

# Week 1: Does Life Have a Purpose?

## Before the Meeting...

- Several days before your group meeting, review the *Weekly Gameplan* to remind yourself of some group objectives.
- Determine how you will use resources from [exploreGod.com](http://exploreGod.com) and these supplemental resources for your group.
- Don't forget to eat something together – food brings us all closer!

## During the Meeting...

### Break the Ice (choose one)

#### Puzzled

Take a simple puzzle (50 or fewer pieces, perhaps) and remove all of the border pieces. Hide the box so that there is no picture/guide to follow. Invite the group to complete the puzzle (give them 5-8 minutes)

#### **Discuss:**

- Ask group to describe the process. Which made the task more difficult: Not having a completed picture to use as a guide, or not having the border pieces? Why?  
*(A picture would have been nice, but missing the borders meant that the only way to start was by blindly trying to fit pieces.)*
- How might this exercise be similar to living life without a guide or sense of purpose?

#### Un-game

Come up with a simple game/relay that has several rules, but no objective in which someone “wins”. (Or imagine such a game together.)

#### **Discuss:**

- What would be frustrating about the game? *(No objective to win, or to know what winning even means)*
- How might you be tempted to respond as such a game continues? *(Quit! Break the rules intentionally since there is no discernable reason to keep them. Consider it all a joke).*

## Watch Video 1: Pulse of the World on Purpose

### Discuss from among the following:

1. Discuss the Explore God (EG) provided questions as applicable (see EG material)
2. **Ask your group:** How might the lives of people featured in the video be impacted by their varying beliefs (no purpose, you make your own destiny, learn from others, make a difference in someone else's life)?  
What are the risks of living a life (even a productive life) without a sense of purpose?
3. Ask your group: Have you ever lived as though life had no purpose? Describe that season in your life.

## Watch Video 2: The Curiosity Collective: Does Life Have a Purpose?

### Discuss from among the following:

1. Discuss the Explore God (EG) provided questions as applicable (see EG material)
2. Ask a volunteer(s) to read Ecclesiastes 2:1-11.  
Why was the Teacher in this passage so unhappy with what so many would call success? In what ways have you been tempted to chase after “meaningless” accomplishments or experiences?
3. How has becoming a follower of Christ changed the way you live, practically?
4. Ask a volunteer to read Ecclesiastes 3:11: *“(God) has made everything beautiful in its time. **He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.**”*  
  
What might the writer mean by God having “set eternity in the human heart”?  
*(Pastor Carter likened it to a GPS that beckons us ‘home’ to relationship with God.)*
5. How will being reminded of the importance of purpose alter the way that you view the pursuits of non-Christians? *(Hopefully soften our view of them as they vainly search for meaning in any/every area of life.)*
6. How has this session challenged your perception of others who hold an utterly different view of life from your view?
7. How might you change your approach to someone that you know who does not see a purpose in his or her life?

### Inspire

Indicate that there are people all around us daily (neighbors, coworkers, family members) who are wrestling with the question of life’s purpose. Then, as a group, create a list of the names of people that you personally know right now that would benefit from a dialog about life’s purpose?

*(Ask someone to capture all the names and ensure that they are emailed to the group members later this week.)*

### Prayer & Ministry

1. Pray over the list of names as a group, asking God to send someone into their path that will engage with them on this level.
2. Pray that God would inspire someone from this group to start a dialog with some of those people in an outside setting (or group).
3. Briefly share prayer needs with one another and pray for each other.

### After the meeting...

- Ensure that the group’s list of acquaintances who may be wrestling with life’s purpose is emailed to every group member for prayer

### Pastor Dwayne’s recommendations:

- Consider using the video: [“The Pursuit of Purpose”](#) at [exploregod.com](http://exploregod.com) – very powerful!