



Getting a GOD-CENTERED Cause for Your Life

Leader's Notes – Cliff Lea

Optional intro: story - Boy loves his mom, and she wants the living room painted. Boy knows that his mom's favorite color is red, so when she's gone, he paints the living room red. Greatest commandment: Matt 22:37. The boy LOVED his mom, BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW HER HEART.

The Passion of God - Week 1:

(Reading assignments are suggestions... John is a great book to read through during the first of this study, but just be reading something in the Word.)

1. To bring praise to His Name, to glorify Himself
2. For the sake of His Name, that He might make His power known.
3. For His Name's Sake
4. To be glorified
5. Agree- scriptural, makes complete sense

*A lot of people may have a problem with the fact that this sounds like PRIDE. Pride is not attractive to us. 1) It's a human quality and not of God. 2) God cannot escape His own glory (who else is worth it?) 3) If putting something above God is idolatry, then God would be idolater if He put US above himself. 4) There is nothing in us that we can glorify.

Definition of Glory - The manifestation of the sum total of the characteristics of God.

Understanding God's Ultimate Passion for His Own Glory

1. glory
2. honor (added on "verbage" means SO much)
3. name
4. forgives (why do you think God forgives us?)

5. This was the reason Jesus came...He prayed this right before the cross.
6. behold
7. dishonor (fall short of the glory of God = sin)
8. This is an eternal concept.

Aligning Ourselves with God's Ultimate Passion (This is where it gets really practical.)

1. everything (Even the most mundane things, do with all you HEART)
2. Referring to the Holy Spirit...affects "to do" list, how you walk to classes, etc. every little thing
3. Strength (We can't do all these commandments, but we must, so we must be totally dependant on God.)
4. That's why we pray in Jesus' name. God may answer our prayer "no" because our request may not glorify Him.
5. The motives of the heart are seen by the Lord.
6. faithful (Jesus was faithful to accomplish all that the Father had given Him to do.)
7. God's glory

The Purpose of God - Week 2:

1. So that all peoples on earth will be blessed.
2. Because Pharaoh wouldn't let Israel go in order to worship God. Also Pharaoh was raised up for this purpose, so that God could show him His power and that His Name would be proclaimed in all the earth.
3. That all the peoples on the earth might know that the hand of God is powerful and so that you might always fear the Lord your God.
4. So that all the earth would know of the wisdom that God gave him.
5. Personal answers vary, of course.

*Discuss "Top Line/Bottom Line" with group. Read through it together and discuss. Then have them individually find a few of their own examples to show that they understand the concept.

Understanding the Beginnings of the Global Purpose of God

*Explain: Any good literature has an introduction, a plot, and a conclusion. The Bible is no different. Looking at the Bible we see: Intro-Gen.1-11 (introduce what God is setting up); Thesis-Gen.12:1-3 (end of intro); Theme (carried through Bible); Conclusion-Revelation (scene of heaven). The main character of the Bible is GOD (Not me! We read it so often as if we were the main character.)

I. Old Testament

1. global purpose
2. The reason Abraham was blessed was because all peoples on earth would be blessed through him.
3. worship
4. prayers
5. Himself

II. New Testament

1. all peoples
2. CONTEXT. In Matthew 15:21-28 the woman is ultimately healed...was Jesus using "sarcasm" to make a point to his disciples?
3. related

*Today there are over 6 billion people in the world - 1.7 billion claim to be Christians. Approx. 5 billion lost and 2400 people groups with no access to the gospel in their own language.

4. disciples

Great Commission: We have to deal with these words of Jesus..."What does this mean for me?" It's different for everyone. Acts 1:8 not Jerusalem FIRST, and then other places, but a simultaneous action!! Hence, not save all the people in your town first, then your state, and then the U.S., etc., but do ALL simultaneously.

6. unreached (Issue is not location, but obedience.)
8. all nations (Rev. 7:9-10 - it WILL happen!)

How God fulfills His Global Purpose - Week 3:

1. That the whole world will be blessed and know of His salvation.
2. King Darius wrote a letter and told every person about God and made a law to worship Him.
3. If we call on Him, He will rescue us in order to bring praise and honor to Himself.
- 4 & 5. Answers vary.

God is always about fulfilling His purpose. We should seek these things! (things=ways of God fulfilling His purpose) some ways we want and some we may not want

Eight Different Ways We Can be Involved in God's Purpose

1. blessing
 - responsibility
 - *Financial blessing isn't to raise our standard of living (We're blessed to be a blessing.) Ask, "How do you want me to use this to bless others?" Also comfort during trials is a blessing that we're given to bless others with (NOT that poverty is godly).
2. discipline (Heb. 12 - God disciplines us because he loves us. It's not always for punishment, it may be for training.)
 - reveal
3. mighty acts (God didn't do these things just to make good Sunday school stories, but so His name would be known.)
 - know and worship
4. obedience

- nations (Even if it doesn't make sense, God is always about fulfilling His purpose...we can trust that God won't tell us to do something if it wasn't directly related to Him fulfilling His purpose.)

5. witnessing (Yes, through actions, but ALSO by words. Salvation comes through hearing the Word of God...)

6. prayer (God's desire is for all to know Him. "In my Name" = to glorify God. "Your kingdom come" = that people will know Him. This gives purpose in your prayers.)

- supremacy

7. worship

- worship (Prepare your hear for worship - including confession - beforehand. Possibly set a curfew for yourself on Saturday nights so you won't be tired at church during corporate worship. Take it seriously.)

8. suffering

- boldness
- openness (The lost see it and know there is something to it.)
- reposition (Stephen is being martyred, and persecution broke out and the church dispersed. Before this they were all in Jerusalem. God used this to disperse the church to the surrounding nations.)

Integrating the Cause of Christ in My Life – Week 4:

1. His desire is that we tell the whole world about Him and His salvation.
2. Delight in God rather than money. Store up treasures in heaven (eternal perspective on life).
3. Answers vary. Discuss.

Understanding the Importance of Spiritual Disciplines

(discipline>desire>delight)

1. What are spiritual disciplines?

- means

- (It is the MEANS, and not the end. Be careful.)
2. Why are spiritual disciplines important?
- natural progressions (Psalm 29:15, 1 Cor. 9:27)
 - Christ
 - choose
 - daily

Practicing Spiritual Disciplines from the Right Perspective

1. God is the focus.
- praying, reading Bible, etc.
 - love, live for
 - center, all (Isaiah 43:21 - why we exist)
2. Have a global mindset that is larger than your town or state or country. God is not only the God of America!!
- intimately
 - Discuss with group some practical things to do – pray for a country for 5 minutes each day, meet one international and build a friendship/share the gospel, study the Bible looking for passages about God’s reputation/glory among the nations, etc.

Six Spiritual Disciplines from a Global Perspective:

1. Discipline of Awareness: (be more aware of current events: tv, radio, newspaper...use that as a time to pray for countries as you see things going on.)

*Good books: Unveiled at Last- Bob Sjogren; Let the Nations be Glad- John Piper, In the Gap- David Bryant

2. Discipline of Prayer:
- people groups
 - responsibility (roommate troubles, meeting in worship, financial, health, etc.)
3. Discipline of Choice:
- (This question is not so much fun to deal with.)
 - responsibility

- relationships> Is he/she on the same page? Make a list of qualities needed for your boy/girlfriend (let God do it) and if he/she doesn't match, shut it off emotionally. How can you biblically grow together (spiritually) with a person if they don't have the same global perspective? If this is going to be your ministry and purpose in life, how can you pick a partner in ministry that doesn't have the same strategy/purpose/mission, etc? This isn't logical.

4. Discipline of Worship:

- (They should inspire you more to be involved in God's purpose.)

5. Discipline of Bible Study:

- theme

6. Discipline of Evangelism and Discipleship:

- (Some of the your non-Christian friends could be future missionaries! They just need to hear the gospel and see Christ's love through you. God has huge plans for them once they become believers.)
- cross-cultural (There are 660,000 international students in U.S. colleges each year. 25% of them are from countries who prohibit Christian missionaries. 90% return home never having been invited into an American home. 60% are from the 10/40 Window. Most of the internationals are from families that are more prominent and/or leaders in their country...very influential. They will be going back to their country to become the next leaders!)

Maintaining a God-Centered Cause for Life – Week 5:

1. God is Sovereign over all the nations and WILL be glorified.
2. un-confessed sin
3. Answers will vary. (Some examples: Jesus Christ can forgive my sin. God is totally Sovereign and about His own glory.)
4. Discuss answers. Local ministry is biblical when it includes a global mentality. Read Isaiah 49:6 and talk about how the first half goes along with the second half of the verse.

Remember the Passion and Purpose of God

1. passion
2. pursue
3. purpose
5. priority (What do you think the priority of our church is? How can we improve on this?)
6. (Every = 1 Cor. 7:32-34 - treasure college, treasure singleness. Plan long periods of time alone with God (goals, prayer, etc.) every so often. Schedule it in.
7. global

Obey the Directions of God

1. specific
2. (Why would He give me that instruction if it doesn't relate to His cause?)
3. obedience (As we obey, then we will be involved in God's global cause. It is not about location, it's about obedience in every area of your life/lifestyle.)