

Living Your Life on Purpose

Introduction

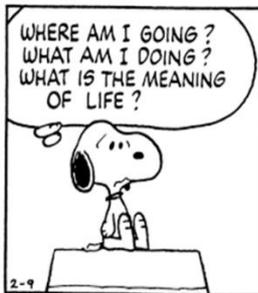
- Over the last few months, each Community Window has had a slide based on the writing of Dr David Jeremiah. Below are copies of these slides.
- Limited to an A3 piece of paper we weren't able to write much, so we have added more information here under each slide.
- There is a lot more that David Jeremiah would like to say.
- If you are interested, then please go to:

www.davidjeremiah.org

Or search for:

"David Jeremiah living your life on purpose" on **YouTube**

Week 1 (Original slide)



Living your life on purpose!

The Number 1 question
to God



is not "How can I get rich"

But: "Why am I here?"

God asks us to do what He tells us to do
and live our lives on purpose for Him.

Additional information

David Jeremiah starts by telling us that we should live our lives with a purpose. This came about because of the following question in a recent national survey:

**If you could ask God any question, and get an immediate answer,
what would it be?**

When they put all the answers together they were astonished to find that the question most often asked was not:

- How can I get rich? or
- Why do bad things happen to good people? or
- Any of the other things you and I might think would be asked.

The question most often asked was:

Why am I here?

What is my purpose for life? What am I supposed to be doing with the hours, days, months and years that have been given to me? This question was David Jeremiah's starting point and he invites us to join him in an adventure that will help us to find the answer.

Week 2 (Original slide)



Living your life on purpose!

We are here because God has planned for us to be here. He has a good plan for each of us who love Him.

How do we know this? **Because of** Romans 8:28:

"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".

We are **chosen**, needed, wanted and **loved**, because **God has planned** for us.

Additional information

There is a hidden question behind David Jeremiah's slide this week - **Do you carefully plan each day, or do things just happen?**

God, our creator, is a planner. He planned out our universe, with all its galaxies, stars and black holes as well as the course of the world and human history. **A quick look through four heroes of the Bible shows that the Lord mapped out their lives in advance.** He gave them skills, gifts, and circumstances that corresponded to His will for them. He had a plan.

1. **Moses.**

It's no accident that Moses was fished out of the River Nile, raised in Pharaoh's palace, and sent away to live in a desert for forty years. God customised those events to prepare him for his mission.

2. Jeremiah.

Jeremiah describes his call to ministry as follows: "Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.'" Jeremiah 1:4-5

The incredible fact is that before we were born, God knew about us.

3. John the Baptist.

John the Baptist was still in Elizabeth's womb when Zechariah said about him, "You, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High God. You will go ahead of the Lord to prepare His road for him, to tell His people that they will be saved by having their sins forgiven." Luke 1:76-77

4. Jesus.

Jesus wasn't even in Mary's womb when the Angel Gabriel mapped out His earthly life saying, "You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make Him a king, as his ancestor David was, and He will be the king of the descendants of Jacob forever; His kingdom will never end!" Luke 1:31-33

The same planning which has gone into the lives of Moses, Jeremiah, John and Jesus has also gone into our lives.

God has not only planned for us, but He has also got plans for our mistakes because He is a God of second chances. David Jeremiah has a final thought - God says to us, "Call to Me and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know." Jeremiah 33:3

We discover God's plans for us when we pray on our knees, trusting God to do more than we can imagine.

Don't be afraid of God's master plan for your life because you have been chosen by a God who has planned for you.

Week 3 (Original slide)



Living your life on purpose No 3

- God has given every one of us work that we can do. When God said, "Let us make man in our own image", He created mini creators.
- Before we were born, God put within us instincts and talents enabling us to be co-workers, sharing His world.

Ephesians 2:10 God has made us what we are, and in our union with Christ Jesus He has created us for a life of good deeds, which He has already prepared for us to do.

God will reveal His purpose for us through the burdens He places on our heart.

Additional information

The very first thing that we must understand is this - **we are not here because of a big bang millions of years ago, we are here because a loving Creator created us.**

We were not created as robots or pets but as human beings with individual personalities and free will, and the ability to love or hate.

David Jeremiah talks about a man called Nehemiah who wrote one of the books in the Bible. Nehemiah was responsible for rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem after they had been destroyed by Israel's enemies. When Nehemiah felt a burden to rebuild the walls, he knew he risked danger from King Artaxerxes and other opponents, but he courageously followed God's leading and inspired people to believe in God's promises for the future. The vision in Nehemiah's heart prepared him to rebuild Jerusalem's walls in record time.

What does this story tell us?

It's very difficult to live a meaningful life without a sense of purpose, or a dream upon which to build our lives. Proverbs 29:18 says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." **God will reveal His purpose for us through the burdens He places on our heart.** Nehemiah explained it this way: "God had put it in my heart to do." Nehemiah 2:12

Whether we realise it or not, God has put work in our heart to do as well - purposeful living begins with a God-given burden.

When we have:

- invited the Lord to share our lives,
- yielded our life to Christ, and
- we begin to pray,

He will place a burden in our heart.

It will feel like we are dissatisfied with the way things are or there is a desire to:

- help, or
- improve, or
- put right, or
- rebuild

The burden comes from God, and it often comes in unexpected ways or in unexpected moments.

Developing desires

Just as Nehemiah was burdened to rebuild Jerusalem's walls, God places certain burdens on our heart. He puts within our restless spirit a desire to do something for Him.

Perhaps it is:

- leading a Bible study at a nursing home, or
- a job or need in your local church, or
- an opportunity in your family or community

This work for the Lord is not an obligation we fulfil - rather it's a calling we embrace.

Ask God to give you dissatisfaction with the status quo and a desire for something better.

Week 4 (Original slide)

Living life with Purpose - Families & Neighbourhoods

Loneliness is an emotion that many of us can experience at some time in our lives. That's why God created "families" saying "That is why a man ... is united with his wife, and they become one". (Genesis 2:24)



We all need companionship but if we feel lonely then let's do something about it. God gave us His Son, His Bible and His church.



Now when life resumes, ask your neighbour in for a coffee, or join a library reading group or volunteer at a charity shop. As we meet the needs of someone else, we will find our own met!

Additional information

The graffiti on the wall at a university campus read, "5,000 students here. Why am I so lonely?" David Jeremiah recognises that **loneliness is an emotion that many people experience**. No one is immune from it. Even one of the most brilliant men who ever lived, Albert Einstein, complained, "It is strange to be known so universally and yet to be so lonely."

It is hard to believe that in our age where we have so many websites like Facebook and Instagram that loneliness is still a major problem. Part of the problem is that electronic entertainment often replaces one-to-one conversation, and today people move from job to job, and marriage to marriage, meaning that loneliness is experienced by more people.

So what can we do about it?

The first step is not to live in denial. **Admit to yourself that you are lonely and ask God to teach you how to deal with it**. It is really tempting to say, "Well, I'm not going to admit that I'm alone. I'm just going to accept the fact that I'm a Christian

and that Jesus is always with me. I may feel alone, but I know I'm not alone, so I will just deny the feeling."

Here are three sources of encouragement that God has provided when we feel the pain of loneliness:

1. Embrace intimacy with God and His Son.

Only God can solve the problem of loneliness. He created us in such a way that we have an emptiness that can only be filled by an intimate relationship with Him. **Until God is at home in our hearts, we'll always feel incomplete;** and He makes our hearts His home through the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. Christ experienced the most awful aloneness possible on the cross, but through Christ, God comes to live within us, filling our hearts with Himself.

F. B. Meyer said, "Loneliness is an opportunity for Jesus to make Himself known." When Paul was describing his loneliness in 2 Timothy 4:16-17, he concluded by saying, "No one stood with me, but all forsook me.... But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me. He will do that for you, too."

2. Allow God's word to fill your heart and mind (God's Scriptures)

If you're a Christian experiencing loneliness, you need to hear the Lord speak to your problem, and He will do that as you read the Word of God. **Find some Bible verses like those below and then read them over and over again.** Next think about what they say and these words will sink deeply into your heart.

- **Psalm 27:10** - When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take care of me.
- **Psalm 16:11** - In Your presence is fullness of joy
- **Deuteronomy 33:27** - The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms
- **John 14:16** - I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever
- **Hebrews 13:8** - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever

3. Activate your network of Christian friends (a church)

We, as part of a church, come together for mutual support and encouragement. Moments of being alone may not be a choice, but **staying in the house of loneliness is a decision.** God has first of all given us His Son, He has given us His Word, and He has given us His people. He has put us into the community of believers called the Church. There are Sunday school classes, small groups, ministry teams, and opportunities to activate a network of brothers and sisters in the Lord.

David's final piece of advice is: **Take the initiative and seek out places to serve.**

Forget about your own needs long enough to meet the needs of someone else. Invite your neighbour in for a coffee or find a place to be a volunteer. Join your local library because they often have notices of groups that are meeting or wanting help and new members are always needed. Join and you will find that after only a few weeks, you are part of the woodwork.

**God's wonderful secret for victory over loneliness is a combination of His Son,
His Scriptures and His Church**

Week 5 Original slide

Living your life **on purpose**

- Find God's task for us.



Jesus was twelve when He knew what God wanted. He was in the Temple and He said to His parents - "I have got to be about My Father's business" (Luke 2:49).

He had a divine purpose. Mankind had got separated from God because of sin. Jesus was to give His life so that we may be forgiven and adopted into His family, receiving eternal life. In the same way **God has given every one of us work to do**

1. **He wants us to know Him.** Psalm 23 - "The Lord is my Shepherd." If He is to be our Shepherd, we must be part of His flock. He is looking for us because we are lost without Him. He stands at the door of our heart and asks us to let Him in.
2. **He offers to spring clean our life** and invites us to join Him. At that moment we find that we are living life to the fullest because God wants to enjoy living and working with us.

Additional information

There are three ways in which we can find God's purpose for our lives.

1. Read and think about passages from the Bible.

Can you imagine having an inbox full of unread messages from a friend and complaining that you never hear from them? That's what we can sound like when we complain that God doesn't speak to us. Our inbox is His Bible. To find out about our God-given purpose, a great place to start is to read your Bible.

Start by reading St John's gospel. First just read a paragraph. Now stop and ask God to speak to you about what you have just read.

Get a notepad or open up a blank Word document and write down all that you can think of to do with the paragraph that you have written.

Finally, look through what you have written and see if there is anything that you should do, or any new thought that has slipped in unnoticed (that's God starting to talk to you). Next day read the next paragraph and so on until you come to the end.

2. Pray for direction

Prayer is another great way we can discover and fulfill our God-given purpose. The Bible tells us to ask God for what we need so when you need help, ask God for it in prayer. Along with reading your Bible, prayer can provide valuable insight to help you find your God-given purpose and help you live in that purpose every day.

3. Think about what makes you "tick"?

What are you passionate about? God has given each of us special talents and interests. Part of fulfilling God's purpose for your life is finding ways to draw on these passions to give the world something only you can. How has God gifted you? Find ways to use these gifts to lead a purposeful life.

Here are just a few thoughts:

Good works would include:

- attending worship services,
- praying regularly,
- studying Scripture,
- giving generously from our financial resources,
- joining a small group,
- going on mission trips,
- caring for the poor,
- working for justice for the oppressed,
- loving our neighbours.

However, if we think of good works only in these terms, we miss the extent to which God's plan for our good works is much broader and deeper. This means that your good works can include that which you do at work, in the classroom, on the football field, in your neighbourhood, and in your community associations. If you're a boss, part of your good works involve the way you manage your employees. If you're a parent, your good works include making dinner for your children as well as praying with them as you tuck them into bed.

The more we grow in our faith and the more we see ourselves as God's masterpieces, the more we will indeed do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus; by His strength, under His authority, and for His purposes.

Ephesians 2:10 God has made us what we are, and in our union with Christ Jesus He has created us for a life of good deeds, which he has already prepared for us to do.

Week 6 Original slide

Living your life on purpose: A sense of purpose sets you off in the right direction



At this very moment, everyone in the UK is part of a roadmap with four steps setting us in the right direction - towards the freedom that we hope for.

We have no choice into which era we are born; no choice about our shape, size or colour of our eyes! And even if we were a surprise to our parents, we are not a surprise to God. He has not only planned for us but He has also planned for the mistakes we make and the detours we take on our life's journey.

He asks us if we will let Him share our lives and if we do He will give us a sense of purpose where we discover that everything in our past has prepared us for what's next. When we seek Him first, we find that our future unfolds at the speed of grace. God is waiting to use us now more than ever, and our life is far from finished. It's just beginning!

To be continued ... www.DavidJeremiah.org or The Community Tab at www.salvationarmy.org.uk/worthing

1. Additional Information

2. God is a perfect gentleman. He never forces His way into our lives. He never turns up with a Russian Submachine gun and says, "Worship Me or else!" He always turns p with a gentle knock, knock on our hearts door and says, "Do you want company or a chat?"

3. So if you have read the above slide on our community window - God is knocking. The ball is in your court - what are you going to do about it?

4. We hope that you will answer the door! Here is a prayer to help: "Father, I have just realised that You are standing outside my heart's door. Please forgive me and come in and share my life. Amen"

5. If you have prayed that prayer then you have made contact with the God and Creator of our Universe. He is no longer - God out there somewhere, but God in your heart and life".

6. What happens next?

7. 1. Whenever people move to a new house, the first things our wives normally do is to put things in position, but move them around until they are satisfied that they now have a permanent place. God does the same. He moves in, and alters the furniture a bit. Some habits and possessions get thrown out. Some new ones appear. Some parts of our lives become less important whilst others have a new vitality. Some friendships die, whilst others flourish. You and your heart receive a full makeover. This can be a bit disconcerting but God is at work.

8. 2. Attitudes and behaviours change. God walks back through your life and forgives yesterday's failures, sorts out unhelpful commitments, brings healing to body, mind and soul. Then says, "Get ready. I have my foot on the accelerator and not the brake. St Paul said, "I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling me" (Philippians 3:13-14 NLT).

9. 3. God will sing a new song over your life, bringing newness to you and your family. You will discover that you will have a new sense of purpose in life. Colours become more vibrant and distant noises become clear as a bell and you will discover that you are a new being - 2 Corinthians 5:17 Anyone who is joined to Christ is a new being; the old is gone, the new has come. Now you start to sense God's desires and dreams for you, which will declutter your routine so you can live with sharper focus and deeper faith. You latch onto the truth of God—that He has a unique roadmap for you and has wonderfully fashioned you for the route He's chosen.

10. 4. Finally tell someone. You stand not at the top of a ladder, but at the bottom of one that stretches into eternity. God has planned not only for this life, but also for the life to come. We would love to help you on your journey. If you already belong to a church fellowship, then tell someone there about finding Him, if you haven't yet found a church fellowship then Email worthing@salvationarmy.org.uk and say that you have begun a new journey with Christ, and could you please tell me the next steps.

