

“Lifestyle Evangelism”

Notes for Sessions 1 and 2

A Real Relationship with God

Here are four key questions for you to ponder as begin this chapter about having “A Real Relationship with God.”

Is there any real purpose and meaning in life?

Have I discovered my purpose in life?

What does it mean to have a real relationship with God?

Do you have a real relationship with God right now?

Most people live their entire lives without ever knowing *“WHY?”* They exist year after year with no idea of why they live or God's purpose for their lives. Here is the most basic question a person can ask: *“What is the meaning of my life?”*

Everyone wants to be happy. People try many ways:

.... Some look for happiness by **acquiring possessions.**

.... Some look for happiness by **experiencing pleasure.**

.... Some look for happiness by **gaining prestige & power.**

But real happiness comes from understanding my **purpose in life.**

Why are we here on this earth?

Let's review:

God's Plan of Life for You!

1. God has a **purpose for each of our lives.**

God loves us with an **everlasting** love

I have loved you with an everlasting love (Jeremiah 31:3)

God has a **plan** for everybody

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)

God desires **fellowship** with us on earth
But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:9)

God desires that we spend **forever** with Him
For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

2. We have a great need

We are sinners by **nature** and by choice
For all have sinned; (Romans 3:23 NLT)

We are **separated** from God
all fall short of God's glorious standard. (Romans 3:23 NLT)

We deserve death and **hell**
For the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23)

We cannot **save** ourselves
For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

3. God provided for our need in His Son Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ, the unique Son of God, came to earth because He **loves** us
For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Jesus was miraculously born of a **virgin** – God became a man
Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and he will be called Immanuel (meaning, God is with us). (Matthew 1:23 NLT)
Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- (John 1:12)

Jesus lived a **perfect** life – He did not sin, not once
but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. (Hebrews 4:15)

He died on a cruel **cross** in our place
For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. (1 Peter 3:18)

He **arose** on the third day – He was victorious over sin, Satan, and death
He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day (1 Corinthians 15:4)

He **ascended** to the right hand of the Father and sat down with the work of redemption completed

After he died to cleanse us from the stain of sin, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God of heaven. (Hebrews 1:3)

He now **receives** all who come to Him in faith

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- (John 1:12)

He is coming **again** to get His church

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the call of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, all the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and remain with him forever.

(1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 NLT)

4. We must **respond** to Jesus

The Good News (Gospel) requires a **response**

We must individually **choose** – God has no grandchildren

We must **repent** of our sin – the word repent means “to think again” – that means we must change our mind about our sin and our need

Now turn from your sins and turn to God, so you can be cleansed of your sins. (Acts 3:19)

We must place our **faith** in Jesus

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- (John 1:12)

For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved. (Romans 10:9-10)

Repentance and faith are two **sides** of the same coin – we turn from sin and to Jesus

5. We can respond to Him **immediately**

No special **building** – we do not have to be in a church building

No special **time** – it does not have to be on a Sunday or on cell night

No special **leader** – Anyone who has Jesus can lead another person to Jesus

No time like right **now** for you – you can place your faith in Him right now

This is all great stuff that we have been discussing. But we have come to a time for you to answer the question: do you have a relationship with Jesus right now? Have you ever invited

Jesus Christ to come into your life? Most people do not have a relationship with Christ. They know a lot of facts about Him, but they do not know Him personally. He wants us to know Him personally.

Is there any reason you would not be willing to receive God's gift right now?

Would you like to turn from your sin and place your faith in Jesus right now?

Here's how you can do that right now. Simply pray the following prayer from your heart. If you mean business with God, He will mean business with you. Remember, God is not as concerned with our words as He is with the attitude of our heart. Now, here is that suggested prayer:

Dear God, I realize I am a sinner and I need a savior. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for my sin and He arose from the dead. At this very moment, I ask You Jesus to come into my life to forgive my sin and make me a new person. Thank you for coming into my life. Amen.

You can be assured that Jesus Christ came into your life at the very **moment** you prayed that prayer. He says in the Bible:

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (Romans 10:13)

The greatest decision you ever made was **receiving** Christ in your life. God Himself made you a promise. He said,

"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)

No one else has ever been able to make that **promise** to you. No one else has the power and authority to make that promise. Only God Himself could make such a promise. Congratulations! You are now part of the family of God. You are a **Christian**; not because of your religious preference, but because you have a vital relationship with Christ Himself.