

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

What's Next? Week 3
Discover Purpose



CONNECT

Spend some time checking in. What are highs and lows since you last met? How can your group members pray for and support each other this week?

GROW

- Throughout your life, when have you worked to discover purpose, and what motivated you to do so?
- When you consider *surrender* over *strategy*, what goes through your mind? Why is it difficult to let go of control sometimes?
- Several Bible stories (*next page*) remind us that God doesn't send people out to find their own purpose, but rather to surrender and trust God. What do you hear in those stories?
- Sometimes letting go of control means taking a risk. When have you taken a risk and experienced something negative? What about something positive?
- What would it mean for you to look to the outside (to God) instead of the inside (to yourself) to find purpose?

PRAY

God of grace, we know you guide us and lead us in all that we do. Help us to discover what's next in our faith journey; to lead us closer to you. In your son's name, Amen.



BIBLE READINGS

Luke 1:26-38

26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, **27** to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. **28** The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." **29** Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. **30** But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. **31** You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, **33** and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." **34** "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" **35** The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. **36** Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. **37** For no word from God will ever fail." **38** "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Matthew 4:18-20

18 As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. **19** "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." **20** At once they left their nets and followed him.

Psalms 46:10

10 He says, "Be still, and know that I am God"

