

## ***A Life of Destiny Discovering and Living your Life Mission***

<sup>4</sup> *The word of the LORD came to me, saying,*  
<sup>5</sup> *“Before I formed you in the womb I knew<sup>[a]</sup> you,  
before you were born I set you apart;  
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”*

**Jeremiah 1:4-5**

<sup>8</sup> *Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And  
I said, “Here am I. Send me!” – Isaiah 6:8*

### ***You have a destiny to fulfill! - (The example of Esther)***

*And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?*  
- Esther 4:14



Esther, a young Hebrew woman, was used of God to save her people from devastating genocide. She lived out her destiny – her purpose in life.

And you? Do you plod through life, hoping to make it to the weekend? Or do you live with intentionality, aiming to fulfill a divinely given mission?

According to the Bible, each one of us possesses a heavenly mission to serve God and advance His kingdom on earth. He has fashioned us purposefully to contribute to his cosmic plan of redemption in a unique way. Our part is to discover that loving intention, and live it out!

### ***Our Goal in this lesson...***

- 1. Appreciate the vital importance of identifying our life mission... which will...***
  - a. Keep us from detours and major missteps in our life planning*
  - b. Remind us of our holy “duty” to serve God*
  - c. Motivate us to bear afflictions and make sacrifices*
  - d. Give us the hope of ultimate joy*
- 2. Begin to identify the major contours of our life mission and put it into writing***
  - a. The general purpose that we share with every human being*
  - b. The particular mission for which we are designed*

## ***One must “Declare the Vision” in order to “run with it”***

*Then the LORD replied:*

*“Write down the revelation  
and make it plain on tablets  
so that a herald<sup>[a]</sup> may run with it. **Habakkuk 2:2***

### ***Jesus articulated his mission clearly and boldly!***

*<sup>16</sup> He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:*

*<sup>18</sup> “The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
and recovery of sight for the blind,  
to set the oppressed free,*

*<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”<sup>[a]</sup> **Luke 4:16-20***



According to this text, what were some of the primary features of Jesus’ mission on earth?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

### ***Paul declared his mission***

*It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else’s foundation. **Rom. 15:20***

*<sup>28</sup> He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. **Col. 1:28***

Based on these verses, mention some features of Paul’s life-mission.

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## Part I – The vital importance of a life mission.

1. *Keeps us on track – it keep us from detours and major missteps in our life planning*
2. *Reminds us of our holy “duty” to serve God*
3. *Motivates us to bear afflictions and make sacrifices*
4. *Gives us the hope of ultimate joy*

### 1. Having a Mission Keeps us on track – it keeps us from detours and major missteps in life planning

#### *Jesus needed to resist strong and pressing distractions*

Urgent demands of circumstances and those around us can easily derail us in fulfilling our life mission. Consider the example of Jesus...

<sup>35</sup> Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. <sup>36</sup> Simon and his companions went to look for him, <sup>37</sup> and when they found him, they exclaimed: “Everyone is looking for you!”

<sup>38</sup> Jesus replied, “Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.” <sup>39</sup> So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons. **Mark 1:35-39**

Because he kept his mission foremost in his mind through prayer and reflection, he was able to say “no” to the demands of those around him, however well-intentioned they may have been. According to this text, what was the mission Jesus needed to fulfill. What was the demand he needed to resist? How could this have been difficult?

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#### *John knew his identity and his place – which kept him from a major error!*

*John the Baptist – “a man sent from God...”* (Juan 1:6)

<sup>19</sup> Now this was John’s testimony when the Jewish leaders<sup>[a]</sup> in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. <sup>20</sup> He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, “I am not the Messiah.”



<sup>21</sup> They asked him, “Then who are you? Are you Elijah?”

He said, “I am not.”

“Are you the Prophet?”

He answered, “No.”

<sup>22</sup> Finally they said, “Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

<sup>23</sup> John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, “I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord.’”<sup>[b]</sup> **Juan 1:19-23**

According to this text, what was John’s mission?

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If he had been uncertain about his own identity and calling, John could have fallen into a tragic error. How so? How did knowing his own mission keep John from a fatal mistake?

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## **2. Knowing our Mission reminds us of our holy “duty” to serve God**

<sup>16</sup> For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! **1 Corinthians 9:16**

<sup>14</sup> I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish.  
**Romans 1:14**

Paul uses strong language: “I am compelled to preach” and “I am obligated...” Why such strong language?

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How would you define the term “duty”? \_\_\_\_\_

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Why would this term be used often in the military? \_\_\_\_\_

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### ***3. Knowing our Mission motivates us to bear affliction and make sacrifices***

***In order to fulfill his mission, Paul pressed on in spite of danger***

*<sup>24</sup> However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace. Acts 20:24*

According to this verse, what motivated Paul to continue forward in the face of certain suffering and even death?

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***Our mission keeps our “eyes on the prize”***

*<sup>24</sup> Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. <sup>25</sup> Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. <sup>26</sup> Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. <sup>27</sup> No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize. 1 Cor. 9:24-27*

Paul compares himself to an athlete that longs to win the gold. Such an athlete must discipline him or herself and train rigorously to stay in shape and remain competitive. Mention some examples of abstinence, or self discipline, which an athlete must impose upon himself or herself to be successful.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

According to this text, what is Paul’s goal? What motivates him?

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In order to fulfill the mission, one must make sacrifices in the Christian life. Mention some ways that a Christian must discipline himself or herself or make sacrifices to accomplish their life mission.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_



#### ***4. Knowing our Mission give us the hope of ultimate joy***

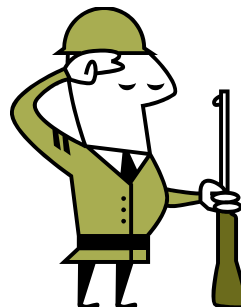
*<sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.— 2 Timothy 4:7-8*

*<sup>24</sup> Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. Colossians 1:24*

#### ***And you...?***

- *Do you know you have a mission?*
- *Do you live with intensity and passion?*
- *Do you feel a holy sense of duty to fulfill this mission?*

Without a mission, we lack a reason to live with intensity, direction, focus, and a sense of holy obligation. We *must* seek to understand our own life mission.



## Part II – Defining our Life-Mission

### Some “callings” are shared by all human beings!

1. *The call to love -- our relationship with God and neighbor*
2. *The call to holiness – our character*
3. *The call to serve – our ministry*

#### 1. We are all called to love

“ ... One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: <sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” <sup>37</sup> Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ <sup>[a]</sup> <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>[b]</sup> <sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” **Mateo 22:34-40**

According to this text, what are the two highest callings for every human being?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

Think about your own life. Note down a specific way you can love God with all your...

*Heart:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Soul:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Mind:* \_\_\_\_\_

Note down four significant “neighbors” in your life, from various contexts, whom you are called to love as yourself.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_



## 2. *We are all called to holiness and integrity*

<sup>8</sup> *He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.  
And what does the LORD require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy  
and to walk humbly<sup>[a]</sup> with your God.* **Micah 6:8**

According to this text above, what are some “missions” that each human being shares? List them and then try to express them in your own words.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. *We are all called to serve God and fulfill the “Great Commission”*

<sup>18</sup> *Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”* **Matthew 28:18-20**



According to this text, how do we fulfill the “Great Commission?”

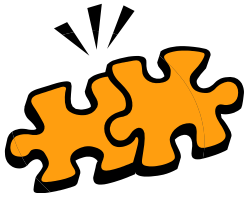
1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

### **Review question:**

*What are three “missions” we share with all humanity?*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_





**We each have a unique mission as well**

*We are “fashioned” to fulfill a specific and unique purpose*

We are each *fashioned* to fulfill a distinct mission in our own, unique way. As in the case of fingerprints, we all seem similar, *but none is exactly alike!* You are unique, and your calling is unique.

*Every one is called to...*

- *Love God and others -- **In our own way!***  
Through our own temperament and personality!
- *Live in holiness - **In our own way!***  
At our workplace, in our family and in our community!
- *Serve God and make disciples **In our own way!***  
With our unique gifts and talents!



***We are members of one body, but with a distinct shape*** (1 Corinthians 12)

God has molded us to serve in a special way. We are “members” of the “body of Christ.”

*A body contains a multiplicity of organs and members*

*Some are public and visible in nature*

*While others are hidden and private*

Some are soft in texture



*While others are hard.*

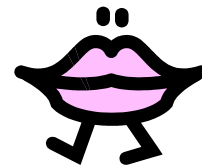
A multiplicity of colors

And a multiplicity of functions



Distinct shapes

Distinct textures



*All are necessary!* In some cases, the least visible members are in fact the most vital of all!

## ***There are many ways to serve the Lord!***

### ***The Example of Bezalel – An anointed craftsman***

<sup>1</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> “See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, <sup>3</sup> and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills— <sup>4</sup> to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, <sup>5</sup> to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of crafts. **Exodus 31:1-5**

What is the special “anointing” upon Bezalel’s life? \_\_\_\_\_.



### ***Begin composing your own “Life Mission Statement”***

#### ***How can I discover my mission?***

Discovering one’s mission is a life-long process. Discipleship Level IV focuses extensively on the process of identifying and developing our spiritual gifts. But we begin the process of discovery using some simple questions to provoke reflection.



#### ***Note down some achievements in your life that give you emotional satisfaction.***

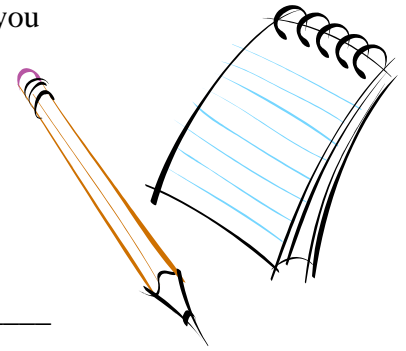
Some major achievements by worldly standards may not be important in your own emotional world, while some seemingly small and insignificant achievements may give you great satisfaction. Focus on those achievements which give you joy, regardless of how they may look on a resume!

Example - I rebuilt a car  
I graduated from college  
I enjoyed lots of laughter with my daughter  
I wrote a story that made my teacher cry

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

***What do you like to do?*** -- Note down some talents or personal strengths you possess. (No false modesty!)

Example – I easily feel compassion for the sick and suffering  
I enjoy working with my hands  
I have fun playing with kids  
I come alive on stage



1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

***What captures your interest?***

Think of something which seems like it would be fun to try.

Example - I would like to go to another country to preach some day

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

***What do others say about you?***

Sometimes others observe potential we may not see about ourselves. What have people said they see in you – strengths or perhaps weaknesses?

People have told me that ....

Example - I'm sincere and trustworthy  
That I don't have much patience with kids  
That I've got a good voice

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

### ***What are some gifts you suspect you may have?***

Note down some spiritual gifts you suspect you might have. (*To see some Biblical lists of spiritual gifts, see 1 Corinthians 12:27-30; Romans 12:6-8; Ephesians 4:11...etc.*)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

### ***Role Models and Examples***

Some individuals “catch our eye” as examples for us to follow. We feel like they have a similar temperament, gifts or ministry calling. They provide a model to help us visualize our own future in ministry. Note down a couple people of whom you have once thought, “*I could imagine myself serving God like he or she does?*”

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_



### **Features of a Mission Statement**

- ***It should dream of the stars:*** Some dreams are God-given. By faith, we “*call things that are not, as though they were.*” Many times we write down that which seems unattainable, only to return to these words years later, praising God for his ability to make our dreams come true.
- ***It should have feet on the ground:*** While we want to exercise faith and vision, this statement should be rooted to some extent in your present reality. There exists a line between faith and fantasy.
- ***It should become increasingly specific over the years:*** An initial mission statement may be general in nature, but over the years it should become increasingly refined and specific.
- ***It should be “summarize-able”*** – A Mission that cannot be remembered is less useful in daily living than one which can be repeated, almost as a slogan.

*For example, consider the following famous “mission statements”*

- ***“Bringing happiness to millions”*** – Disney
- ***“Exceptional care without exception”*** – Boston Medical Center
- ***“Follow without holding anything back”*** – (Lyrics from a song)
- ***“Crossing barriers to impact lives for Christ”*** – a missionary pastor
- ***“Transforming lives – Transforming the City”*** - An urban church
- ***“A worshiper of God and a deliverer of men”*** – Mike Bickle

### ***Declaring my Mission: A Worksheet***

Using the ideas mentioned above, take a stab at an initial “mission statement.” Begin with general, universal “callings.” Then consider some contours, or primary features, of your unique calling in life. Finally, attempt a summary “slogan” that you can carry with you day to day to help keep you focused on this mission.

***My general mission in life – which I share with all believers.***

***I am called to....***

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

***Some unique contours of my mission...***

I believe my primary talents and gifts are .....

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to serve God by ....

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

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***Personal Exercise – Write your own eulogy!***



Let's think of our lives – or rather – *our deaths*. Visualize your own funeral. What would you like to be said about you? Mention some comments you would like spoken about you at that time which summarize the impact you had on their lives.

*What would the following individuals say....?*

A family member (spouse, brother, son/daughter...etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_.

Another family member (spouse, brother, son/daughter...etc.). \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_.

A friend \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

A neighbor \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

A church friend \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

A co-worker (or boss) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.