



more

GROUP STUDY GUIDE

WEEK EIGHT

LIVING THE PART



GOAL FOR WEEK EIGHT

The goal of this week's group is to take a look back, see what you've learned, and identify next steps you can take as you gain clarity in your unique calling.



WEEK EIGHT: LIVING THE PART



GETTING STARTED

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)

ASK: How do you hear this verse differently now that you know and understand more about your personal calling?

THE BIG POINTS OF WEEK EIGHT

1. SUMMARIZE WHAT YOU HAVE ALREADY LEARNED ABOUT YOUR CALLING.
2. I WILL GO BACK AND COMPLETE ANY STEPS I WASN'T ABLE TO FINISH.
3. I WILL IDENTIFY BARRIERS WHICH PREVENT ME FROM TAKING ACTION ON MY CALLING.
4. I WILL TAKE STEPS NOW TO BEGIN FULFILLING MY CALLING.

POINT 1

SUMMARIZE WHAT YOU HAVE ALREADY LEARNED ABOUT YOUR CALLING.



DISCUSS: Keeping in mind the six elements of personal calling (below), what have you learned about your personal calling over the past seven weeks?

INTRODUCTION: The history of man's fall and my sin nature helps me see why I feel restless discontent. I want to live more abundantly in the fullness of Jesus. I believe God gave me a sweet spot of personal calling. I have a primary and a secondary calling.

CORE IDENTITY: I am a child of God and disciple of Jesus. My core identity is about who God created me to be, not what I do. I can see how my relationship with being a child of God relates to being a disciple of Jesus. I can visualize the “BE” characteristics being a disciple and how it might play out in my life. My primary role in this life is to take hold and grow into the fullness of Jesus.

NOTE: If you are not yet a disciple of Jesus, please do not wait. This is the first step in living your primary calling and essential to your secondary calling.

CORE MISSION: God has a mission for the local church, which is to carry the fullness of Jesus to every corner of society. I have a role in the mission of the church, which is being the fullness of Jesus to others. I can see that Jesus modeled specific behaviors for me to use in making disciples. I want to figure out what it looks like to take ownership of my core mission to make disciples.

CORE POSITION: I don't have to travel around the world to claim a mission field where I have relational influence. I can visualize my own mission field in places where I spend the most time with people. My ripest mission fields are those where I spend the most time and

have relational influence with people, and that integrate with the natural rhythms of my life. I want to be intentional as a missionary in a specific mission field. To make disciples in a mission field where I am, I need to be a committed learner with an intent to act.

UNIQUE IDENTITY: God's word tells me that I am his handiwork, uniquely made, with strengths and talents, making me different from everyone else. My unique strengths and talents are given by Jesus for the purpose of building up the church and carrying his fullness to the world. Clues embedded throughout my life point to and reveal my unique strengths and talents that make up my core identity. I can express my own unique identity in a few words or a short phrase.

UNIQUE MISSION: Ephesians 2:10 shows me that God has planned unique good works and deeds for me. My unique identity plus my passions, burdens, and the community's needs shape my unique mission. I have a draft expression of my unique passions and burdens, and potential community needs that bring them to life. I have a draft statement of my unique mission. I can see that it is my responsibility to own and use wisely the unique mission God has given me.

UNIQUE POSITION: I see that unique position (GO) is more than a geographic location. I understand that my unique position (GO) where I can be most effective is an issue of compatibility or fit. I see how my personal values shape where I fit. I see how my bias to natural roles shapes where I fit. I see how my preferred work environment shapes where I fit. I can visualize examples of how my life rhythms shape where I fit relating to my unique position. I have a better understanding of my compatibility or fit in my current positions.

**POINT
2**

I WILL GO BACK AND COMPLETE ANY STEPS I WASN'T ABLE TO FINISH.



As the author mentions in the book, the process of clarifying your personal calling can take years. It is common for people to be frustrated at this point because they haven't found perfect clarity. Don't let this prevent you from taking steps forward. Perhaps your next steps are simply to review the previous studies and spend more time in some of the activities.

DISCUSS: What was the most beneficial activity you completed and why?

ASK: Which activities do you think will be most beneficial for you to spend more time completing?

**POINT
3**

I WILL IDENTIFY BARRIERS WHICH PREVENT ME FROM TAKING ACTION ON MY CALLING.



You've recently been to a conference, listened to a sermon, read a book, or made a mental note of some deep revelation. At that moment, you think, "Yes—that's exactly it! That's where I need to go! That's what I need to do!" But then a week or a month later you haven't done it.

DISCUSS: Why do you think this happens?

READ: There are many excuses we use to justify delaying action. Waiting until retirement is one very common reason. But what if God didn't intend us to wait until late in life for us to join Him in His work? What if our day job is part of our calling? What if working our entire lives enables us to fulfill our calling? What if God has placed people in our lives today that we can impact? Rather than pushing off action until it's convenient, let's be honest about what currently prevents us from taking steps to align ourselves with God's calling in our life.

DISCUSS: We often tell ourselves, "When _____ happens, then I'll do _____."

- *When I'm out of college, then I'll get my life on the right path.*
- *When I'm back from vacation, then I'll make better diet and exercise choices.*
- *When I pay off these bills, then I will give generously.*

ASK: In what ways does this trap play out in your life? What obstacle do you see standing in your way? What will you do about it?

**POINT
4**

I WILL TAKE STEPS NOW TO BEGIN FULFILLING MY CALLING.



PARAPHRASE: Someone in the group paraphrase the story of David and Goliath out loud for everyone. (1 Samuel 17)

READ: It's our nature to plan and wait for clarity before we act. But like David, God wants us to see the "Goliath" opportunities in front of us, and act now. Not in several years when we have more clarity, more margin, more strategy, and a more attractive opportunity. Instead he wants us to lean into what's directly in front of us and act with more faith.

While complete clarity, margin, strategy, and adequate resources are all desirable and should be a goal, most of us never feel prepared. Our journey of calling is as much about the discipline of taking small steps every day as it is about the moment of inspiration when the lightning strikes.

ASK: What next steps can you commit to right now that will move you closer to the goals you've discovered in the *More* series? (Hint: there's a great idea outlined already for you in the *Taking More Home* section) This is an accountability exercise. It's easy to gloss over, but take the time to do it now. Use this space right here to keep record of your one thing.

MY ONE THING IS: _____



1-THING SHARE



What is one thing that you heard, said, or thought today that you want to keep in the forefront of your mind all this week?

Find somebody such as a spouse or accountability partner to hold you accountable to taking the next step you listed above and to complete the below exercise.

Plan 30 minutes on your calendar this week. Write down the date and your age. Then write a second date, three years into the future, and put your future age next to it.

Then take the next 30 minutes to dream. Answer these questions for yourself:

- 1. What would your life look like if God blessed your newfound focus and intentionality?**
- 2. Where would you hope to be?**

Start with a simple bullet list of ideas. Then look for patterns.

Now, get practical. For each idea, list a handful of specific things to accomplish in the next three to six months to establish momentum. These initial actions may just set you on a long-term course toward your calling.

Complete the "My Personal Calling Card" with your current understanding of your personal calling. Remember this does not have to be perfect. It will always be a work in progress.



TAKING MORE HOME

MY PERSONAL CALLING CARD

PRIMARY OR COMMON CALLING

<i>My Core Identity (cI)</i>	<i>My Core Mission (cM)</i>	<i>My Core Position (cP)</i>
I am a disciple of Jesus, seeking to have his fullness maturing in me	who carries Jesus' fullness to others making disciples	where I am!
<p>BE</p>  <p>Uniquely Made</p> <p>IDENTITY/DESIGN</p>	<p>DO</p>  <p>Purpose</p> <p>MISSION/PURPOSE</p>	<p>GO</p>  <p>Position</p> <p>MISSION FIELD/POSITION</p>
<p>I am uniquely made</p> <p>What is your unique [_____]? identity</p>	<p>to do good works and deeds</p> <p>What is your unique [_____]? mission</p>	<p>where I can be most effective.</p> <p>What is your unique [_____]? position</p>
<i>My Unique Identity (uI)</i>	<i>My Unique Mission (uM)</i>	<i>My Unique Position (uP)</i>

SECONDARY OR UNIQUE CALLING

CALLING

Calling is God's longing for us to be in eternal relationship with him, as his children. He calls us to be disciples of Jesus and to carry the fullness of Jesus into the world.

OUR PERSONAL CALLING IS **GOD'S UNIQUE HANDIWORK** IN OUR LIVES, TO EQUIP US TO **PLAY OUR UNIQUE ROLE** IN HIS MISSION HERE ON EARTH.