



life is

C A L L I N G

SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE

LIFE IS CALLING | SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE

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SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE

A NOTE TO THE FACILITATOR

Thank you for leading a small group through this six-week experience entitled **Life is Calling**. This is a brief introduction to help you use this resource to stimulate your group's learning.

Each small group session is tied to that week's sermon—both its Scripture text and its key points. The session has three stages:

1. **Scripture text.** This is a passage from the Book of Jeremiah for your group to read together. Read it aloud yourself, have someone else read it, or take turns each reading a few verses at a time.
2. **“See It.”** These are five groups of questions for discussion. Each question grouping has a starter question with one or two follow-up questions. You don't have to ask every question; use your judgment as to which ones to hit on. However, be sure to do the fifth question group before you move on, because those questions focus on personal application.

3. **“Be It.”** This is a tool (a personal exercise) that enables a person to put the lesson into practice in their own life. It requires a few minutes for people to work on their own followed by group discussion. The tool is critical for turning the discussion into a true learning experience.

Each session's materials can be printed on a single sheet of paper (front and back) and shared with every member of your group. (Aside from these instructions, there is not a separate “leader version” of the questions and tools.)

SESSION

01

DISCOVER YOUR DIVINE DESIGN

Jeremiah 1:1-10

BIG THOUGHT: YOU ARE MORE UNIQUE THAN YOU THINK

SEE IT: (SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS)

1. What do you think it means to be unique?
 - Do you think most people believe that they are unique? Why do you think that?
2. How does God tell Jeremiah in this passage that Jeremiah is unique?
 - How does Jeremiah object to God's thoughts about his uniqueness?
3. What does Jeremiah's unique design have to do with his unique destiny?
 - On a scale of 1 to 5, how easy is it to believe that you have a unique destiny, as Jeremiah did?
4. If your life was an utterly unique creation of God, how would you know?
 - If somebody was looking at your life from the outside, would they say you are living it uniquely? Why do you think that?
5. In the sermon, we heard that really knowing your divine design is like experiencing the totality of a solar eclipse. How do you think your life would be different if you experienced the "totality" of knowing the true you?
 - What barriers might be keeping you from experiencing "totality"?
 - What might you have to do differently to take a step toward totality over the next few weeks?

SESSION

01

DISCOVER YOUR DIVINE DESIGN

Jeremiah 1:1-10

BIG THOUGHT: YOU ARE MORE UNIQUE THAN YOU THINK

BE IT: (SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS)

DIVINE DESIGN AND DIVINE DESTINY

Take a few minutes to write your answers to the following, then share with each other.

What are five things about you that display your unique design?

(These might include abilities, personality traits, experiences, and passions.)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

What are five features of the unique destiny you hope God has for you?

(These might be contributions to the world, legacies you leave, goals, and dreams.)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

SESSION 02

UNCOVER THE TRUE YOU

Jeremiah 4:1-4

BIG THOUGHT: BREAKDOWN IS THE PATHWAY TO BREAKTHROUGH

SEE IT: (SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS)

1. Where have you seen people become a lesser version of themselves?
 - What did their journey to a lesser self look like?
2. How is Israel becoming a lesser version of itself in this passage?
 - How has Israel's lesser version of itself damaged its people and derailed their destiny?
3. Why does sin involve seeing God as less than he is?
 - Is it a sin to be a lesser version of ourselves? Why do you think that?
4. Jeremiah extends an offer of God's grace and at the same time warns of God's wrath. Which makes more sense to you—his grace or his wrath? Why is that?
 - What lesson could you learn from the side of God that makes you less comfortable?
5. What do you think it means to return to God?
 - What might it look like for a person who has settled for a lesser version of themselves to return to God?
 - Do you sense a nudge to return to God yourself? What has to change for you to do that?

SESSION 02

UNCOVER THE TRUE YOU

Jeremiah 4:1-4

BIG THOUGHT: BREAKDOWN IS THE PATHWAY TO BREAKTHROUGH

BE IT: (SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS)

RETURN TO THE TRUE YOU

Take a few minutes to rate on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being very little temptation, 5 being very great temptation) which false version of yourself is most likely to influence you. Write down reasons for the especially tempting ones. Then discuss as a group.

VERSIONS OF ME	RATING	REASONS
THE EXPECTATIONS OF OTHERS (The me others expect me to be)		
THE IMITATION OF SUCCESS (The me I think I want to be)		
THE INFATUATION WITH MONEY (The me they pay me to be)		
THE PREOCCUPATION OF LIFE (The me time makes of me)		
THE PROJECTION OF SELF (The me I want to be)		

SESSION 03

RECOVER YOUR KINGDOM CALLING

Jeremiah 20:7-12

BIG THOUGHT: EMBRACE THE PLACE OF GOD'S CALLING GRACE

SEE IT: (SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS)

1. How is Jeremiah struggling with his calling in Jeremiah 20:7-12?
 - What part of Jeremiah's words do you resonate with most? Why?
2. What are some of the things that you can do with your life that you're doing right now?
 - What are the things you can do that might be in the near future for you?
 - What do you think you must do?
3. What core convictions do you see in Jeremiah?
 - How does Jeremiah respond when his convictions are violated by the world around him?
4. What are a few of your core convictions?
 - Talk about a time that sticking to one of your convictions paid off.
5. Who have you known personally who lives out their calling and convictions well?
 - What about that person's life do you want to make part of your own life?
 - How would you go about doing that?

SESSION
03

RECOVER YOUR KINGDOM CALLING

Jeremiah 20:7-12

BIG THOUGHT: EMBRACE THE PLACE OF GOD'S CALLING GRACE

BE IT: (SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS)

CALLING AND CONVICTIONS

Take 15 minutes to brainstorm ideas that might fill in the blanks below, then fill in your best ones. Discuss them together.

1. Complete the following sentence: "I exist to honor God and help others by

_____ing _____."

2. Name the four deepest convictions in your life:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

SESSION

04

DARE TO DREAM A DIFFERENT FUTURE

Jeremiah 29:4-14

BIG THOUGHT: DREAM TO LIVE IF YOU WANT TO LIVE THE DREAM

SEE IT: (SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS)

1. What is one bad result that can come from fantasizing about the future?
 - When have you seen this play out in someone's life (or even your own)?
2. What are the features of God's dream for his people in Jeremiah 29:10-14?
 - If you were in the exiles' shoes, do you think God's dream would sound realistic or more like fantasy? Why do you think that?
3. What are the features of God's plan for his people in verses 4-7?
 - In 1 Peter 1:1, the Apostle Peter calls ordinary Christians "exiles" wherever they live. What are three ways we can practice God's plan for the exiles of Jeremiah's day in our own lives today?
4. In your own words, what is the difference between dreaming and planning?
 - Are you better at dreaming or better at planning? Why do you say so?
5. Have you ever tried to get better at dreaming or at planning, but it didn't go well? If so, what went wrong?
 - If there was someone in your life to help you become a better dreamer or a better planner, what is the best thing they could do to help you?
 - Who would you ask to help you that way?

SESSION

04

DARE TO DREAM A DIFFERENT FUTURE

Jeremiah 29:4-14

BIG THOUGHT: DREAM TO LIVE IF YOU WANT TO LIVE THE DREAM

BE IT: (SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS)

CONFESS AND DREAM

Take 15 minutes to complete the table below. In each cell, jot down a list of one to three brief notes. In the end, you'll have what's good, what's not so good, and what you dream for each area of your life.

AREA OF LIFE	WHAT'S GOOD NOW	WHAT'S NOT SO GOOD NOW	MY DREAM THREE YEARS FROM NOW
PERSONAL WELLNESS			
RELATIONSHIPS			
WORK			
RECREATION			

SESSION 05

INVEST FOR GOD'S BEST

Jeremiah 32:6-15

**BIG THOUGHT: STOP ASKING GOD TO CHANGE YOUR ENVIRONMENT,
AND START ALLOWING GOD TO CHANGE YOUR INVESTMENT**

SEE IT: (SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS)

1. Where have you seen people make the best of a bad environment?
 - Why do some people overcome when faced with difficult circumstances while others give up?
2. The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah to tell him to buy his cousin's field. Do you believe God gives people instructions like that today? Why or why not?
 - Where or how does a person learn to hear God like that?
3. When have you sensed God requiring you to do something that in the circumstances didn't seem to make sense?
 - What happened next?
4. When you're faced with a difficult situation, which is a bigger temptation for you—changing what you're doing when you shouldn't or not changing when you should?
 - When have you seen this play out in your life (a specific example)?
5. Imagine you could talk to yourself ten years ago. You can't tell yourself what choices to make or anything about your future, but you can give yourself advice about how to make good choices. What would you say?
 - In what area of your life do you need to take your own advice today?

SESSION 05

INVEST FOR GOD'S BEST

Jeremiah 32:6-15

BIG THOUGHT: STOP ASKING GOD TO CHANGE YOUR ENVIRONMENT, AND START ALLOWING GOD TO CHANGE YOUR INVESTMENT

BE IT: (SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS)

INVESTMENT MATRIX

Put one X in each column of the table (at most two if there's a tie). Then answer the questions that follow. After that, discuss with your group.

	WHERE DO I SEEM TO HAVE THE MOST GOING FOR ME RIGHT NOW?	WHERE AM I INVESTING THE MOST EFFORT AND ATTENTION RIGHT NOW?	WHERE DO I NEED TO SEE THE MOST IMPROVEMENT THREE YEARS FROM NOW?
SPIRITUALLY			
RELATIONALLY			
PHYSICALLY			
INTELLECTUALLY			
FINANCIALLY			

1. Do you see a need to shift where you are investing the most effort and attention?
2. How can you leverage the area that is going best for you to boost the area that needs the most improvement?

SESSION

06

LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY

Jeremiah 33:14-26

BIG THOUGHT: GET AHEAD ON WHAT YOU WANT TO LEAVE BEHIND

SEE IT: (SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS)

1. To you, what is the most beautiful part of the picture that God paints for Israel in Jeremiah 33:14-26?
 - How do you think this picture changed people in Jeremiah's day who believed it?
2. Who do you know who seems to have the most hope for the future? Do you think their hope is sound or misplaced?
 - Who do you know who has the least hope for the future? Do you think their hopelessness is sound or misplaced?
3. What does a person have to be confident in for them to be motivated to leave a legacy? As a group, list three things.
 - Which of these things are you personally confident in?
4. What is the most precious legacy that has been left to you?
 - Do you think the person or people who left that legacy knew they were doing it? Why do you think that?
5. What one habit could you install on your birthday every year that would help you leave a lasting legacy?

SESSION

06

LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY

Jeremiah 33:14-26

BIG THOUGHT: GET AHEAD ON WHAT YOU WANT TO LEAVE BEHIND

BE IT: (SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS)

TOMBSTONE TWEET

Take a few minutes to imagine your funeral—where it is, when it is, who is present, what they are saying. On that day, how do you wish the world that knew you would sum up your life? Write it down. (The shorter the better—50 words max.) Then discuss with your group.

