

THE BUILD & DEFEND SERIES

A BUILDER'S PURPOSE

A SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY SERIES

Introduction

Welcome to our five-part small group Bible study series, "A Builder's Purpose." In this series, we will embark on a journey of self-discovery, guided by the profound insights from the article of the same name by Bishop Francisco Quezada.

As young people, we all grapple with questions of meaning, identity, and purpose. Questions like "Who am I?" and "What am I here for?" are universal in our quest for significance. In this series, we will explore foundational truths from the Bible that will shape our understanding of who we are in Christ and equip us to fulfill our mission of sharing the Good News of salvation:

- **Lesson 1: Understanding Your Identity in Christ** - We will delve into the concept of being created in the image and likeness of God, exploring how it affects our decision-making, thought life, and roles as individuals.
- **Lesson 2: Embracing Your Divine Purpose** - We will discover the idea that each of us is created with a divine purpose, examining how God's plans for us go beyond our circumstances and how to seek guidance in discovering our unique missions.
- **Lesson 3: Embracing Imperfection in God's Hands** - We will reflect on our imperfections and how God's love and grace transform us, enabling us to align our lives with Christ's character.
- **Lesson 4: Being Ambassadors for Christ** - We will explore the role of ambassadors and how we are called to represent Christ in a world with differing beliefs, emphasizing our loyalty to the Kingdom of God.
- **Lesson 5: Living Out Your Identity and Mission** - In our final lesson, we will revisit key verses and discussions from the previous lessons, reflecting on the journey of self-discovery and transformation, and considering practical steps for living out our identity and mission in Christ.

Throughout this series, we will engage in interactive discussions, study relevant Bible passages, and apply these timeless truths to our daily lives. Together, we will grow in our understanding of who we are in Christ and be empowered to fulfill our mission as ambassadors for the Kingdom of God. Let's embark on this transformative journey of self-discovery and purpose together!

Lesson 1: Understanding Your Identity in Christ

Key Verse: Genesis 1:26 - "Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness...'"

Ice Breaker: Share one thing that makes you unique and different from others in the group.

Lesson Outline:

Introduction (5 minutes):

- As a group, read the section "You are a young person created in the image and likeness of God" from the article "A Builder's Purpose" available at MOPmag.com.
- Discuss the importance of understanding our identity and how it influences our decisions.

Bible Study (10 minutes):

- Read Genesis 1:26-27. Discuss what it means to be created in the image and likeness of God.
- Explore Philippians 4:8 and Proverbs 4:23. How can we manage our intellect and take care of our hearts in light of our identity in Christ?

Discussion Questions (15 minutes):

1. What does it mean to be created in the image and likeness of God?
2. How can understanding this identity impact the way you make decisions?
3. In what ways can we guard our hearts and minds in accordance with Philippians 4:8 and Proverbs 4:23?

Application (5 minutes):

- Reflect individually on your unique identity in Christ. What changes can you make in your life to better align with this identity?

Take Action: Write down one practical step you can take this week to align your life with your identity in Christ. Share your progress at our next meeting.

Lesson 2: Embracing Your Divine Purpose

Key Verse: Romans 4:17 - "God, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist."

Ice Breaker: Share one thing you've always wanted to achieve or become in life.

Lesson Outline:

Introduction (5 minutes):

- As a group, read the section "You are a young person created with divine purpose" from the article "A Builder's Purpose" available at MOPmag.com.
- Discuss the concept of divine purpose and how it relates to our individual lives.

Bible Study (10 minutes):

- Read Psalm 71:6 and Romans 4:17. How do these verses highlight God's role in shaping our purpose?
- Discuss the idea of being an arrow in God's hands, prepared for a specific purpose.

Discussion Questions (15 minutes):

1. How does knowing that God has a purpose for your life affect your perspective on your circumstances?
2. In what ways can you seek God's guidance to discover and embrace your divine purpose?
3. How can you remain focused on God's purpose in a world filled with distractions and competing priorities?

Application (5 minutes):

- Take some time to journal or pray about your understanding of your divine purpose. Ask God for clarity and guidance.

Take Action: Begin a personal journal where you document your journey in discovering and embracing your divine purpose. Share your insights with the group in our next meeting.

Lesson 3: Embracing Imperfection in God's Hands

Key Verse: Romans 5:8 - "But God demonstrates his love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Ice Breaker: Share a time when you felt God's love despite your imperfections.

Lesson Outline:

Introduction (5 minutes):

- As a group, read the section "You are imperfect in the hands of the perfect God who brings you to perfection" from the article "A Builder's Purpose" available at MOPmag.com.
- Discuss the concept of God's love and transformation in the face of our imperfections.

Bible Study (10 minutes):

- Read Romans 3:10 and 1 Timothy 1:15. What do these verses teach us about human imperfection and God's grace?
- Reflect on the call to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect (Matthew 5:48).

Discussion Questions (15 minutes):

1. How does understanding God's love for us despite our imperfections impact our self-worth and identity?
2. What steps can we take to align our lives with Christ's character and reflect it to others?
3. How can we share the message of God's grace and transformation with those around us?

Application (5 minutes):

- Think about an area in your life where you need God's transformation. Pray for His guidance and strength in that area.

Take Action: Identify one specific way you can reflect Christ's character in your interactions with others this week. Share your experiences and challenges with the group in our next meeting.

Lesson 4: Being Ambassadors for Christ

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:20 - "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."

Ice Breaker: Share a personal story of a time when you represented someone or something important.

Lesson Outline:

Introduction (5 minutes):

- As a group, read the section "What purpose does reflecting Christ in your life serve?" from the article "A Builder's Purpose" available at MOPmag.com.
- Discuss the idea of being ambassadors for Christ and what it means for our lives.

Bible Study (10 minutes):

- Explore the role of an ambassador and its responsibilities in representing another country.
- Reflect on the call to leave the kingdom of self and the world to belong to the Kingdom of God.

Discussion Questions (15 minutes):

1. What does it mean to be an ambassador for Christ in your daily life?
2. How can we effectively represent Christ in a world with differing beliefs and values?
3. How does our identity in Christ influence our loyalty to the Kingdom of God?

Application (5 minutes):

- Consider one relationship or situation where you can actively represent Christ. Pray for wisdom and boldness in doing so.

Take Action: Reach out to someone who does not know Christ and engage in a conversation about your faith. Share your experiences and any challenges faced with the group in our next meeting.

Lesson 5: Living Out Your Identity and Mission

Key Verse: 1 Corinthians 15:10 - "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain."

Ice Breaker: Share one way your understanding of your identity and mission in Christ has changed since starting this study.

Lesson Outline:

Introduction (5 minutes):

- Reflect on the journey of discovery throughout this study, emphasizing the grace of God in shaping our identity and mission.

Bible Study (10 minutes):

- Revisit key verses from the previous lessons that highlight your identity, purpose, and God's transformative power.

Discussion Questions (15 minutes):

1. How has your understanding of your identity in Christ evolved during this study?
2. In what ways have you taken steps to embrace your divine purpose and represent Christ as an ambassador?
3. How can we ensure that our understanding of our identity and mission remains rooted in the Bible and not influenced by worldly philosophies?

Application (5 minutes):

- Share one practical change you've made or plan to make in your life based on what you've learned in this study.

Take Action: Continue to seek God daily for guidance in living out your identity and mission in Christ. Share any insights or challenges in our next meeting as we conclude this study.