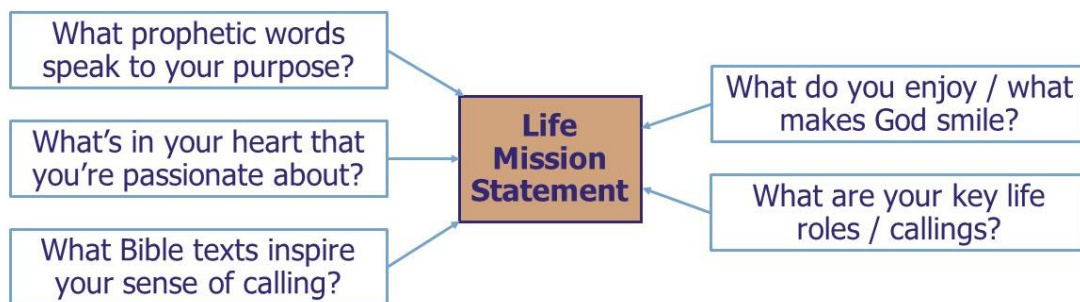


Life Mission Statement

In this series, we're exploring a huge question: "what on earth am I here for?". How we answer this will impact the shape of our lives.

God tells us in the Bible that we're made on purpose and that He has plans for our lives. The more we can see His plans & take hold of them, the more we'll live fulfilled & fruitful lives. We'll live with a greater sense of clarity & focus. We'll spend our time & resources on purpose. We'll see more dreams become real.

A Life Mission Statement starts with taking time to prayerfully consider what we sense the Lord has for our lives; what He wants us to become, to do, to give our lives to. We'll do this through a number of questions:



At the end of the series, there will be an opportunity to share with others, to pray, and to give & receive encouragement.

One final word.... we're aware that many people have limited time & bandwidth in this current season. We get that & understand that. If you're able to set aside ~10-15 minutes each week, we'd encourage you to do so as it will help you go deeper into your God-given purpose.

Some of you may have put together a Life Mission Statement before, e.g. as part of the "SHAPEd for More" series in Lent 2018.

- if you have, do go back to it & pray into it. Are there things you feel the Lord wants to add, expand, clarify, etc.?
- if you've not done this before or not recently, and in the hope you can set aside some time each week, we'd love you to do so.

Week 1: what prophetic words speak to your sense of purpose?

Jot down any prophetic words that you've been given, that talk to a sense of calling & purpose. They may be things the Lord has said to you personally, or through other people. Maybe something in a talk or a line in a song really caught your heart. Are there other things the Lord wants to say to you now? You may want to ask your group or some friends to pray for you & share what they sense.

Week 2: what do you enjoy? What makes God smile?!

Have a think about these questions and jot down your thoughts.....

- what do you enjoy doing? what brings a smile to your face?

- think about times when you've felt God's pleasure, a sense of His smile on your life. What were you doing at those times?

Week 3: what's in your heart that you're passionate about?

The following questions are designed to help you identify what's your most passionate about.

- prayerfully consider the questions as you answer them
- complete the questions on your own
- there are no right or wrong answers - just be honest!
- don't think about whether you can do it now or how it can be done
- answer as if there are no obstacles to the passion in your heart

Q1: If I knew I couldn't fail, what would I do?

Q2: On my gravestone and in one sentence, I'd love to have written that I had done something about.....

Q3: If I had the time & energy, what would I spend more time doing?

Q4: The people I feel called to serve most are: (e.g. children, young people, single parents, people in poverty, etc.)

Based on what you've written above, summarise your sense of passion in a few words or a sentence:

Week 4: what are your key life roles / callings?

List the key areas of your life that God has called you to e.g. a follower of Jesus, spouse, parent, friend, work (paid and/or unpaid), leadership, ministry.

What do you want to be, to do & to have in these areas? What do you aspire to in these areas of life? For example, if you're a parent, what kind of parent do you want to be?

Week 5: what Bible texts inspire your sense of calling?

Jot down any Bible texts that you sense the Lord has drawn your attention to, that relate to a sense of calling & purpose. [We're not thinking here about those texts we love that speak of who God is, rather those that the Lord has spoken personally to us about His purpose for our lives]

Take some time to pray, asking if there are other things the Lord wants to say to you. Maybe ask your group or some friends to pray for you and share any Bible texts that the Lord draws them to.

Week 6: final step - the Life Mission Statement

There is no right or wrong way to do this! The most important thing is that it works for you, that it helps bring focus to you, and that it fuels you to pray.

Start by taking a prayerful look at what you've jotted down in sections 1-5. Look for key themes. Often the key life roles / areas of calling provides a helpful framework. How can you articulate or summarise what the Lord has for you here on earth?

Most often people have written a few short sentences. Sometimes a poem or even a hand-drawn picture. Time to give it a go.....