

# Becoming People of Purpose

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We often grapple with how to encourage spiritual growth in each other. A sincere desire may exist to “spur one another on toward love and good deeds” (Hebrews 10:24), yet doing so can become uncomfortable when hard questions must be asked. By avoiding the discomfort of dealing with sensitive matters, however, many groups miss the rewards of sharing dreams, triumphs, partial victories, and failures.

Consider having each person write a Personal Mission Statement — a one-page document that encompasses spiritual, social, financial, physical, and relational values and goals. Encourage each group member to set aside adequate time in a quiet setting for prayer reflection, and writing about how they desire to live for Jesus Christ in the various arenas of their lives. This activity can provide a “life map” that charts direction and gives purpose to a person’s time and energy, so he can focus on what is important and best.

## Questions to Ask as You Write Your Personal Mission Statement

Give adequate time to ask questions of each other and affirm one another’s desire to be used by God. If members are willing, distribute copies to each other so periodically they can refer back to these statements and gently hold each other accountable.

- Who has God shaped me to be at this stage of my Christian journey?
- What Christian character traits does God desire to develop in me in the future?
- What is God calling me to do on His behalf in the future?
- What principles will guide me to the future to which I believe God has called me?
- What attitudes will be present in my significant relationships?



- How will I practice faithful stewardship of the gifts God has given me?
- What levels of physical fitness and financial stability will I need in order to pursue my dreams?
- What do I want to do in life just for the fun of it?

## Getting Started

One person began with the following statement of intent: “I will be a Kingdom Builder for Christ in all areas of my life—in my marriage, family, ministry, and relationships. I will seek to consistently grow and stay open to new ideas so as to stay on the cutting edge of life and faith. I will model for others healthy relationships and approaches to ministry.”

Then listed specific goals or intents under each category — marriage, ministry, family, relationships — and what it would take to accomplish his stated mission (*e.g.* staying physically fit, spending time daily in the Word and prayer, living below his financial means, etc.).

Try it! You will find involvement with each other on a deeper level, influencing each other “as iron sharpens iron” (Proverbs. 27:17).