



WEEKLY STUDY

WEEK ONE

Studies conducted over the last few years indicate that people are increasingly interested in discovering their purpose and living a life of meaning. In this new sermon series, Pastor Jacob will identify some ways the scripture helps us think about what we are made for. We'll discover that we are called and equipped to live out God's mission in ways we never thought possible.

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: LUKE 9.28-32 (ESV)

Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. ³⁰ And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, ³¹ who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³² Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him.

- Peter, James and John didn't know it on the way up but Jesus going up on a mountain was a nod to Moses spending time with God on Mt Sinai in Exodus. There are several intriguing parallels. In both, the glory of God was present and visible in a transfiguring way. But Jesus' moment of transfiguration established that he and his mission were even higher than that of Moses or Elijah. What was about to be accomplished in Jerusalem would open the doors to the true Promised Land—the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.
- The disciples were tired from the climb and fell asleep. They might have missed the moment!

But they became fully awake in time to see the glory of God all over Jesus. **Have you had a moment of becoming fully awake to the presence of God?**

- *Faithful God, I can see the story of your salvation in this short account. Fill me with assurance that it is a part of my salvation as well. I want to be fully awake to your glory! Amen.*

TUESDAY: LUKE 9.33-36 (ESV)

And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said.³⁴ As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud.³⁵ And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!”³⁶ And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

- The heroes of faith, Moses and Elijah, were not there to be celebrated or enshrined but to put the coming events of Jesus' arrest, crucifixion and resurrection in context of the Exodus and God's deliverance of Elijah. Many followers of Jesus have moments when they doubt that they need to follow Jesus *all of the time*. We are tempted to pick times and places that are more convenient. But **can you imagine the impact of hearing God the Father audibly declare that Jesus is his Son? Would that change your perspective in moments when you want to go your own way?**
- *God, I spend time right now to set my heart to the frequency of your voice. Let me hear your declaration over Jesus. Let me hear your declaration over me. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: PSALM 32.8-10 (NIV)

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;

I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.

⁹*Do not be like the horse or the mule,
which have no understanding
but must be controlled by bit and bridle
or they will not come to you.*

¹⁰*Many are the woes of the wicked,
but the LORD's unfailing love
surrounds the one who trusts in him.*

- Many of us have a sincere desire to trust God. Trusting God requires patience and a willingness to be led. According to the Psalmist, God will guide our steps, even if we don't see the full path laid out ahead of us. But the guidance that God gives us is the teaching from a loving God. He is not forcefully guiding us like a mule, but counseling us in his direction. It's a beautiful relationship that the God of the universe invites us into! **Do you sometimes have a sense that God is teaching you the way you should go? Does He sometimes seem silent?**
- *Lead me God, guide me. I find comfort that your loving eye is on me today. May that truth spur me to faithfulness as I put my trust in you. Amen.*

THURSDAY: ISAIAH 30.19-21 (NIV)

People of Zion, who live in Jerusalem, you will weep no more. How gracious he will be when you cry for help! As soon as he hears, he will answer you.²⁰ Although the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, your teachers will be hidden no more; with your own eyes you will see them.²¹ Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

- The leaders of God's people had been trying to solve political problems on their own. But the remnant of faithful people would be heard by God. The direction that they should go would be revealed by a voice guiding them, "This is the way; walk in it." We are tempted to solve our problems based on our own experience and reason (things that God can certainly use), but God promises to lead us in a better way if we only listen to Him. **When was the last time you cried out to God for help? Did God respond?**
- *God, we have been through some difficult times. It is difficult to know how to respond to the threats of the world around us. Speak Lord and we will follow you. Amen.*

FRIDAY: ROMANS 8.28-30 (NIV)

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

- God's knowledge is beyond our comprehension. Surely God knows when we will stumble and when we will stand firm. His desire for us is to be conformed into the image of Jesus. He calls us, justifies us (through Jesus), and glorifies us. The image of Jesus on the mount of transfiguration in Luke 9 was an image of the future for God's people as they follow Jesus. The glory of God can surround us as we are conformed into the image of Christ! **Do you have a sense that you are called according to God's purpose? If so, how does that impact your daily life?**
- *Jesus, I want to be formed more and more into your image. From glory to glory to glory. Amen.*

SATURDAY: ISAIAH 46.8-11 (NIV)

*"Remember this, keep it in mind,
take it to heart, you rebels.*

⁹*Remember the former things, those of long ago;
I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is none like me.*

¹⁰*I make known the end from the beginning,
from ancient times, what is still to come.*

*I say, 'My purpose will stand,
and I will do all that I please.'*

¹¹*From the east I summon a bird of prey;
from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose.
What I have said, that I will bring about;
what I have planned, that I will do.*

- The declaration through the prophet Isaiah that God makes the end known from the beginning is groundbreaking! The promise is not that you will see each step ahead, but that you will see it when you need to see it. The picture of the future that is full of clarity is of a time when all will be set right. Our concepts and expectations of Heaven and the Kingdom of God will be blown away only because we can't comprehend such beauty. **How do you respond to God's words, My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.?**
- *Holy God, come and have your way. I seek clarity for your purpose in my life. Amen.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

In Sunday's sermon, Pastor Jacob laid out the plan for his teaching over the next four weeks:

“Seek Clarity

I will show you how everyone needs enough clarity to take the next step in their purpose.

No clarity, no purpose. Some of you already know, “that's what I need. I don't know what my purpose is.”

Count the Cost

Jesus is not a bait and switch purpose guy. He over and over tells the disciples the cost for going after their God given purpose.

Receive the Commission

A commission is when you have been officially charged with a purpose. So, it's not just you setting out to do what you want. You are officially commissioned with a purpose from God.

Heed the Call

In week four we will talk about how God is actually calling to each of you, so your purpose on earth is connected.”

1. We'll dive into each of these over the next few weeks. Today, would you say you are seeking clarity from God about God's mission for your life? About what decisions would you like more clarity? What has God seemed to make certainly clear?
2. Wherever you are in your life with Jesus, have you experienced the cost of following him? What potential costs have kept you from fully pursuing God's purpose for your life?
3. Can you think of a moment when you knew you were being commissioned to something greater than your own plan?
4. What purpose is God calling you to?