



MADE FOR
MISSION
DISCOVERING THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH GOD CREATED YOU

SERIES OVERVIEW: Made for Mission

“Experiences”

Preacher: Pastor Walt Quick

May 19, 2019

[Series Sermon Recordings](#)

[Discipleship Resources](#)

SUGGESTED SUPPLIES

Note cards (or paper) and pens.

QUESTIONS?

Email Abby
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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

HOW TO USE: *The three sections below (opening, sermon content questions, and application) represent the three connections we emphasize at Highrock: connecting to **God’s People**, connecting to **God Personally**, and connecting to **God’s Purposes**. Select at least one question from each section or create questions that are more specific to your group.*

WEEKLY CHECK IN

Use a few minutes at the beginning of your time to follow up on any action items shared from last week. Was there a **next step or application** challenge that they took on this past week? What did they learn about themselves and following Jesus?

CONNECTION QUESTIONS

Choose ONE of these that fits your group, or modify it so that it will fit your group better. These can make great **opening questions** or **ending questions**. If you have had a really in-depth conversation, ending on a light note can help transition to concluding your time together on a less intense question.

1. What is one of your least favorite foods you have tried? Or what is one of your least favorite flavors that you just cannot stomach?
 - a. **Sermon reference:** *“Taken together it feels like God gave me a mystery basket full of Natto, Kimchi, Swedish surstromming, haggis from Scotland, Roquefort cheese and Rocky Mountain oysters! It’s hard to decide which is the worst, and it’s impossible to imagine how we could make anything good from this combination!”*

SERMON QUESTIONS

Use a **couple of the questions** below or make up your own. You can always begin with: “Do you have any questions about what you heard in the sermon this week?” Or, “What stood out to you from the Pastor’s sermon?”

1. Together, recollect the story of Joseph. What are the key points of his story with his family, with people in power, and with God?. What questions or feeling would you have in his circumstances when was suffering/ betrayed?
 - a. **Sermon Reference:** Joseph must have asked it too. Hundreds of times as he languished in jail. But it turns out that God had an answer.

2. What are some of the answers you have heard to this question of why we suffer? What answers have been helpful for you? What answers fall flat or are not helpful when you are in the midst of suffering?
 - a. How do you see Jesus respond to those who are suffering in the Bible? What does this model for us
 - i. **Sermon Reference:** *"It all feels so random... and pointlessly painful! I Love God! I've given my life to Him. So what's the purpose of letting me suffer like that? A lot of us ask that question."*
3. On your own, write down some of those moments/ experiences you might want to erase or hide (challenging experiences). As you reflect on your list share in the group together: What were your feelings towards God at this time? Can you relate to feeling forgotten?
 - a. How have these made it difficult to see aspects of purpose or meaning in your life?
 - i. **Sermon Reference:** *"Joseph had hoped that God had a plan, but clearly God had forgotten him, because it turns out that life is just random and pointless! Isn't that how you feel about some parts of your past?... When I broke my back. The years Michelle and I struggled in marriage. Her eating disorder. My workaholism. Our infertility. My burnout. Her shattered leg. Our financial collapse. Our extended family conflict. Betrayal from an employee. Our painful parenting experiences. Illness in one of our kids. Tragic deaths of people in my extended family who were too young. I could go on and on- but if you've been here for many years, you've heard all these stories – sometimes as they were happening."*
4. How does it make you feel to know that God does not cause the evil and wrongdoings in our lives, but is still able to bring good out of them?
 - a. Still, it can be difficult to see the good that God is bringing out of challenging experiences in our lives. What do you do in times when things are uncertain and there is no sense of purpose?
 - b. What spiritual practices do you find helpful in these moments? Or who has encouraged you to keep going when things are difficult?
 - i. **Sermon Reference: (Gen 50:20)** *"Joseph replied to his brothers groveling at his feet, "you intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." You intended it for evil. But God used it for good. Does that mean that God caused Joseph to be betrayed and sold into slavery? I don't THINK so. That was a egregious sin, and God never would choose that! God didn't choose it, but God did find a way to use it."*
5. Pastor Dave shared, God is even able to use our weaknesses to demonstrate God's provision and care for us. When have you experienced God's provision and/or strength amidst your weakness/ needs/ suffering?
 - a. **Sermon Reference:** *"Why do I tell my bad stories over and over again? Because those are the moments when God met me, and God shaped me. That's when I encountered God in the bottom of a dark valley that felt like death, and God led me to life. Those are the worst moments of my life, and, in a weird way, the best moments in my life. That why Paul points to HIS weaknesses over and over as well. And it's why we still love to read Joseph's story - complete with the painful parts."*
6. Can you think of a difficult past experience that you have gone through and which You have been able to use to help others in that same experience? Or, a time someone was able to minister to you in a way which made you feel loved because of what they had gone through.
 - a. **Sermon Reference:** *"My own failures and fears have enabled me to comfort others who feel just as depressed and distressed as I was; and now I can speak from experience about where God is in times like that, because I've been there myself. I don't have to tell you where a book says God should be in times like that- I can tell you where I found Him, where He found me, when I was in a similar spot. And I can tell you how God brought the forgiving grace and healing power I desperately needed. The gift we can offer after those experiences is more than just comfort. (2 Cor 1:4) The Greek WORD in this sentence is Parakaleo, which in other contexts is translated*

“encourage, Call, or Challenge.” God prepares me to do ALL those things from blessings He brings out of the messes in my life!”

7. How would you respond to this question posed by Pastor Dave: *“Consider your educational experiences, your vocational experiences, your spiritual experiences, your relational experiences, and don’t forget your painful experiences. Those can be some of the most potent of all. Some of you have regrets from the past that you want God to remove from your memory, but could I challenge you to redeem those dark stories by making them a gift to others that could bring comfort and help them experience God’s grace, just like YOU have?”*

APPLICATION/S

1. What would it look like to offer up your difficult circumstances (current or the past) to God, asking for comfort and an awareness of God’s presence with you.
 - a. If you are ready to take this step, how you might serve God’s purposes to create a heart of love for others as you come to know God’s steadfast love for you better?
 - i. **Sermon Reference:** *“I know that some of you are having a hard time right now. Maybe you don’t understand what’s happening. I’m not saying that painful thing is actually good in disguise. It may be evil. God may hate it just as much as you do. But what I know is that God can find a way to squeeze good out of it. This may not be what God wanted, but God won’t let it be wasted.”*
2. What injustices in the world stand out to you right now? Reflecting on these, ask God to be at work and to bring redemption and healing. Confess that we might not see the hand of God working right now, but trust that God is faithful and present.

CLOSING

Summarize the key points of your discussion and encourage people to **share one action step** they could take during the next week based on what they have shared. **Take time to pray together.** Write those down and start next week by checking in with how it went, or better yet, check in during the week!

RESOURCES

SERMON SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

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.”

SCRIPTURE STUDY: 5Cs

If you are interested in studying the scripture more deeply, one method is to use the 5 Cs. Read through the passage and move through each C. The goal is not to move through them quickly, but to really consider each section. If you wanted to study the passage together, you, as the leader should take some time beforehand to complete the Cs and it can be helpful to have group members come prepared with the first 3 already considered. Then, as a group, you can briefly talk over some of the points and have a longer conversation about curiosities and conclusions. This study tool will be posted within all of the discussion questions.

- **Context:** What is the literary context of the passage? What comes before? After? Context within whole book? Relation to main idea of section, book, testament, whole Bible?
- **Christ:** How is Jesus revealed here? If in OT, prefiguration, typology, prophesy, implications for Christ's person and work? How is he needed, anticipated, fulfilled?

- **Crux:** What is the main idea? Try and find a section of the text that states it and have reasons for why that is the main idea? How do the other points support it?
- **Curiosities:** What is surprising about this text? Controversial? Mysterious? Shocking?
- **Conclusions:** What are the implications for our lives? Application? How do we think, feel, and act in light of this text?

READING THE BIBLE

[Pastor Dave has provided a few suggestions](#) for Bible reading plans, daily devotionals, and Bible commentaries to help you understand God's Word as you familiarize yourself with it.