



IGNITE PURPOSE

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR MARRIAGE PREPARATION

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INTRODUCTION

It's important to embrace this commitment over the next 9-week study:

1. 4-day-a-week Bible exploration (30-minutes a day)
2. Preparation for weekly meeting (30-minutes)
3. Once-a-week group study (60-90 minutes)

Ignite Purpose Groups

Accountability groups usually focus on guilt and peer pressure to modify behavior and for the most part, there is very little about an accountability group that is overtly “*Christian*.” I want to encourage the groups NOT to judge, *but to LOVE each other towards stronger relationships*. Choosing “*accountability*” encourages us to surveil each other and creates an environment that almost encourages us to judge our goodness competitively. The unspoken implication of these relationships is that God doesn't love us fully and completely, He loves the parts of us that He approves of, and He's incredibly unhappy about our deficiencies and needs to provide us personal monitors to make sure we're toeing the line. As long as we define our relationships by what we *shouldn't be doing*, we're encouraging people to hide from each other and God, as they worry about not being accepted. This forces people to divulge just enough to give the appearance of openness, but they hold back the complete truth. On the other hand, the goal of our *Ignite Purpose Groups* is to develop “*spiritual friendships!*” As this study focuses on God's love for each of us individually, *real Christian transformation* happens when we come to that true understanding of how much we're loved and accepted. When we begin to grasp Jesus' radical acceptance, we're equipped to pursue Him in a way that makes us engaged. *Yes, this is the element that will IGNITE PASSION and PURPOSE! A loving, trusting, and true spiritual friendship contains elements of accountability, it's just not defined by it.*

Ignite Purpose Group Goals

Goal #1: Focus on our beliefs, not only our behavior

Even though conversations often start on the surface, it must move down to the core of who we are—to the idols of our hearts. *Ignite Purpose Group* conversations shouldn't stop at mere behaviors but probe deeper to motivations.

Goal #2: Focusing only on hopes, not only habits

The great danger of a typical group is to focus only on how we fall short, not on the *great hope* we have for change. As Christians, *because the Holy Spirit lives inside of us*, we have a profoundly new identity in Christ. When Christ rose from the dead, He died to this realm of sin (Romans 6:6).

Goal #3: Focus Christ's obedience, not only on ours

We need not be afraid of honesty, because when we focus less on *our performance* and focus more on *Christ's performance* on our behalf, confession becomes less about our own performance. We need not judge the quality of our spiritual lives in comparison to other people. *The Ignite Purpose Group* goal is to encourage everyone to trust *the work of Christ in YOU*.

Goal #4: Stay connected to the VINE...God's Word

Ignite Purpose Groups should evoke spiritual friendships that help everyone recognize God's movement and promptings. They encourage everyone to stay connected to the **VINE (God's Word)** so that they may produce fruit. And while there may be times these kinds of friends need to say tough things to each other, it's always with a sense of humility and love.

I pray these friendship grow beyond the need to “*give account*” to others, because, ultimately, giving a report on bad behavior is not friendship or community.

Ignite Purpose FIRE Starter Method

The Bible journaling method called FIRE Starter was developed to create an easy, yet effective way for people to study the Bible, remember what they read and allow their hearts to get ignited for Jesus Christ.

FIRE stands for Focus, Investigate, Respond and Engage.

F= Focus

In your journal, write the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, **focus** on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal. *Writing helps you remember the verses.*

I = Investigate

Next, you **investigate** the context around the Scripture reading. *To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text?* Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: **Bible Study Tools**, or **Easy English Bible**.

R = Respond

The next step is **responding** to the text to make it applicable for your own life. *What does the text mean **today**? What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?* Write out a couple sentences detailing what God is saying to you through the text.

E = Engage

The final step in the journaling process is **engaging** God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. *Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you've learned?*

The beautiful thing about this journaling method is that it is short and only takes a few minutes, and it can be done every time you read or study a passage.

SESSION #1 PREPARATION:

In order to get a head start on our time together, we'd like you guys to do the following exercises:

1. Here is the link for you guys to take the **personality test**. (Let me know what your **personality types are also**):

<http://www.humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/JTypes2.asp>

This is a great exercise to get to know each others natural strengths and weaknesses. We often time try to work so hard on our weaknesses instead of fostering our natural strengths and miss God's calling in our life.

After you do the testing, print them out and read them aloud to one another. Let me know what personality style you each are, so I can run your combo report to discuss.

Study each others so you know it well and then start encouraging each other in that strength zone, while better understanding each other's weaknesses!

2. Please take this **Love Languages** test this week and e-mail me your results:

<http://www.5lovelanguages.com/assessments/love/>

3. Please take this **Spiritual Giftings** assessment and e-mail me your results:

<http://gifts.churchgrowth.org/cgi-cg/gifts.cgi?intro=1>

4. **Independently**, send me your top **THREE areas** of frustration, and what you've done to try and rectify those frustrations:

1.

2.

3.

SESSION #1: REVIEW PROFILES

- **Intro and Review Ignite Purpose and outline of study:** 20 minutes
- **Profile Review:** 20 minutes
- **Growth Area Review:** 20 minutes
- **Homework:**
 1. **Read out loud** to each other your **personality, gifting and love languages** and engage in a conversation about them. Also, review the **NEW** document I'm sending today about how to get the most out of your relationship because of your personality profiles.
 2. Take your 3 things you'd like to work on improving (that you both sent us) and **discuss them together** and add action items to **HOW** you will begin to change those areas.
 3. Discuss "**rules of engagement**" together. What are triggers and indicators that things are tense and how will you relieve that tension without ignoring the issue?
 4. Own up to your part and start communicating with more questions around each area, **DON'T JUDGE, BUT LEARN.**
 - e. Ask for forgiveness.
 - f. Don't stop communicating until forgiveness can be found.
 - g. Also, be sure that it stops here and **CANNOT** be brought up again.
 5. Practice **active listening** daily.