



## Dgroup Discussion Guide for August 21, 2019 L.I.T.

Scripture: Matthew 5: 13-16

God did not design us to be stagnant. It is His will for us to continue moving but moving along with God. He has a plan for us for eternity. It should be our goal therefore to Him say “ well done good and faithful servant.”

The apostle Paul reminds us that ***For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*** 2 Corinthians 5:10. He further says in verse 6 ***Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord .***

Paul is telling us that we should focus our existence. It is important for us to know the WHY of our existence because if we do not know the purpose of our existence then we are just living to exist and not living with a purpose.

This is the sad truth: Many exist but only a few truly live.

Christianity gives us a reason to live and not just simply exist. It gives us a purpose – to live for HIS purpose in us.

Someone said *The tragedy of life is not death, but a life without purpose.* This is the sad reality of life. Many of us go about life without purpose. But it is important to clarify: it is not our purpose that matters, it is the purpose the that God has intended for us that matters. Each of us was created unique and different, which also means that God's purpose for each one of us in different and unique.

If we rely on our own understanding of our purpose then we may have a purpose but a wrong one. DL Moody said *Our greatest fear should not be of failure, but of succeeding at something that doesn't really matter.* Most of us are busy pursuing so many things but we never stop to ask : is this the assignment given to use by the Lord?

God doesn't want us to merely be busy. He wants us to accomplish His purpose for us.

***Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*** 2 Corinthians 5:17

It is God's purpose for us not to simply live but to live faithful to what we are meant to be. There is a new creation in us which God has ordained for greatness, in order for us to become witnesses for His glory.

What then is our purpose?

The first and most important verse in the bible is Genesis 1:1 ***In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*** This tells us that from the very beginning God has a reason, a purpose why He created us. We were not born by accident, we are designed for His purpose.

L – LORD      To glorify God, be intimate with Him and to show His image

If you want to know the purpose for your existence, do not start with your strength and weakness. Rather start with the One who created you.

***For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.*** Colossians 1: 16-17

Many people use GRACE as an excuse to continue to sin, but we have to remember that that GRACE is the same power that can enable us to resist ungodliness.

I – ILLUSTRATIVE          represent Jesus as salt and light

***You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*** Matthew 5:16-17

God is telling us that this world is decaying and that it is full of darkness. Many people search for satisfaction in materialism but they will never find it there. The only thing that can truly satisfy them is when they come to Jesus Christ because only He can fill that void. Our task is then to be the light and salt of the earth. To help others find Jesus, so that they can find satisfaction in Him. We content ourselves with our daily routines forgetting that when we truly live out the Christian life, our journey will be more more exciting. To truly experience God’s presence in our life, is something we should yearn for.

The only time we can be a light is when we are connected to Jesus. John 1:9 says ***There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.*** Jesus is the True Light, He is the fire that lights the lamp. We are the lamp, our job is to illuminate His light so that it will shine through the darkness. It is not of our own light, or our good works that people will see the light. It is through Jesus who is in us, that people will see His glory.

If Jesus is the Light and the Truth, then everyone who is connected to Him will exude both truth and light. This means that our presence at home, in school, in the workplace, in church or anywhere else should bring light and truth to others. Simply saying that people cannot see Jesus in us if we lie, cheat, steal or do anything ungodly. When people look at our lives they should only see honesty and truth. Our very presence should bring light and life to those who do not yet have a personal relationship with Jesus.

T – TIMELESSNESS          To be with God in eternity

Matthew 9:38-50

This verse reminds us that we should not allow anything to contaminate us. That our testimony should remain pure. And more importantly that nothing we say or do will cause others to stumble. If we foolishly use our time to judge others, to condemn others or preoccupy ourselves with our interests then we lose out on the opportunity to bring other to Jesus Christ.

Will it not be better if people notice how different we are in comparison to the world? This will then give us the opportunity to share to them about the transforming power of Jesus in our lives.

We have to remember that we are called to die to ourselves and to LIVE FOR JESUS.

If we want to become effective witnesses for Jesus then we have to surrender to God’s purpose. What is our reward? Jesus is our reward. And He is more than enough.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Have you truly asked God what his purpose is for you? Have you surrendered to God’s purpose for you?
2. How can you apply L.I.T.?
  - a. How is your relationship with God? How is he glorified in your life?
  - b. How are you light and salt to others?
  - c. How are you becoming a testimony to others?