

LIFE ESSENTIALS

Spiritual Growth

Additional Study - Milestone 6



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MILESTONE **SIX**

YOUR CALLING: THE MINISTRY
OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Have you ever wondered or pondered the thought-provoking question, “Why did God create me and what is my purpose here on earth?” Many of us wander aimlessly through life not knowing our purpose in life—our calling. Part of the spiritual growth process is identifying your calling. Only God can show you individually and uniquely through the ministry of the Holy Spirit what His specific plan is for you.

At this milestone of our journey, you will be directed toward the path to discover your divine reason for being.

KEY VERSE

We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we should walk in them.

- Ephesians 2:10

BIBLE REFERENCES

Acts 13:1-5

Ephesians 2:8-10

Jeremiah 29:11

Philippians 2:12-13

1 Peter 4:10



1. Read chapter 14 of Life Essentials.
2. Read the Key Verse Ephesians 2:10.
3. Read Ephesians 2:4-10.

Ephesians 2:10

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

Ephesians 2:4-10

“⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead [a]in our transgressions, made us alive together [b]with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and [c]that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

What is the purpose of our salvation?

When was this purpose established?



Select one of these biblical persons (Esther, Moses, David, Paul, Joseph) and identify their calling, the divine purpose God called them to.

- o Esther (book of Esther)
- o Moses (Exodus 1:1–3:22)
- o David (1 Samuel 16:1-3)
- o Paul (Acts 9:1-22)
- o Joseph (Genesis 37–45:15)

Note: If you don't know anything about these biblical persons, select someone you know and believe is operating within the divine purpose God has called him or her to do and identify his or her calling.

Keep this person in mind because you will be asked to reflect upon different traits about this person. This person will be referred to as your model.





DAY TWO



1. Begin to memorize the Key Verse Ephesians 2:10.
2. Read Acts 13:1-5.

Acts 13:1-5

"Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was there, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ² While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³ Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

⁴ So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there they sailed to Cyprus. ⁵ When they reached Salamis, they began to proclaim the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews; and they also had John as their helper."

How does Life Essentials distinguish between a calling and a gift? A calling and a career?

How did Paul and Barnabas identify their calling?

How does a Christian begin to discover his or her calling?

What are the gifts and abilities of the model you identified on Day 1?



DAY THREE



1. Practice writing the Key Verse Ephesians 2:10 to assist in memorization.
2. Read Jeremiah 29:11; Philippians 2:12-13.

Jeremiah 29:11

'For I know the plans that I [a]have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.'

Philippians 2:12-13

"¹² So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure."

If God has a plan for our lives, why is it that many of God's people lead aimless lives?

What do you think it means to “work out your own salvation”?

Describe the personality of the model you identified in Day 1.

How does their personality affect their calling?



DAY FOUR



1. Practice writing the Key Verse Ephesians 2:10 to assist in memorization.
2. Read 1 Peter 4:10-11.

1 Peter 4:10-11

"¹⁰ As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ¹¹ Whoever speaks, is to do so [a]as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving [b]by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

Who will benefit when you are serving in your calling?

What are two ways God confirms His calling for your life?

What past experiences helped to shape your model's life for his or her divine calling?



How does Life Essentials define biblical success?



What is the relationship between your calling and biblical success?



DAY FIVE



1. Recite the Key Verse Ephesians 2:10 to commit it to memory.

What does Ephesians 2:10 mean to you?

Why is it important for us to know our divine purpose?

If you don't know your calling, what steps will you take to identify it?

If you do know your calling, how was it confirmed for you?





DAY SIX



REFLECTIONS ON THE JOURNEY

1. Recite or write the Key Verse Ephesians 2:10 from memory.

What life experiences have you had that God can use in your calling?

Do you have a passion, a burning desire to do something specific in God's service?

Briefly describe this passion.



What changes will you make in your life as a result of this journey?
Briefly explain.



What concerns did the journey raise for you?

TAKEAWAYS

- You have been saved for a purpose and God has a special plan for you.
- Decide that you are going to be a “growing target for God to hit.”
- When you discover your calling, you will be more alive than ever before.

