



ED STETZER
MISSION GROUP

Session 1: Purpose Barrier

SESSION NOTES

Important foundational questions: Who am I? Why am I here?
What am I supposed to do? The church must ask...Why are we here?

“This is so God’s multifaceted wisdom may now be made known through the church to the rulers and authorities in the heavens.”
Ephesians 3:10

I will build My church, and the forces of Hades will not overpower it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth is already bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth is already loosed in heaven.”
Matthew 16:18-19

Matthew 18 - church discipline

Why does Jesus talk about the church so few times and the kingdom of God so many times? Because the kingdom of God

births the church in its wake, the church is the tool of the Kingdom of God.

Why purpose matters...

1. Forgotten purpose

2. Misguided purpose

*Don't be surprised by purpose drift.

Breakthrough the Barrier

1. Know God's purpose for your church

"The church exists for God's glory and God's mission."

Glorify God

*through worship

*through serve

Congregation needs to say, "It's not about me."

2. Communicate your purpose often

"Study it, preach it, pray it, sing it, say it."

Have 100 Songs to build community (This bonus will be found under Session 14 “Worship Issues”)

*Would God receive greater glory in your church if people were coming to Christ and being changed by the power of the Gospel? If you had more resources for global missions? For student ministry?

Communication of the purpose creates clarity for the mission.

“If you don’t get this, you don’t have a reason for people to experience change.”

“When people get a vision bigger than themselves, they are willing to sacrifice and change to get there. That vision drives the mission.”

LINKS

- [Communicating the Purpose of Your Church](#) - Rick Warren
- [How to Write a Mission Statement](#) - Bob Thune, helpful as he considered purpose, values, vision, and mission
- [The Glory of God](#) - Sam Storms, great for finding passages to study on the topic
- [God's Purpose for Creating the World: A Word for Pastors](#) - Sam Storms

BOOKS

- *Glory Hunger: God, the Gospel, and Our Quest for Something More* - JR Vassar
- *Mere Christianity* - C.S. Lewis
- *Knowing God* - J.I. Packer
- *The Purpose Driven Church* - Rick Warren
- *Center Church* - Tim Keller
- *The Mission of God's People: A Biblical Theology of the Church's Mission* – Christopher J. H. Wright