

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

PRAY TOGETHER

Lord Jesus, thank You for meeting us as our risen Savior and for giving our lives purpose in You. As we discuss today, help us listen with humble hearts, not just to learn more, but to become doers of Your Word. Holy Spirit, convict us where we have settled for comfort, self-focus, or fear, and show us one clear action step we can take to make You known. Form our hearts through every trial, and teach us to live as servants of Jesus alone, for His glory. Amen.

ICE BREAKER

If you could drive or ride in any kind of race, Formula 1, Indy 500, NASCAR, Mario Kart, or something totally made up. Which would you choose and why?

SERMON OVERVIEW



SCAN FOR
SERMON CLIP



SCAN FOR
SERMON CLIP

This week, we are joined by Pastor Joseph Antley, who asks: What if the greatest obstacle between us and our purpose is simply a genuine encounter with the One who created us? Using the high-octane world of Formula One racing as a backdrop, this message takes us on a journey through the life of a man who had everything it took to be great, yet spent years drifting from one thing to the next, never quite finding what he was looking for. Many of us do the same thing, moving from job to job, relationship to relationship, church to church, hoping the next thing will finally deliver the sense of meaning we crave. The message draws a powerful connection to James, the half-brother of Jesus, who despite growing up alongside the Son of God, initially dismissed him as a madman. What finally changed James was not witnessing miracles or hearing inspiring teaching. It was a personal encounter with the risen Christ that transformed a skeptic into one of the most influential leaders of the early church. Programs, events, and moral frameworks cannot change a life. Only a real encounter with a risen Savior can. And when that encounter happens, we discover that our purpose was never something we had to manufacture. According to Ephesians 2:10, it was prepared for us in advance, woven into us before we ever drew our first breath.

READ SCRIPTURE

**JOHN 7:5, MARK 3:21, 1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-7, EPHESIANS 2:10,
JAMES 1:1-4, 22; 2:14, MATTHEW 4:19, 28:19-20**

CONNECT RELATIONALLY

1) Sonny Hayes was someone who was doing what he was good at but not what he was made to do. The question posed to him was direct: "What kind of way is that to race? You just spend your whole life starting over?" In what areas of your life (career, relationships, faith, hobbies) have you found yourself starting over repeatedly without a clear sense of why? What are some of the things you have reached for in search of purpose, and how did they fall short?

2) Pastor Joseph draws on James teaching (1:2-4) about rejoicing in trials because they produce perseverance and maturity. Can you identify a specific trial in your life that, looking back, God used to develop something important within you or call you to an important next step in your faith?

**GROW
SPIRITUALLY**

3) James grew up with Jesus, witnessed his miracles, and still did not believe (John 7:5). What does James' story teach us about the difference between proximity to religious things and genuine faith in the risen Christ?

4) In 1 Corinthians 15:3–7, Paul says the death, burial, resurrection, and appearances of Jesus are of “first importance.” How does this passage support the sermon's point that Christianity is ultimately about encountering the risen Jesus, not just ministries, morality, or church systems?

5) Pastor Joseph states that God is less concerned about what you do and more concerned about who you become. How does that reorient the way you think about finding your purpose? Where do you most sense God is currently working to shape your character and heart?

**LIVE
GENEROUSLY**

6) Jesus said in Matthew 4 that he would make his followers fishers of men. Pastor Joseph suggested that if you want to join with Jesus, you need to go where He is working. Where in your life, your workplace, your neighborhood, your school, your family, your church, has God already positioned you to make Him known?

7) James warns against being merely hearers of the word and not doers (1:22). What specific area of your faith have you been consuming truth without acting on it, and what is one concrete step you could take this week to close that gap?

8) Sonny Hayes found renewed joy not by pursuing the next opportunity for himself but by lifting up and investing in the people around him. Who in your life is God calling you to pour into, and what, if anything, has been holding you back from doing so more intentionally? How will you do so this week?

**TAKE
ACTION**

Based on our conversation today, how do you sense the Holy Spirit inviting you to take a next step in practical application? Please complete this statement, I am feeling convicted to take the following action (keep it simple):

Please invite each group member to share their action step, if they have one.

**PRAY
TOGETHER**

Take a few minutes for each person to share a recent joy or praise, as well as something that's weighing on their heart and in need of intercession. Invite someone to pray over these requests. Be sure to share them with everyone in the group so you can continue praying for one another throughout the week.

**ENGAGE
TOGETHER**

All-Campus Prayer Gatherings - There is something powerful about a church praying together. Join us on Tuesday evening, September 22nd, at 7 pm as we gather at each campus for a night of prayer and community. This is a special moment for our church family to come together, seek God, and trust Him through this season of transition. We would love to see your group there.