

GATEWAY CITY CHURCH

A SIX-WEEK *devotional* HELPING YOU *discover*
AND *live out* GOD'S PURPOSE IN YOUR LIFE

Made For *More*



"I have come to give you everything in abundance, more than you expect — life in its fullness until you overflow!"



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Gateway City Church Publishing
San Jose, California, 95038

Printed in the USA

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Welcome to “Made For More”

by Pastor David Cannistraci

Have you ever wished for a map to help you navigate life? What’s the purpose of our lives? Why are we here? Where are we going and how will we get there?

These questions can arise when we face life’s challenging blind corners and confusing crossroads. With all life’s complex uncertainties, we’d surely welcome a map if one existed. But what if there IS a map that shows us the path to the grandeur of life’s purpose?

This is exactly what we have in the Scriptures. God has given us a map to follow that provides everything we need to live purposeful lives. He longs for us to be filled with an understanding of our purpose, and He has provided the map that gets us there!

In this series called “Made For More”, we will be following God’s great map—the Bible. And together, we will be taking the journey of a lifetime to the Promised Land of God’s purpose.

“Made For More” provides each of us with an opportunity to step out of hopelessness, anxiety, and fear, and into the transforming purpose and power of God. With each and every one of these six studies, we’ll gain the insights and inspiration we need to...

- Discover our unique purpose in God
- Walk in God’s purpose every day
- Experience God’s purpose in our relationships
- Make a difference in the lives those far from God
- And much more

Maybe you’ve been feeling like something is missing, like there has to be more for you than just work and surviving. If so, listen up: You are **MADE FOR MORE**.

Welcome to your journey into greater purpose and direction. I can't wait to see you on the road with the rest of us!

For Changed Lives,

Pastor David

David Cannistraci
Lead Pastor

How to use your “Made For More” Journal

Welcome to your MADE FOR MORE Life Group Journal. It’s our prayer that as you grow and are blessed in your relationship with Jesus, you’ll discover how uniquely and wonderfully He’s designed you to be joined to Him!

SOAP Devotional Method

This devotional uses the SOAP approach to journaling. This SOAP process helps you engage with God’s word by writing out what you learn and discover. SOAP stand for Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer. Here’s what each word means and how you can use this tool to help you journal:

1. Scripture

Each day you will be given a scripture passage to read and meditate on so you can fill your heart with God’s word. Faith comes by hearing and abiding in the words of Jesus. Commit to reading God’s word daily.

2. Observation

As you read and think about the scripture passage, ask the Lord to give you insight. Pray for the Spirit of wisdom to give you revelation so you can receive and understand (Ephesian 1:17ff).

3. Application

Next, ask God to show you how to apply the truth. How are you going to live out what you have read? What needs to change in your life? How does the word of God encourage you? Write it down.

4. Prayer

Lastly, write out a short prayer to the Lord summarizing what you’ve observed and how you’re going to apply His truth. And then write out any special request you might have for the Lord, and pray your prayer out loud.

Week 1

Date _____

Sunday Sermon Notes

Sunday’s Topic: **“You Were Made for More”**

Key Scriptures

Sermon notes:

Life Group Meeting Notes

Using your notes from the Sunday Sermon, write down your responses to the following questions and bring these notes to your Life Group to share.

- **What did you hear the Holy Spirit say to you?**

- **What will change now in your life?**

- **What are you going to do differently this week?**

Week 1 – Daily Devotion

You Were Made For More!

“I have come to give you everything in abundance, more than you expect—life in its fullness until you overflow”! **John 10:10**
TPT

Jesus Christ stepped into a world full of darkness and depression. His people were in bondage to sin and oppression, sickness and poverty. He saw war and strife. And it was in this scene that He boldly declared His purpose to bring His people into a new life. They were to experience “everything in abundance, more than they could expect”. Jesus demonstrated this through His own life, as He lived in the realm of the Kingdom of God while on earth. Nothing limited Him. No one could stop Him. Demons feared Him. He received answers to all His prayers. He walked in dominion over sickness, disease, poverty and lack. He lived a life that was more!

What about you?

Then Jesus called you to follow Him. He’s invited you to live as He lived. He essentially said, if you follow Him you would:

- Make a difference in this world.
- Discover and live out your divine purpose.
- Walk in freedom from oppression and lack.
- Know Him, His love and grace, personally.

Friends, you were made for more. You were created to be a change agent. You were born with a specific assignment to fulfill. Jesus wants you free, to live in dominion over habits, hangups, and hurts. You were made to walk with Him and share His life. So this week, read carefully the daily Bible verses and spend time meditating on what God is saying to you. You were made for more. It’s your day! Believe it, receive it, and walk in it.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

You were made to shine! When others see you, do they see a reflection of Christ? Do they experience His love and grace through your life? Make a decision today to be one who brightens the world around you.

SCRIPTURE

“Your lives light up the world. So don’t hide your light! Let it shine brightly before others.” **Matthew 5:14-16 TPT**

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATION

PRAYER

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

You were created for a purpose. God has a specific plan for your life. He said He would make you into the man or woman He created you to be. What is He making you into? Fill in the blank line with what you believe His purpose is for your life. Follow Him and He'll finish what He started.

SCRIPTURE

Follow Me, and I will make you become _____. **Matt. 4:19**

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATION

PRAYER

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

You serve a God who wants to set you free to live an abundant life. You were made for more, but hurts, hangups, and habits can hold you back. Today, thank God for setting you free from all oppression and darkness – in Jesus name.

SCRIPTURE

Who the Son sets free, is free indeed. **John 8:36**

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATION

PRAYER

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Do you know Jesus Christ? I mean really know Him. Do you know His voice? Have you experienced His power, love, and kindness? He cares deeply for you and wants you to know you were made for more. Draw close to Him today and let Him fill you with His wonderful life and love.

SCRIPTURE

“I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me
John 10:14

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATION

PRAYER

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

You were created to reign in life through Jesus Christ. You were formed for a purpose, set free, and drawn into a relationship with Jesus so that you could live in dominion over sin and darkness. Determine today to live this abundant life, and thank God for it.

SCRIPTURE

Those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. **Romans 5:17**

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATION

PRAYER

My Influence – BLESS Planner

Use this page to write down the names of five people you are praying to come to know Christ. You'll first create your influence list and then, in the weeks to come, you'll develop your BLESS strategy to effectively reach out to these individuals.

YOUR INFLUENCE LIST

Your Influence List includes people you already know and come in contact with on a regular basis:

- Friends
- Relatives
- Acquaintances
- Co-workers
- Neighbors

YOUR BLESS PLAN

THE BLESS PLAN IS A SIMPLE FOUR-STEP PROCESS THAT WILL HELP GUIDE YOU IN CONNECTING WITH THOSE ON YOUR INFLUENCE LIST. BLESS IS THE ACRONYM FOR:

B – Begin with prayer. Lift up those on your list in prayer everyday.

L – Listen, really listen to their cares, pain, desires, and dreams.

E – Eat together. Look for opportunities to have coffee, lunch, or dinner.

S – Serve. Look for simple ways to serve, bless, and help them.

S – Share. In time, look for opportunities to share your story of how you came to faith in Christ.

MY INFLUENCE LIST – (write down the names of those you want to bless)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Life Group Meeting Notes

Using your notes from the Sunday Sermon, write down your responses to the following questions and bring these notes to your Life Group to share.

- **What did you hear the Holy Spirit say to you?**

- **What will change now in your life?**

- **What are you going to do differently this week?**

Week 2 – Daily Devotions

Living On Purpose

Before we were even born, he gave us our destiny; that we would fulfill the plan of God who always accomplishes every purpose and plan in his heart. **Ephesians 1:11 TPT**

Before time began God knew you. He knew your name, height, hair color, where you would live and what years you would spend on this earth. He knew every detail about your life, from birth until the time you would enter eternity. And, knowing everything about you, God decided your life story, your testimony, and purpose. He predetermined your assignment. He ordered the events of your life so that you would discover and fulfill your destiny. But in order for you to step into this destiny, you need to know your SHAPE.

S - Spiritual Gifts – these are the gifts of the Holy Spirit working in your life, such as nine Gifts of the Holy Spirit listed in 1 Cor. 12.

H – Heart – Your heart is what you are passionate about. What do you love to do? Cook, build, heal, pray . . .

A – Abilities – What are your natural abilities, things you are good at? These are skills you develop through education and practice.

P – Personality – What type of person are you? Are you quiet and shy, outgoing and talkative, or somewhere in between?

E – Experiences – What experiences have you had, good and bad? God can use everything for His purpose and glory.

Our goal at Gateway is to help people discover their SHAPE. We discuss it in Grow Tracks, and encourage everyone to carefully consider their SHAPE so they can live out their purpose in God. Let us know how we can help you. You're on assignment!

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

In today's scripture, God speaks to Jacob, and to you too. Even though Jacob was having a rough time, God told him He would complete what He had purposed for his life. You can claim this promise and know that Jesus Christ will work to fulfill His purposes for you.

SCRIPTURE

“I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”
Genesis 28:15

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATION

PRAYER

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

God has a plan for you life and His plan works! Do you believe He has a plan, and that His plan is good? Trust Him to go before you and work out the details of you life.

SCRIPTURE

“I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope”.
Jeremiah 29:11

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATION

PRAYER

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Living out God’s purpose is a daily walk. In this walk the Lord promises that your steps will be guided by Him, He delights in every detail concerning you, and if you fall, He’ll pick you up and help you get going again. Meditate on this promise, and thank God for taking care of you.

SCRIPTURE

The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the LORD holds them by the hand. **Psalm 37:23-24 NLT**

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATION

PRAYER

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

God has a purpose for your life. How can you know for sure what steps to take on a daily basis to live it out? By abiding and living in God's word. His word is a road map directing you as you live out your purpose.

SCRIPTURE

Truth's shining light guides me in my choices and decisions; the revelation of your Word makes my pathway clear. **Ps. 119:105**
TPT

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATION

PRAYER

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Jesus promised that His Holy Spirit would guide you and speak to you about your future. Believe that the Holy Spirit is working in your life and desires to share with you what God has planned for you.

SCRIPTURE

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. **John 16:13 NRSV**

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATION

PRAYER

Week 2 Summary

WHAT HAS THE LORD DONE FOR YOU?

Summarize your week by writing down your experiences with the Lord, any victories, answers to prayer, or any new insights you've received.

My Influence – BLESS Planner

B = Begin with Prayer

Lift up those on your list in prayer every day.

This week we encourage you to continue praying for those on your influence list. Write their names down again and insert their names into the suggested prayer below

MY INFLUENCE LIST – (write down the names of those you want to bless)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

SAMPLE PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, I lift up before you _____ and ask that you draw them to Yourself. You said if You were lifted up you would draw all people to yourself (John 12:32). Pour out your Holy Spirit on them, for You said You would pour out your Holy Spirit upon everyone (Acts 2:17). I take authority over any darkness that would blind their souls, and pray that the light of the gospel would shine upon them (2 Cor. 4:4). Open their hearts to your salvation and love. Prepare the way for me or others to bless them, and lead them to make a decision to follow you (Acts 16:14).

Lord, thank you for working in _____ life. I believe the Holy Spirit will work out the circumstances to see them come to know you. In Jesus' name. AMEN!

Week 3

Date _____

Sunday Sermon Notes

Sunday’s Topic: “Stewarding Your Purpose”

Key Scriptures

Sermon notes:

Life Group Meeting Notes

Using your notes from the Sunday Sermon, write down your responses to the following questions and bring these notes to your Life Group to share.

- **What did you hear the Holy Spirit say to you?**

- **What will change now in your life?**

- **What are you going to do differently this week?**

Week 3 – Daily Devotion

“Adam, Take Care of My Stuff.”

When the first man and woman were created, God had a purpose for them. He told them to:

- Increase in number so they could fill the earth (which belonged to God) and subdue it.
- Rule over the earth (which belonged to God) that they had filled and subdued. **Genesis 1:28**

This is called stewardship. God made a garden and put the first people in it to work and take care of it (Genesis 2:15). Here the man and woman together would learn how to rule over what God made before they started on the rest of the world. Their purpose was to take care of God’s stuff, to rule over his world, and to do it in such a way that he would be pleased. They were stewards. They started out well in this purpose, but ended badly. God wanted an accounting – “Adam, Eve, what have you done with my stuff?” (Genesis 3).

Think about what God has put into your hands – time, money and possessions, talents and gifts. You may have little; you may have much. Whatever you have, it’s yours to invest, to put to some kind of use – to rule over. What will be the ROI, the return on investment, for your efforts? How will God benefit from your stewardship? Think about how you now use what God has given you. It might be time to make some new investments.

God is asking us the same question he asked Adam and Eve: “What are you doing with my stuff?” Along with rule comes responsibility. We too are stewards, and will someday give an account of our stewardship to the one who owns it all. What will you say? How will you answer the question, “What are you doing with my stuff?”

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Bringing glory to God should be the reason for everything we say and do. Pleasing him is the most important thing. Is it the most important thing to you?

SCRIPTURE

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters . . .” **Colossians 3:23 NIV**

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATION

PRAYER

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

God wants to trust you with many things that are important to him. He wants you to share his joy! He prepares you for this by seeing what you do with the little things. How are you doing with the “little things”?

SCRIPTURE

His master replied, “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!”

Matthew 25:21 NIV

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATION

PRAYER

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

God generously shares his things with you! He lets you enjoy his world but wants you to remember that it belongs to him. How does knowing it all belongs to him change your view of what you have?

SCRIPTURE

The earth is the Lords, and everything in it, the world and all who live in it. **Psalm 24:1 NIV**

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATION

PRAYER

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The blessing of being a good steward is you get to share in the good things your stewardship produces, and the master himself will honor you. What do you think it means to be honored by the master?

SCRIPTURE

The one who guards a fig tree will eat its fruit, and whoever protects their master will be honored. **Proverbs 27:18 NIV**

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATION

PRAYER

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Your gifts are meant to bring God glory. Let him speak to you and encourage you to step out in using your gifts. What gifts do you have to use for his glory?

SCRIPTURE

Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you. **1 Timothy 4:14 NIV**

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATION

PRAYER

My Influence – BLESS Planner

L = Listen with care

Listen, really listen to their cares, pain, desires, and dreams.

This week, we encourage you to look for opportunities to connect with those on your influence list with the goal of developing your relationship with them. Don't come with an agenda. Come with a heart to be a friend. Connect with the intent to really listen to them.

Here are some ways you can listen that will help lead to a discussion of spiritual things with those on your list.

1. **Just the facts** – you have casual discussions.
2. **Common interests** – what are some things you have in common and can talk about with this individual?
3. **Pain points** – over time, as they develop trust in you, they may share any physical, mental, or emotional pain they are experiencing.
4. **Share your story** – of how Jesus Christ helped you and delivered you from your own pain.

Write down your list again and next to each name write down the number of the listening point that fits your relationship so far.

MY INFLUENCE LIST

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Life Group Meeting Notes

Using your notes from the Sunday Sermon, write down your responses to the following questions and bring these notes to your Life Group to share.

- **What did you hear the Holy Spirit say to you?**

- **What will change now in your life?**

- **What are you going to do differently this week?**

Engaging In Healthy Relationships

Philippians 2:1-2: “Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from His love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another and working together with one mind and purpose.”

“Doing life together” is a pretty popular saying today, but take a look at this week’s verse—Paul told us how to do this a long time ago and Jesus modeled it beautifully with his disciples. We were all created to connect with God and engage with people! Notice the progression of connection...it begins with us and God. In John 17, Jesus prayed we would be one, just as He and the Father are one. Then it keeps growing, cascading into the way we love and treat each other. Engaging in relationship takes courage, but Paul gives us some valuable insight. Check out these descriptive words: *encouragement, comfort, fellowship, tender compassion, agreement, love, and working together with one mind and purpose.*

When we purposely treat one another in the manner these words describe, we represent the Father’s heart and healthy relationship happens. If we work together with one mind and purpose, we will become a healthy community that attracts people.

All of us have known people who are difficult to get along with. The fear of unhealthy engagement sometimes hinders us from discovering a truly life-giving friendship. Let’s remember to “Begin with prayer.” Pray for healthy relationships. Look for people who exhibit the qualities listed above. Become healthy yourself, so you can become a life-giving friend to others. A good place to start? Treat others the way you would like to be treated yourself. That rule is golden!

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Jesus calls you His friend! Why not take a moment to thank Him for His friendship, that is pure, constant, and has the potential to grow deeper than we could ever imagine.

SCRIPTURE

John 15:15 “I no longer call you servants because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends. For everything I learned from my Father I have made known to you.”

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATION

PRAYER

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Loneliness hinders our thoughts, actions, and success. We are so much better off when we engage with others.

SCRIPTURE

Ecclesiastes 4:9 tells us: “Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed.”

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATION

PRAYER

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Friendship can begin with a genuine smile and friendly hello. As simple as that sounds, it can make a person's day and might be the beginning of something great.

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 18:24: "A man who has friends must himself be friendly."

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATION

PRAYER

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Do you feel like some of your relationships could use a refresh? Why not take the first step and give a refreshing word to someone else?

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 11:25 says: “The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will be refreshed themselves.”

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATION

PRAYER

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

We all have opinions about how we want to be treated. Jesus tells us to do those same things for someone else—but you go first. There is a principle of reaping and sowing here, and it begins with our seed.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 7:12: “So whatever you wish others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the law and the prophets.” ESV

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATION

PRAYER

Week 4 Summary

WHAT HAS THE LORD DONE FOR YOU?

Summarize your week by writing down your experiences with the Lord, any victories, answers to prayer, or any new insights you've received.

My Influence – BLESS Planner

E = Eat together

Look for opportunities to have coffee, lunch, or dinner.

Did you know Jesus Christ gave us the BLESS strategy? It was He who suggested that we eat a meal and enjoy fellowship with others before sharing His good news. Jesus said:

Don't move around from home to home. Stay in one place, eating and drinking what they provide. (Luke 10:7)

Having a meal, or cup of coffee together is one of the greatest ways of getting to know those on your influence list. People often will open up, share, and as we listen with care, the Holy Spirit will open the door to share Christ with them.

MY INFLUENCE LIST – Write down again those on your list and this week add ways you can connect with them to share a meal of some sort.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Week 5

Date _____

Sunday Sermon Notes

Sunday’s Topic: “Integrity at Home, Work, and School”

Key Scriptures

Sermon notes:

Life Group Meeting Notes

Using your notes from the Sunday Sermon, write down your responses to the following questions and bring these notes to your Life Group to share.

- **What did you hear the Holy Spirit say to you?**

- **What will change now in your life?**

- **What are you going to do differently this week?**

Week 5 – Daily Devotions

Maintaining Your Integrity at Home, Work, and School

JOB 2:3 “Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity...”

Can you imagine this conversation between God and Satan in the heavens? Now imagine they are talking about you. Would God be able to say of you what He said about Job’s character? God is proudly boasting about His servant Job. He said there was no one like him. Before God and Satan himself, Job is declared to be blameless and upright. He fears God and shuns evil. The last thing God says sums it all up — “he holds fast to his integrity.”

Right now, this week, could God say the same of us? Could God say of His Church before all of heaven and earth, that we are blameless and upright? Do we fear the Lord and shun evil regardless of circumstances? Do we maintain our integrity?

We are made with divine purpose in mind. We are made for more than we are right now. God has chosen to bring glory to Himself throughout heaven and earth through His church as we walk in impeccable integrity powered by the Holy Spirit.

What does integrity have to do with our purpose? Everything. Keeping a godly standard of integrity without spot or wrinkle is indispensable to our being the Church Jesus wants to present to the world.

Let us determine as Job did, to never give up our God-given integrity.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

As you awaken this morning, determine that you will conduct yourself with integrity, and you will experience more peace and security.

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 10:9 (AMP) He who walks in integrity and with moral character walks securely, but he who takes a crooked way will be discovered and punished.

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATION

PRAYER

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Maintaining integrity requires daily intimacy with God. Your integrity paves the way for deep intimacy with God. God desires truth in our inward parts.

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 51:6 (AMP) Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, and in the hidden part [of my heart] You will make me know wisdom.

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATION

PRAYER

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Integrity must be maintained; it must be lived out. It is a choice, a daily “discipline.” Will you choose to walk with integrity this day?

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 9:27 (NKJV) But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATION

PRAYER

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

A person of integrity is a person of principle, meaning, they have the courage to stand up for convictions even when it costs them something.

SCRIPTURE

Daniel 3:16-18: “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered ... If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.”

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATION

PRAYER

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

When it comes to maintaining integrity, we do need to sweat the small stuff. Integrity tells us to not yield to small diversions such as: embellishing a story, taking too much time at lunch or a break, making unauthorized phone calls, etc.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 12:1-3 (NLT) “Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees, their hypocrisy. The time is coming when everything that is covered up will be revealed, and all that is secret will be made known to all. Whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be shouted from the housetops for all to hear!”

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATION

PRAYER

Week 5 Summary

WHAT HAS THE LORD DONE FOR YOU?

Summarize your week by writing down your experiences with the Lord, any victories, answers to prayer, or any new insights you've received.

My Influence – BLESS Planner

S = Serve

Look for simple ways to serve, bless, and help them.

Jesus Christ gave us many examples of how we can be a blessing to those around us. Specifically, He highlighted a number of areas:

I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.
(Matthew 25:35-36)

Think about the people on your influence list. Then pray about how you can bless them in some tangible way this week, or in the weeks to come. Can you help with them some task, pray for them, feed them, or just visit them?

MY INFLUENCE LIST – Write down again those on your list and this week and write down ideas for how you can serve them.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Week 6

Date _____

Sunday Sermon Notes

Sunday's Topic: "Positioned to Make a Difference"

Key Scriptures

Sermon notes:

Life Group Meeting Notes

Using your notes from the Sunday Sermon, write down your responses to the following questions and bring these notes to your Life Group to share.

- **What did you hear the Holy Spirit say to you?**

- **What will change now in your life?**

- **What are you going to do differently this week?**

Positioned to Make a Difference

Ephesians 4:16 “He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.”

Do you ever feel insignificant? I think we all do at times. But small and seemingly insignificant things can play a vital role in our health and well-being. Take bacteria, for instance. Bacteria are the smallest living organisms in the human body. Many feel they are harmful. Actually, the bacteria in our bodies help digest the food we eat, help make nutrients available to us, neutralize toxins, and even fight infection. Pretty impressive! Think about that the next time you reach for the antibacterial soap. God wisely positioned bacteria in our bodies to make a difference.

Just like bacteria, God has positioned each of you in the Body of Christ to make a difference. When you are functioning in your God-given position you are making the body healthy. Right now you may feel small, unseen, or insignificant, but you really play a vital role. Whether you know it or not, you have been positioned to make a difference.

King David was positioned to make a difference, but he didn't start out in the palace. David started out in obscurity as a lowly shepherd boy. He spent most of his time alone with the sheep. He was even overlooked by his family. But God was preparing him for greater things. He had to learn to fight the lion and the bear before he could take down Goliath. Don't despise the place you are presently in. God knows the skills you acquire now will benefit you later. The battles God positions you to fight have a pre-determined outcome because you are positioned to make a difference!

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

God has perfectly placed you to make a difference in someone’s life. God has positioned you at your church, your place of employment, your school, or at home to be an instrument in His hand to bless others. King David was placed to make a difference before King Saul.

SCRIPTURE

I Samuel 16:22-23 NLT Then Saul sent word to Jesse asking, “Please let David remain in my service, for I am very pleased with him.” And whenever the tormenting spirit from God troubled Saul, David would play the harp. Then Saul would feel better, and the tormenting spirit would go away.

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATION

PRAYER

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Every season of life can be an opportunity to make a difference in someone’s life. Even when the season is painful, difficult, or dangerous. You might even be persecuted or mistreated. Take heart. God will use you and the situation you are in to affect change.

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 50:20 NLT “You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.”

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATION

PRAYER

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

When God positions you He also equips you. God taught David how to use a sling. The battles God has positioned you to fight have a pre-determined outcome. You are called to be a champion using only what you already have in your hands. What special gifts has God uniquely equipped you with?

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 144:1 CEB - “Bless the Lord, my rock, who taught my hands how to fight, who taught my fingers how to do battle!

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATION

PRAYER

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

You have been strategically positioned in God’s army. Your post is important and what you do makes a difference. When circumstances get hard, don’t seek a change of position, seek a change of heart. What change of heart do you feel God asking of you?

SCRIPTURE

Acts 13:22 NLT -But God removed Saul and replaced him with David, a man about whom God said, ‘I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart. He will do everything I want him to do.’

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATION

PRAYER

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

When you feel inadequate or less than able to make a difference, remember God is working in you and through you. It is His ability not your own. As you surrender to His will and purpose for your life, He will use you to do what pleases Him. God wants you to make a difference! Where do you need God's power the most today?

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 2:13 NLT -For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATION

PRAYER

My Influence – BLESS Planner

S = Share

In time, look for opportunities to share your faith.

As you pray, listen, eat together, and serve, the Holy Spirit is also working behind the scenes to open a door for you to share your story of what Christ has done for you. This could simply be a statement of how you faced a difficult time and how God answered your prayer.

This week, think which examples of what God has done for you would be of interest to those on your influence list. Then pray for the Holy Spirit to give you the right timing and courage to share with those on your list. Ultimately, your prayer would be to see them make a decision to know Christ.

SAMPLE SINNER'S PRAYER FOR SALVATION

Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and that I fall short of what is good and right. By faith, I receive Your gift of salvation. I'm ready to trust You as my Lord and Savior. I believe You are the Son of God who died on the cross for my sins, and rose from the dead on the third day. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me the gift of eternal life. I surrender my life to you to serve you as Lord and God and I will serve you alone. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

BIBLE VERSES LEADING TO SALVATION IN CHRIST

John 3:16

Romans 3:23-24

Romans 6:23

Romans 10:9-13

Revelations 3:20

My Influence – BLESS Guide

We encourage all Gateway members to continue to use these two tools in their efforts to reach out to those who don't know Christ. These two tools, when combined together, form a simple yet powerful way to share His love and salvation with others. These two tools are:

YOUR INFLUENCE LIST

Your Influence List is a list of the people you already know and come in contact with on a regular basis:

- Friends
- Relatives
- Acquaintances
- Co-workers
- Neighbors

YOUR BLESS PLAN

The BLESS plan is this simple four-step process that will help guide you in connecting with those on your influence list:

B – Begin with prayer. Lift up those on your list in prayer everyday.

L – Listen, really listen to their cares, pain, desires, and dreams.

E – Eat together. Look for opportunities to have coffee, lunch or dinner.

S – Serve. Look for simple ways to serve, bless, and help them.

S – Share. In time, look for opportunities to share your faith.

BONUS TOOL

Another powerful tool we use is called Bless Every Home. You can download this app to your mobile phone, plug in your home address, and it will highlight the names of your neighbors around you so you can add them to your Influence / BLESS plan.