

## Dreams, Desires, Decisions—A Look at Life Purpose

### **Bottom Line**

A life with purpose establishes the difference between a young person that will simply exist in this world and a young person that has what it takes to change the world! The world steps aside for an individual who is passionately living out a significant life purpose and mission. Most homeschoolers today never lack available opportunities. Instead, they struggle to confidently know which items on their to do lists are God-ordained. This session was intended to help students identify common themes within their individual, God-given life purpose and then confidently take action within their sphere of influence.

### **What Is Purpose?**

Dewey Novotny of [lifepurposeplanning.org](http://lifepurposeplanning.org) defines Life Purpose "... As your personal invitation to join God as He works in you and through you to bring Himself glory, minister to others, and grant eternal joy to you as a believer!"

Life purpose is not a formula but rather a prayerful methodology for daily decision-making and living based on the revealed will of God. Purpose implementation is faithful obedience to all (and only) that which God has called us to do along with who He is calling us to be. God created us to be human "beings" and not human "doings." Often when others want to know about us... we respond by recounting what we "do" but there is so much more....

### **Two Parts of Purpose**

- Knowing who you are
- Understanding how you're going to get there



**As a first generation homeschool graduate, Woody Robertson has been where most students are now and desires to help them wisely answer some of life's biggest questions concerning their future. A frequent motivational speaker at conferences nationwide, Woody thrives in rallying and organizing teams, families, and students for greater efficiency and impact in our culture today. In 2006, he earned his accredited BSBA in General Management in 18 months and now resides in San Antonio, Texas with his wife Gina: the girl of his dreams!**

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### **Man's Big Questions**

- What am I going to do?
- Where am I going to work?
- Whom am I going to marry?

Tip: These are important and big questions, but they still fall short when defining individual purpose. Your calling is bigger than a position acquired...no matter what it is. It's not about the "what," it's about the "why."

### **Man's Standard for Life**

- Possessions, Pleasures, Pride of Life Positions:  
If we're not careful we can get sucked into the idea that we're here for all that the world has to offer.

Part of understanding purpose is learning to be content. We begin by identifying where God has divinely placed us. We must learn to be content because if we're not content where we are now, we'll never be content where we want to be. Discontentment is often a distraction from discovering and living out our purpose.

### **Fast Facts about Today's "Adults"**

- More adults (ages eighteen to forty-nine) watch the Cartoon Network than watch CNN.
- The average video gamer was eighteen in 1990; now he's going on thirty.
- The National Academy of Sciences has redefined adolescence as the period extending from the onset of puberty, around twelve, to age thirty.
- Today, the average age for marriage is 28.1 (men) and 25.9 (women). It was 20 in 1950.
- Today's young person (born between 1980–2000) is labeled "Gen Y" (Millennials).  
Traits: Short-term minded, want things to happen fast, live for the here and now, used to being given things

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Kevin Swanson says: "we live in the age of unaccountability." We are in a fight against normality and mediocrity! It's not about "man's questions" or "man's ways"—it all starts with God! "[He] who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace" 2 Timothy 1:9.

- God planned and created your existence!
- God chose you!
- God has a special/individual purpose for your life!

#### **Purpose-Driven vs. Activity-Driven**

- Purpose-driven people have a goal and drive in life, a reason to live and wake up each morning!  
Activity-driven people live for the day and seek today's pleasures
- Purpose-driven people know where they want to go.  
Activity-driven people find themselves swayed by pressures and taken off course by the next opportunity
- Good / better / best, never let it rest until your good is better and your better is best.  
In order to be world changers, we have to make world-changing decisions. Our decisions impact our future. For every decision we say "yes" to, there are several that we have to say "no" to.

#### **Purpose Illustrations**

God has his own "want ad" for your life along with His own adventure!

- Ernest Shackleton—Antarctic Explorer  
"Men wanted for hazardous journey. Small wages. Bitter cold. Long months of complete darkness. Constant danger. Safe return doubtful. Honor and recognition in case of success."
- The Pony Express  
"Wanted: Young, skinny, wiry fellows not over eighteen. Must be expert riders, willing to risk death daily. Orphans preferred. Wages \$25 per week."

# Everything about our life tells a story!

## **People of the past and advice for the future:**

- Howard Hughes "I'd give it all up to enjoy one meal"
- Andrew Carnegie, when asked how much money is enough: "Just a little bit more."

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect" Romans 12:2.

## **Where do I begin?**

- Look inside  
What has God already shown you?
- Look back  
Projects, people, things that you've enjoyed
- Look around  
What opportunities is God opening up to you?

Tip: Purpose always involves people

It's all there... since Day One of your existence! We are not an accident... everything about our life is for a reason! Everything about our life tells a story!

- |                   |                      |                       |
|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| • Name            | • Activities         | • Burdens             |
| • Heroes          | • Spiritual Giftings | • People Interactions |
| • Speakers/Topics | • Passions           | • Outlets             |
| • Books           | • Strengths          | • Personality         |
| • Movies          | • Talents            |                       |
| • Songs           | • Abilities          |                       |

What do you  
talk about all  
the time?

### **Two Parts of Purpose**

- Who am I?  
Message—The burden and need identified  
Medium—The method. How you're going to deliver your message  
Audience—The group of people you're burdened to deliver
- How am I going to get there?

### **Project 1**

Write down at least one answer for each of the following:

- Favorite songs you listen to...
- Favorite movie(s) you've watched...
- Favorite books read...
- Favorite activity of the past...
- Favorite speakers and their topics...

You will come back later in Project Three to look for common attributes, but begin to look at the above list and ask the "why" questions.

### **Project 2**

Where do you sound like a "broken record"?

- What do you talk about all the time?
- What are you "obsessed" with?

Write down at least one answer for each of the following:

- An identifiable need in the lives of those around me...
- A wrong that needs to be made right in my sphere of influence/  
world...
- What keeps me up thinking at night?
- A category that gets me all riled up...

All of your  
answers  
operate  
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### **Project 3**

Understand that all of your answers operate as clues into your individual passions and purpose.

Seek to identify the “Golden Thread” by looking for the common themes and passions.

Combine answers from:

- Project 1—Books, speakers, activities
- Project 2—Something that gets you all riled up or passionate

### **Project 4**

Organize your discoveries under the three aspects of purpose and pray through gaps that may exist.

- Message—The burden and need identified
- Medium—The method. How you’re going to deliver your message
- Audience—The group of people you’re burdened to interact with and come alongside.

How am I going to get there?

- Establish wise, stretching goals
- Consider internships
- Pursue mentors and learn from “experts”
- Plug it into a plan of action
  - Short-term (6-12 months)
  - Long-term (5-10 years)

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—Charles F. Kettering

### Seek out Internships

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Look for opportunities in your field of interest:

- Friends
- People in your community/church
- Relatives

### Three Types of Mentors

- **Passive:** Historical or Contemporary model or example  
Books, audios, sessions, articles, blogs
- **Occasional:** Individual experts who offer personal and timely advice in specific area of desired learning
- **Intensive:** “Discipler” that includes regular meetings, long-term growth and a willingness to say the “tough stuff”

### Tips for Seeking out Mentorships

- Invite to Breakfast
- Use the “Opening Questions” from Jeff Myers: *Secrets of Great Communicators*  
If you had to do your life over again?  
What are the most important lessons?  
What advice would you give to someone getting in to this field?  
Who are the people who most influenced you?  
Time and money aside, what would you most like to be doing now?

You are not responsible to take action on something that the Lord has not yet revealed or instructed!

In summary, use your discoveries as a grid or filter for decision-making and ask the Lord to establish the work of your hands along with the provision of day-to-day direction. As you seek confirmation, consider the following:

- You are not responsible to take action on something that the Lord has not yet revealed or instructed!
- Ask yourself if you've been faithful up to this point. Is God silent because He still wants you to obey His last instructions? It could be that He's not going to give you the next set of instructions until you complete His last tasking.
- As you seek direction and confirmation of specific questions, the Lord often works by harmonizing the below areas.  
Circumstances and counselors  
Confirmation from Scripture  
Genuine peace from the Holy Spirit

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart" Jeremiah 29:11–13.

**For More Information:**

- The Life Purpose Planning Workbook, [www.lifepurposeplanning.org](http://www.lifepurposeplanning.org)
- The Dream Giver, Bruce Wilkenson
- Don't Waste Your Life, John Piper
- Visioneering, Andy Stanley

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