



Video Curriculum Leader Study Guides

For use by all 40 Days of Promise™
Small Groups

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40 Days of PROMISE™

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“Purposes”

Week 1

“Promises”

Video Notes

John 10:10

“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

1 John 5:14-15

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us – whatever we ask – we know that we have what we asked of him.”

**IF WHAT I PRAY FOR IS _____ HE
PROMISES TO _____ IT TO ME.**

Joshua 23:14

“You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed”.

Isaiah 55:10-11

“As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”

THE 1st PURPOSE OF MY LIFE IS TO

_____ **GOD**

Hebrews 13:15

“Through Jesus . . . let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise . . .”

THE 2nd PURPOSE OF MY LIFE IS TO

_____ **OTHER PEOPLE THE WAY JESUS LOVES ME**

1 Peter 1:22

“Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.”

THE 3rd PURPOSE OF MY LIFE IS TO

_____ **IN CHRIST**

2 Peter 3:18

“ . . . grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

THE 4th PURPOSE OF MY LIFE IS TO

WHOLEHEARTEDLY _____ GOD AND OTHERS

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.”

THE 5th PURPOSE OF MY LIFE IS TO

_____ **OTHER PEOPLE ABOUT JESUS**

Mark 16:15

“He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.”

GOD'S PROMISE REGARDING WRITING OUT SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 17:18-20

“ When he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the priests, who are Levites. It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the LORD his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees and not consider himself better than his brothers and turn from the law to the right or to the left. Then he and his descendants will reign a long time over his kingdom in Israel.”

Discussion Questions – Week 1

NOTES:

2. “Promissory Note”

3. No!

5. “the promiser”

6.

- *Who* is making the promise
 - *Who* is the promise for

Again, what two “who’s” should be asked of every one of God’s promises? Why?

11. Informally solicit and discuss the survey results (e.g., “Let me see a show of hands, how many ranked Worship the easiest? Most difficult? How about Fellowship?” . . . and so on).

12.

Reverence

Consistency

Obedience

Humility

Success

1. What is a promise?
2. When you borrow money from a bank, what is the document you sign referred to as? What does it mean?
3. Does everyone honor their promise to pay?
4. What does that tell you about promises?
5. Fill-in-the-blank: A promise is only as good as _____.
6. What two “Who’s” should be asked of every promise?
 - *Who* _____ ?
 - *Who* _____ ?
7. What is the risk of believing a promise that is not true? Examples?
8. What is the risk of not believing a promise that is true? Examples?
9. Is the Bible full of “promissory notes”? Name a few.
10. T or F: God keeps His promises! Testimonies to that fact?
11. Let’s take a survey: rank God’s five purposes in order of difficulty for you (1 – easiest, 5 – most difficult):
 - Worship – _____
 - Fellowship – _____
 - Discipleship – _____
 - Ministry – _____
 - Evangelism – _____
12. What is the promise specific to each purpose?
 - Worship – _____
 - Fellowship – _____
 - Discipleship – _____
 - Ministry – _____
 - Evangelism – _____
13. Which of those promises is most attractive to you? Why?

“Worship” **Week 2** “Reverence”

Video Notes

DON'T FORGET TO #1 **EACH DAY BEFORE YOU WRITE OUT THE WORD**

Psalm 119:18 *“Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.”*

Luke 24:45 *“Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.”*

John 14:26 *“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”*

DON'T FORGET TO SPEAK THE WORD #2 **AS YOU WRITE**

Romans 10:17 *“... faith comes from hearing the message ...”*

Hebrews 11:6 *“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”*

John 14:12 *“I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”*

DON'T FORGET TO #3 **ON THE LIFE-CHANGING TRUTHS YOU'VE WRITTEN**

James 1:22 *“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”*

IT IS _____ **TO ACCUMULATE KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT ACTING ON IT!**

THE FIRST PURPOSE OF MY LIFE IS TO _____ **GOD**

Hebrews 13:15 *“Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that confess his name.”*

Revelation 3:15-16 *“I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm – neither hot nor cold – I am about to spit you out of my mouth.”*

Discussion Questions – Week 2

NOTES:

3. Similar to ignoring the instructions in a manual. Testimonies?

4. Examples:
- Pharisees
- Ignoring a diagnosis of cancer

6. Note *Day 2*

6. Discuss what each nets you in the business world con-cept of “return on investment”.

7. Reasons

- Ease of access
- Covenant
- Reminder of God’s law (e.g., Josiah in 2 Kings 22 (note chapter heading & vv. 1-3, 8, 10, 11)
- Deterrent to sin (discuss how David might have responded differently to Bathsheba **if** he literally and figuratively had the Word with him.)

8. Reasons

- Busy
- Lazy
- Arrogant
- Priorities
- Lack of understanding

CONNECTIONS: How does honoring God’s **Purpose** of *Worship* then fulfill His **Promise** of *Reverence*? How is music, a common theme in this week’s reading, connected to *Worship* and *Reverence*?

1. Step 2 is to speak the Word out loud as you write. How does hearing God’s Word spoken in your own voice build your faith?
2. Does speaking the Word out loud as you write work toward “taming the tongue” (James 3:8)?
3. We are admonished to “act on the life-changing truths” we have written. What happens if we do act on His Word? If we do not act on His Word? (James 1:23-25)
4. “It is lethal to accumulate knowledge without acting on it!” Is that overstated? Too strong? Examples in Scripture and/or real life?
5. What is the value of “head knowledge”?
6. The first purpose of my life is to worship God.
 - What does worship “look like”? Is it music based only?
 - What does “perfunctory praise”, a.k.a. “going through the motions”, look like?
 - Can other people discriminate between genuine and perfunctory praise? God?
 - What does each type of worship, genuine and perfunctory, net you?
 - Discuss the following statement: “Praise is the plow that turns the soil of your heart to receive the Word of God.”
 - Who is worship for?
7. Discuss at least four possible reasons why would God command His kings to personally write out His Word each day and keep their copy with them?
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
8. Discuss at least four possible reasons why many of Israel’s kings did not obey God’s command to write out His Word?
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
9. Answer the skeptic’s questions: “Why should I write out the Word? Why should I be a *Writer of the Light*™?”

Video Notes

**THE SECOND PURPOSE OF MY LIFE IS TO LOVE
OTHER PEOPLE THE _____ LOVES ME**

1 Peter 1:22 “... love one another deeply, from the heart.”

Five Keys to Unlocking Meaningful Relationships



SPEND _____ WITH ONE ANOTHER

Acts 2:46 “Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts. . .”



BE _____ TO ONE ANOTHER

Ephesians 4:16 “. . . speaking the truth in love. . .”



_____ TOGETHER REGULARLY AND _____

Hebrews 10:25 “Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”



BE _____ AND _____ TO ONE ANOTHER’S NEEDS

James 2:15-16 “Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, ‘Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?”

Ephesians 4:29 “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”



TREAT ONE ANOTHER THE WAY _____ WOULD LIKE TO BE TREATED

Matthew 7:12 “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”

NOTES:

v.1 If an action is not motivated by love, all be it a “good” action, you’re just making irritating noise.

v.3 NOTE: the recipient benefits, but not the giver

3. “What you do speaks so loudly I can’t hear what you’re saying.”

4. NO. Re: quality – 30 min. once per week is not enough. Re: quantity – 60 min. daily in front of the TV w/o talking is not enough. Must have quality and quantity.

5. Work, school, church, sports, music lessons, etc.

6. It’s about **choices!**

8. **Succeed:** time, trust, truth, transparency, tough questions, mutual agreement, confidentiality, a relationship, *listening*
Fail: rudeness, bluntness, apathy, lack of commitment, deceit, different standard, *hearing but not listening*

9. The Bible!

10. Moral failure, sin, etc. Use an example from current events (e.g., Kobe Bryant)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – WEEK 3

CONNECTIONS: How does honoring God’s **Purpose** of *Fellowship* then fulfill His **Promise** of *Obedience*? How is the command to love, a common theme in this week’s reading, connected to *Fellowship* and *Obedience*?

LOVE

1. Have someone read 1 Corinthians 13:1-8. Discuss the following questions:
 - What is the meaning of the reference to “a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal” in v. 1?
 - What does v. 3 indicate about the value of good deeds apart from love?
 - Are good deeds enough? Where do motives fit?
 - What are the traits of love in vv. 1-8 are we to aspire to?

T-I-M-E

2. Someone quipped, probably a country music songwriter, that you spell love T-I-M-E. Is that true or false? Why?
3. C. Swindoll stated “Your deeds either deny or underscore the doctrines you claim.” How does that quote apply to telling someone you love them but seldom spending time with them?
4. Is quality time (apart from quantity) enough? Is quantity time (apart from quality) enough?
5. What are some of the ways our busy lives rob us of the time we need to love one another?
6. Discuss and respond to Dr. James Dobson’s . . . “Prescription for a happier, healthier life: resolve to slow your pace; learn to say no gracefully; resist the temptation to chase after more pleasures, hobbies, and social entanglements. You must ‘hold the line’ . . . blocking out the intruders and defending the home team. Three questions should be asked about every new activity that presents itself:
 - (1) Is it worthy of our time?
 - (2) What will be eliminated if it is added?
 - (3) What will be its impact on our family life?”

Accountability

7. “Be accountable to one another.” What does “accountability” mean to you?
8. What causes accountability to be successful? To fail?
9. In accountability, what same standard does each person hold the other person accountable to?
10. What are the risks of not being held accountable?

NOTES:

13. Ask different members of the group to look up, read, and answer each
Jn. 13 – Love
Rom. 12 – Honor
Rom. 15 – Instruct
Gal. 5 – Serve
Eph. 5 – Submit to
Col. 3 – Forgive
1 The 5 – Encourage
Heb. 10 – Spur on

15. “Me!”,
“Mine!”

17. Salvations,
needs met, lives
touched, etc...

Worship

- 11. Regarding worship, some would say “I don’t need to go to church or small group; I can get all I need from my own personal study.” How would you respond to that?
- 12. What insights does Hebrews 10:24-25 from The Message™ provide?
“Let’s see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshiping together as some do but spurring each other on . . .”
- 13. The New Testament is full of references to the concept of “one anothering”. Below is just an excerpt of some of those references. Look up and fill in the blank for each.
John 13:34 _____ one another Eph. 5:21 _____ one another
Rom. 12:10 _____ one another Col. 3:13 _____ one another
Rom. 15:14 _____ one another 1 Thes. 5:11 _____ one another
Gal. 5:13 _____ one another Heb. 10:24 _____ one another
- 14. How important and valuable are the actions in the list above? Can you do them alone?

Responsive

- 15. One of the most powerful quotes and concepts from “The Purpose Driven Life” is the phrase “It’s not about you.” How “natural” is it for you to live life as if “It’s not about you.”? HINT: What are a child’s first two pronouns when they begin to speak?
- 16. Michael W. Smith sings a worship chorus that repeats “It’s all about you Jesus.” How would it change us if we sincerely sang “It’s not about me Jesus”?
- 17. In “Next Door Savior”, Max Lucado relates “A woman in a small Arkansas community was a single mom with a frail baby. Her neighbor would stop by every few days and keep the child so she could shop. After some weeks her neighbor shared more than time; she shared her faith, and the woman did what Matthew [the apostle] did. She followed Christ. The friends of the young mother objected. ‘Do you know what those people teach?’ they contested. ‘Here is what I know,’ she told them. ‘They held my baby.’”

Question, what is the impact of being sensitive and responsive to one another’s needs?

The “Golden Rule”

- 18. Regarding the “Golden Rule”, a child asked his father: “Dad, if I don’t mind Sissy hitting me back, is it okay to punch her when I’m mad. Is that what the Golden Rule means?” How would you respond?
- 1. *“Here is a simple, rule-of-thumb guide for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you, then grab the initiative and do it for them. . . .”* (Matthew 7:12 from The Message™) What is so difficult about Jesus’ “simple, rule-of-thumb guide”?

Video Notes

THE THIRD PURPOSE OF MY LIFE IS TO _____ IN CHRIST

2 Corinthians 10:12

“We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise.”

1 Peter 2:21-23

“To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. ‘He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.’ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.”

2 Peter 3:18

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Seven Steps to Solid Discipleship

PUT GOD AHEAD OF _____ AND _____ ELSE

Matthew 6:33

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

SPEND TIME _____ IN GOD’S WORD

Job 23:12

“I have not departed from the commands of his lips; I have treasured the words of his [God’s] mouth more than my daily bread.”

PRAY _____ AND _____

1 Thessalonians 5:17-18

“ . . . pray continually; . . . for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”

_____ YOUR MIND, MAKING IT _____ TO CHRIST

2 Corinthians 10:5

“ . . . we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE A _____ OF _____

Philippians 3:20-21

“But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.”

STAY FOCUSED ON _____

Hebrews 12:2

“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

_____ YOURSELF TO THE WILL OF GOD

Hebrews 12:9

“How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live!”

NOTES:

3. NOTE: they are in fact simple, but not easy.

4. Grace AND knowledge

6. “all fruit, no root”
“all root, no fruit”

7. **Why?** It’s a cultural thing – we are measured in school, sports, etc.

How? Appearance, job, possessions, talents, etc.

Who alone . . .
God w/ Christ as the standard

#1. Competition:
God vs. Self

Money, time,
priorities, etc...

#3. There are times when you have made a subject / class priority and you have read / studied the material diligently and you still have a question(s).
Prayer is like going directly to the author (i.e., God) of the textbook and asking a specific question(s) directly.

Discussion Questions – Week 4

CONNECTIONS: How does honoring God’s **Purpose** of *Discipleship* then fulfill His **Promise** of *Consistency*? How is knowledge, a common theme in this week’s reading, connected to *Discipleship* and *Consistency*?

1. Discuss and list what is required to successfully grow a rose.
2. Generally speaking, by definition is growth easy? Worth the effort?
3. Regarding the “Seven Steps to Solid Discipleship” – simple? Easy? “Do-able”?
4. The memory verse, 2 Peter 3:18, admonishes us to grow in two things, what are they?

_____ **AND** _____

5. Why is it imperative that we grow in **BOTH** aspects?
6. Fill in the blanks using the words *fruit* and *root*:
 - If you grow only in grace and not knowledge, you could be described as all _____ and no _____.
 - If you grow only in knowledge and not grace, you could be described as all _____ and no _____.
7. 2 Corinthians 10:12 admonishes us not to compare ourselves to other Christians.
 - Why and how do we compare ourselves to others?
 - When measuring our self against someone else, what standard do we use?
 - Who alone can measure our growth and what standard is used?

#1: Put God Ahead of Everything and Everyone Else

- What does it look like to put God first? Simple? Easy?
- What competition is involved here? _____ vs. _____
- What areas of life should be surrendered to God?
- What one area is particularly difficult for you to put God first? Why?

#2: Spend Time Each Day In God’s Word”

- Is being a *Writer of the Light*TM helping you be more consistent in your daily devotions? If so, how and why?
- Is being a *Writer of the Light*TM a privilege or an obligation? The difference?
- What benefits have you personally gleaned from being a *Writer of the Light*TM?

#3: Pray Frequently and Often

- Using the analogy of going to college, if “Putting God ahead of everything and everyone else” equates to making a specific subject/class priority; and “Spending time each day in God’s Word” equates to reading and studying the textbook, what is prayer?

NOTES:

Choice – what we think about is our choice

Satan – “flaming arrows” are the thoughts Satan bombards us with

Filter – You compare every thought to the traits in Phil. 4:8 and those that don’t match those criteria are “filtered out” and rejected (e.g., thoughts of fear fail this test)

Note “He chose” in v. 25.

Optimist vs. Pessimist

“you won’t sink”

#7. Bullet 2
Saul (Paul) in Acts 26:14

#4: Discipline Your Mind, Making It Obedient to Christ

- What does it mean to “take captive every thought”?
- How does 2 Corinthians 10:5 from The Message™ increase understanding?

“We use our powerful God-tools for smashing warped philosophies, tearing down barriers erected against the truth of God, fitting every loose thought and emotion and impulse into the structure of life shaped by Christ.”
- What insights do the following verses provide:
 - Colossians 3:2 ✂ “Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”

The _____ is ours!
 - Ephesians 6:16 ✂ “. . . take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.”

The source of my unacceptable thoughts is _____ .
 - Philippians 4:8 ✂ “Summing it all up, friends, I’d say you’ll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious – the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse.” (The Message™)

The Bible is a trustworthy _____ .

#5: Always Remember That You Are a Citizen of Heaven

- Philippians 3:20-21 indicates that our “citizenship is in Heaven.” Being a citizen of Heaven and only “visiting” earth, do you sometimes feel like a foreigner here? How? Why?
- How does remembering where home is influence how you act as a visitor?
- According to Hebrews 11:24-26, how did Moses’ understanding of his citizenship influence his decisions?

#6: Stay Focused on Jesus

- What does it mean to “focus”?
- How does what you focus on impact you?
- Why should we focus on Jesus?
- What is to be gleaned from the account of Peter walking on the water (John 6:15-21)?

If you keep your eyes on Jesus, you won’t _____ .

#7: Surrender Yourself to the Will of God

- How hard is it for you to let go of your own will (your way) and surrender to God’s will (His way)? Why?
- Does it help to know that God is going to accomplish His will with or without your surrender? How does it help?
- Do you have any “surrendering tips” to share?

Video Notes

**THE FOURTH PURPOSE OF MY LIFE IS TO
WHOLEHEARTEDLY _____ GOD AND OTHERS**

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.”*

Matthew 20:26-28

*“. . .whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever
wants to be first must be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served,
but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

#1 BE _____ AND _____ IN EVERYTHING YOU DO FOR GOD

1 Corinthians 4:2

“Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.”

**#2 MAKE IT YOUR AIM TO PLEASE _____ NOT
TO _____ FROM OTHERS**

Matthew 6:1

*“Be careful not to do your ‘acts of righteousness’ before men, to be seen by them.
If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.”*

**#3 NEVER LET YOUR LIMITATIONS _____ YOU TO
WHAT GOD CAN DO _____ YOU**

Jeremiah 32:27

“I am the LORD , the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?”

Psalms 118:7

“The LORD is with me; he is my helper. I will look in triumph on my enemies.”

Philippians 4:13

“I can do everything through him who gives me strength.”



I FALL ON MY FACE WHEN I . . .

. . . ATTEMPT TO SERVE IN MY _____ .

. . . ATTEMPT TO SERVE WITH _____ IN MY LIFE.

Isaiah 59:2

*“But your iniquities have separated you from your God;
your sins have hidden his face from you,
so that he will not hear.”*

. . . ATTEMPT A MINISTRY THAT IS NOT YET GOD’S _____ .

Psalms 31:15

“My times are in your hands. . .”

. . . TRY SOMETHING GOD DOESN’T _____ ME TO DO.

GOD HELPS THOSE WHO ARE ENGAGED IN _____ !

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

“Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things – and the things that are not – to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.”

NOTES:

1. According to the Barna Research Group: **a:** 20%
b: 27% in 1991
20% in 2001
2. HINT: (1) topic of Rick Warren's book (**Purposes**), (2) topic of Signature Bible™ (**Promises**)
3. Analogy – homework: makes it personal & provides focus, motivation, boundaries, accountability, etc.
5. willing heart; availability
6. No, and not as much as we need an assignment from Him
7. No – picking up trash, changing diapers, etc.
9. Willingness – YES because it gives someone else the opportunity to serve
10. A willingness to serve reveals the persons motive
11. Difference in
- awareness of need
- spiritual maturity
- appreciation (i.e., take if for granted)
- gratitude
- awareness of value of serving
- focus on self
12. As John Ortberg, author and former Willow Creek teaching pastor noted, “either way, you're out”
13. tired, stressed, obligated, drained, unfulfilled, etc.
15. God does!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – WEEK 5

CONNECTIONS: How does honoring God's **Purpose** of *Ministry* then fulfill His **Promise** of *Humility*? How are motives, a common theme in this week's reading, connected to *Ministry* and *Humility*?

1. Trivia questions:
 - What percentage of Christians serve at their church? _____ %
 - How has that number changed in the last decade? _____
2. What distinguishes service from obligation, service from drudgery?
God's **P** _____ and God's **P** _____
3. How does understanding that serving is an assignment from God and not an obligation change its meaning?
4. How does it impact your attitude and decisions when you know the one asking you to do something would never ask you do anything he or she hasn't already done? Is that God's approach?
5. Which is more important: giftedness or a willing heart? Ability or availability?
6. Does God need our help?
7. Does your service have to be grand in scale? In a church, what types of serving are not grand in scale but still important?
8. Share among the group how it felt when you were served. When you served.
9. Would you rather serve . . . or BE served? Is a willingness to be served important?
10. Could you ever truly trust someone who was unwilling to serve you? Ask another way, what is it about serving that builds and fosters trust?
11. According to statistics, only 20% of people volunteer in church. What is the difference in understanding between the 20% who serve and the 80% who don't?
12. How would you respond to someone who states resolutely “I'd rather burnout than rust out!”? How did Jethro respond to Moses in Exodus 18:13-19?
13. “Draw a picture” of peoples' misconception of a servant. How would you respond to that image?
14. What if . . . No one notices your service? Thanks you for your service? Your service fails?
15. What insight does Ephesians 6:6-8 from The Message™ provide?
Don't just do what you have to do to get by, but work heartily, as Christ's servants doing what God wants you to do. And work with a smile on your face, always keeping in mind that no matter who happens to be giving the orders, you're really serving God. Good work will get you good pay from the Master, regardless of whether you are slave or free.
16. What is the intended message from a local church sign?

“Life is like a tennis match. The one who serves well seldom loses.”

Video Notes



STEP #3
**KEEP WRITING _____
ALL THE WAY
TO THE END OF YOUR
SIGNATURE BIBLE™**

STEP #2
**ASK GOD TO USE THE
BIBLE VERSES YOU ARE
WRITING TO GIVE YOU A

IN THAT AREA**

STEP #1
**IDENTIFY ONE AREA IN
YOUR LIFE YOU BELIEVE
GOD WANTS TO
_____**

Isaiah 55:11
“... so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”

**THE FIFTH PURPOSE OF MY LIFE ON THIS EARTH IS TO
_____ OTHER PEOPLE ABOUT JESUS**

Mark 16:15
“Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.”

Discussion Questions – Week 6

NOTES:

1. a U-Turn

3. #1 – Christians

5. Their perceptions (of us) and our inhibitions (of witnessing)

8. not forcing it upon them, it's a gift and you're giving the same thing you rec'd, it's your story and not someone else's, etc.

9. Note:
- 2 Cor. 5:20
- Eph. 6:19-20

10. fishing – because (1) it was their trade and (2) it is univer-sally understood

Insights: takes time, the bait is specific to the fish, you only offer the bait – you can't force them to take it, get the line wet, etc.

11. Good! The bait they are taking is truth!

14. Vary the approach (switch the bait) according to the audience

15. Vary the approach, but do not compromise the Gospel message!

CONNECTIONS: How does honoring God's **Purpose** of *Evangelism* then fulfill His **Promise** of *Success*? How is being among the lost, a common theme in this week's reading, connected to *Evangelism* and *Success*?

1. In general terms, what is a "180"? What is the "180" referred to in the video?
2. Now 40 days into it, have you begun the initial turn of your own "180"?
3. What is the #1 excuse "the lost" offer when challenged **with** the Gospel? Other excuses?
4. What excuses do "Christ ones" offer when challenged with **sharing** the Gospel?
5. Simple question . . . why is a "180" required of us personally?
6. Look back to Week 1, question 11 – what difficulty did you assign to "Evangelism"? How many of you assigned "Evangelism" a difficulty of 4 or 5? Observations?
7. Who do you generally find easiest to share the Gospel with? The most difficult? Why?
8. Why is "share" such an appropriate word for relating the Gospel?
9. Simply asked . . . why share the Gospel?
10. What analogy does Jesus use in Matthew 4:19 and why? What insights does Jesus' analogy provide?

"Come with me. I'll make a new kind of fisherman out of you. I'll show you how to catch men and women instead of perch and bass." The Message™
11. One of the risks of fishing is the fish may steal the bait. Is that good or bad? Why? Other risks?
12. T or F: Different kinds of people (i.e., fish) respond to different evangelism approaches (i.e., bait).
13. If you were not a Christian, what evangelism approach would be most effective with you?
14. Day 39 in *The Signature Bible*™ – ". . . I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some." (1 Cor. 9:22). What evangelism technique does Paul model for us?
15. What additional and critical insight on evangelism techniques does 1 Corinthians 9:22 from *The Message*™ provide?

". . . I didn't take on their way of life. I kept my bearings in Christ – but I entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view. I've become just about every sort of servant there is in my attempts to lead those I meet into a God-saved life."

Week 7





What: _____

When: _____

Where: _____

Leader Notes

- ❖ Content, format and flow piloted on two small groups. With the video and discussion material, you have about 70 – 90 minutes of material.
- ❖ Use the Leader Notes as needed. The Leader Notes will range from overkill (for those experienced as a small group facilitator) to a lifeline (for those just beginning to facilitate a small group).
- ❖ You have been given suggestions, answers to the questions, etc. in the margins to foster discussion. To facilitate discussion, don't just give them the answers (e.g., to the fill in the blanks), take a **few** moments of discussion to allow the group to discuss and arrive at the answers. If they are struggling, use the leader notes to “salt” the discussion.
- ❖ At the beginning of the “Discussion” portion of Weeks 2 – 6 there is a section labeled “Connections”. The purpose of that section and the discussion it should foster is to tie together Purpose  Promise  Theme.

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Promise</u>	<u>Theme</u>
▪ Worship	Reverence	Music
▪ Fellowship	Obedience	Command to Love
▪ Discipleship	Consistency	Knowledge
▪ Ministry	Humility	Motivation
▪ Evangelism	Success	Being among the lost

- ❖ Pray! Pray! Pray! Pray before you begin the discussion. Pray once the discussion is over, before the members of the small group leave.
- ❖ Conduct random and informal checks of people's participation in writing out the Word (e.g., How are you doing this week on writing out the Word?) and occasionally ask the group what they are gleaning from *40 Days of Promise*TM.
- ❖ You will notice there is a “Week 7 – Celebrate”. One of the purposes *40 Days of Promise*TM is to foster small groups in your church. Whether the small group you are facilitating is a group that existed before *40 Days of Promise*TM or it is a small group formed just for *40 Days of Promise*TM, you need celebrate all that has been accomplished in the previous 6 weeks. Why not schedule a celebration – a potluck dinner, dinner at a local restaurant, cookout at the park, etc.?
- ❖ Enjoy the experience!

40 Days of Promise™ - Pilot Quick Response

1. In a typical week BEFORE *40 Days of Promise*™, how many days of the week did you spend at least 5 minutes reading your Bible?
 Not at all 1 Day 2 Days 3 Days
 4 Days 5 Days 6 Days 7 Days

2. In a typical week DURING *40 Days of Promise*™, how many days of the week did you spend at least 5 minutes writing out the Word?
 Not at all 1 Day 2 Days 3 Days
 4 Days 5 Days 6 Days 7 Days

3. I would say writing out God's Word in *The Signature Bible*™ helped me understand the Bible:
 Less than reading it
 About the same as reading it
 Slightly better than merely reading it
 Significantly better than merely reading it
 At least twice as well as merely reading it
4. On a scale of 1-10, I would rate my closeness to God BEFORE *40 Days of Promise*™ as a _____.
5. On a scale of 1-10, I would rate my closeness to God AFTER *40 Days of Promise*™ as a _____.
6. Over the past 40 days, my understanding of my 5 purposes as a Christian has:
 Stayed about the same
 Increased somewhat
 Increased significantly
7. During the past 40 days of writing out God's Word, in how many of the following 5 promised areas have you already noticed that God is giving you least SOME growth? Please check all that apply:
 Reverence Obedience Humility
 Consistency God's Success

8. Do you intend to "Do a 180" and continue to write out the Word in your *Signature Bible*™?
 Yes No

9. If a future edition of *The Signature Bible*™ that allows me to write out additional books of the Bible becomes available, I will probably
 Buy It Not buy it

10. Specifically, what effect did *The Signature Bible*[™] have on your daily devotional time with God?
