdom is all about. This is the grand story where all things are healed and love governs everything. And you play an important role in this story.

Day 1

Assignment

Watch the video “The Purpose”.

Reflection and Practice

1. Contemplate Greg’s statement, “Somewhere between your dreams and the things that give you righteous indignation is probably your purpose.” What problems or situations in your community do you find yourself most upset about? Write down as many as come to you. Then pick the top two that have repeatedly weighed on your heart the most over a period of time, such as the past several months or years. Why do you think these two are particularly important to you?
2. Greg says our ability to imagine possibilities is important for making positive changes— “we can take creativity, we can take invention, and there’s no boundaries put around that.” In other words, the sky is the limit when it comes to creative solutions! Spend some time daydreaming possible solutions to one of the two problems you named above. Visualize yourself (like a movie in your mind) taking action to make the situation better. What specific actions do you picture yourself taking?

Part 3: The Purpose

Day 2

Assignment

Watch the video “The Purpose”.

Reflection and Practice

1. What is Greg’s purpose? How has faith played a role in his career choice? Be specific. What about Phoebe? What is her purpose, and how has faith played a role her job?
2. Many of us mistakenly believe the only way to really live out our faith is to become a pastor, missionary, or ministry leader. But Phoebe points out, “The whole world—everything in it—is the Lord’s and every career can be in service of the wider story of building the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.” What assumptions have you had about the relationship between faith and a career?

Day 3

Reflection and Practice

1. You are uniquely capable of contributing to the common good by the way God has created you. As Greg states, “We need the gift that’s in you.” What gifts and abilities do you have? Make a list of as many you can think of.
2. Ask a trusted friend and mentor to tell you what gifts and abilities they notice in you. Perhaps you and your conversational partner(s) might choose to write these down on a piece of paper to give to each other as a reminder.

Part 3: The Purpose

Day 4

Assignment

Watch the video “Offering Myself Wholeheartedly” a third time.

Reflection and Practice

1. Greg’s work involves helping youth discover “you’re created in the image and likeness of God.” Why does this self-awareness matter for the vocational futures of these youth? Why is this realization crucial for your future as well?
2. The youth in Greg’s program memorize and recite an affirmation. Stop and rewind the video to listen to it three times. Then come up with your own creative daily affirmation that you can begin memorizing. Read or recite it to your conversational partner(s).

Day 5

Reflection and Practice

1. Just as you are made in the image of God, so is everyone you meet, even people who might annoy you. God loves all of humanity, and so practicing faithful presence means acting with love toward those who are different from you. Who do you know in your school, workplace, or community that is different than you? Maybe they have a different skin color or different religious or political belief or lifestyle than you. Write down a prayer in your journal, asking God to bless this person with good things. Then find a way to show kindness to that person today or the next time you see them.

Day 6

Reflection and Practice

1. Greg and Phoebe grew up in the same town, but they have very different backgrounds and life experiences. Yet, they are working together. In fact, their differences enhance the work they do together. Write down the ways Greg and Phoebe are collaborating. Be specific. What are specific positive outcomes from their working together?
2. Greg and Phoebe remind us that we don't have to shoulder the problems in the world all by ourselves. We can carry the burdens together in creative and surprising ways. What would it look like for different groups in your community to work together on solutions that benefit everyone? Brainstorm and write down as many creative scenarios you can think of, even if it seems impossible or unrealistic to achieve. Remember, God can do more than we ask or imagine! (Eph 3:20).

