

This guide is part of Antioch's Spiritual Formation Series and focuses on helping individuals discover their identity through purpose. It walks participants through a reflective, biblically grounded process to explore four key dimensions of purpose: ultimate, universal, corporate, and personal. Whether used individually or in community, this tool empowers believers to live with clarity, direction, and deeper alignment with God's calling.

Spiritual Formation Series

Rooted in Identity Through
Purpose

Pastor Hawkins



Unpacking Your Purpose

How This Document Fits Into Your Growth Journey

At Antioch, we believe spiritual growth happens through **three interconnected frameworks**:

- **Identity Through Purpose** (this document): Clarify who you are and why you're here.
- **Community Through Ubuntu**: Experience and offer care in an interconnected community.
- **Maturity Through the 7 Commitments**: Live out your faith through a lifestyle of intentional growth.

This tool will guide you through a process of reflection to uncover your **God-given identity and calling**. While it's designed to take about an hour, the goal isn't speed but **clarity**.

Instructions

1. Complete Sections 1–4 on your own.
2. Submit it to your pastor or designated leader (email or hard copy).
3. Schedule a time to complete Section 5 together.
4. Revisit every few years — or when life changes significantly.

This is a living document. Don't worry about having all the answers — just be honest and prayerful.

Name: _____ Date Completed: _____

Is this your first time completing this process? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If this is a revision, what prompted the revision?

Introduction

Both the Old and New Testaments recount stories of how God divinely summoned people to join Him in His redemptive plan. Each of these people received God's invitation and responded with faithful obedience. As a result, their life's purpose was realigned to his will. The good news is that God is still working His redemptive plan and He is still calling each of us to join Him. The more we align our lives with his purpose the more we will discover the joy of seeing God at work in us and through us.

Our purpose has four different but interconnecting dimensions. We have an ultimate purpose, a universal purpose, a corporate purpose, and a personal purpose. This document is designed to introduce you to each dimension of your purpose and provide opportunities for you to reflect and begin to align your life accordingly.

Section One: Your Ultimate Purpose

Introduction

As believers, we all have the same ultimate purpose. Regardless of our church affiliation (or lack thereof), spiritual gifts, experiences, passions, or history. God has given us one ultimate purpose for being and it should be at the center of our existence.

Connection Point: Your ultimate purpose forms the foundation for all other aspects of your purpose. Everything in your life should flow from this primary calling.

Glorifying God

Our ultimate purpose in life is bring glory to God. 1 Corinthians 10:31 says, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

- **"do all"** - This principle guides every act in life and dispels the notion that some acts are religious/sacred, and some are secular.
- **"to the glory"** - Glory has the aim of pleasing, honoring, or shining the spotlight on something or someone.
- **"of God"** - God alone is the object of our praise, honor.

How does this ultimate purpose challenge your current thinking on your ultimate purpose in life?

What changes in your thinking, attitude, and behavior do you need, and are willing, to make to align your life with God's ultimate purpose for you?

What is the first change I will make to better glorify God?

Section Two: Your Universal Purpose

Introduction

Your universal purpose is based on two biblical imperatives, and they apply to all believers regardless of location, language, culture, personal uniqueness, or church membership. These imperatives provide a solid foundation for our lives and will always lead us in the right direction.

Connection Point: While your ultimate purpose (glorifying God) defines WHY you exist, your universal purpose defines WHAT you should be doing. These biblical commands direct how you fulfill your ultimate purpose.

The Great Commandment

The Great Commandment summarizes all the laws and commands in the bible. However, keeping them is an impossibility without a right relationship with God (salvation) and the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to help us. When we begin to live life from this perspective, we will be better able to establish and maintain healthy relationships with God, self, and others.

The great command says *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”* Matthew 22:37-40.

What do you observe? What stands out the most to you?

How has this impacted your life? What questions or concerns do you have about this?

Why is this so important? What changes do you need to make?

What are you committed to doing to grow in this area?

The Great Commission

The Great Commission outlines our primary objective as believers during the time after Jesus ascended to heaven until his return. It is based on the Great Commandment because it is an act of love. Making disciples is our highest shared purpose as believers.

The Great Commission says, *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”* Matthew 28:18-20.

These two imperatives provide the broadest context for the believer regardless of church affiliation.

What do you observe? What stands out the most to you?

How has this impacted your life? What questions or concerns do you have about this?

Why is this so important? What changes do you need to make?

What are you committed to doing to grow in this area?

What is the first change I will make to better fulfill the Great Commission?

Section Three: Your Corporate Purpose

Introduction

Your corporate purpose is discovered within the context of the local church. While every Jesus centered bible believing church is united by the same universal purpose to glorify God by loving God, self, and others and making disciples, each local church is unique.

Connection Point: Your corporate purpose identifies the context and community where you live out your ultimate and universal purposes. God places you in a specific local church—not by accident, but by design—so you can grow, serve, and partner with others in fulfilling His mission together.

They have a unique set of needs around them. They have a unique set of spiritual gifts within the church. They have a unique set of passions. They are rooted in a unique location. They have a unique membership profile. They have leaders with unique skills and passions. Because of all this uniqueness each local church will live out their universal purpose separately. However, the keys to unpacking each church's purpose can be discovered by examining its mission, vision, values, and plans.

Antioch's Mission

"Our mission is to passionately love God and to give glory to His name through the worship, work and witness of this church; to compassionately love others with the same godly love that was demonstrated to us by our Lord Jesus Christ; and to effectively share the Good News of God's love with our families, our community and with others throughout the world by the power and aid of the Holy Spirit. This is why we exist!"

Antioch's Vision

"Disciples Making Disciples"

Antioch's Values

Believing

We believe that faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ is the only way to a relationship with God and access to His Kingdom (John 3:16).

Being

We believe that the power of God makes every believer a new creation in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17).

Belonging

We believe that every believer is accepted into the body of Christ and should be connected to a local church (Eph 2:19-22).

Becoming

We believe that every believer is a steward of God's resources and should use them to uplift the body of Christ so every believer can reach spiritual maturity (Eph 4:11-16).

What do you observe? What stands out the most to you?

How has this impacted your life? What questions or concerns do you have about this?

Why is this so important? What changes do you need to make?

What are you committed to doing to grow in this area?

What is the first change I will make to engage more fully with Antioch's mission, vision, or values?

Antioch's Plans

For the latest church plans and initiatives, please refer to our website or other forms of current church communications.

Section Four: Your Personal Purpose

Introduction

Now that you understand the broader context of your universal and Christian purpose, it is now time to look at purpose personally. There are several variables that work together to help you understand your unique purpose. These variables can be addressed through answering three specific questions:

1. What am I discovering?
2. What is God been saying?
3. Where should I be engaging?

Connection Point: Your personal purpose defines HOW you uniquely contribute to God's kingdom. It's the specific way that YOU—with your unique gifts, experiences, and calling—fulfill the ultimate, universal, and corporate purposes we've explored.

What Am I Discovering?

Antioch has designed a process to help you discover your uniqueness and reflect on your discoveries. The process involves assessing your maturity, ability, energy, history, chemistry, and availability. Complete your profile as you see yourself today.

Maturity:

Maturity in Christ is not simply about how long you have been a believer but about your growth in knowledge, values, and behaviors. The following framework will help you assess your current level of maturity in different areas.

1. Head: What Do I Know & Understand?

- Understanding God: Do I have a growing knowledge of the existence and character of God?
- Understanding the Bible: Am I familiar with the structure, storyline, and major doctrines of the Bible?
- Understanding Salvation: Do I grasp the Gospel message, and can I articulate my personal testimony?

2. Heart: What Values Am I Embracing?

- Believing (John 3:16) – Have I placed my faith in Christ and continue growing in trust?
- Being (2 Corinthians 5:17) – Am I living as a new creation in Christ?
- Belonging (Ephesians 2:19-22) – Do I recognize my place in the body of Christ?
- Becoming (Ephesians 4:11-16) – Am I intentionally growing toward maturity in Christ?

3. Corporate Hands: How Am I Engaging with the Church Community?

Mature disciples embrace corporate behaviors that contribute to the body of Christ (Acts 2:42-47):

- Worship: Am I consistently engaging in worship?
- Ministry: Am I using my gifts to serve others?
- Fellowship: Do I seek and nurture relationships within the church?
- Evangelism: Am I actively sharing my faith?
- Christian Education: Am I continually learning and growing in my faith?
- Prayer: Do I prioritize communication with God in my personal and corporate life?

4. Individual Hands: How Am I Personally Living Out My Faith?

Mature disciples also develop individual disciplines:

- Discern and Respond to God's Voice (John 10:27)
Am I listening for God's voice and responding in obedience?
- Engage in Spiritual Rhythms (1 Timothy 4:7)
Do I have consistent habits of prayer, Bible study, fasting, and worship?
- Align My Life with God's Purpose (1 Corinthians 10:31)
Am I seeking to glorify God and live according to His purpose in all I do?
- Persevere Through Trials with Hope (James 1:2-4; Romans 5:3-5)
Am I allowing challenges to strengthen my faith and produce endurance?
- Share My Faith with Others (1 Peter 3:15)
Am I actively telling others about Christ with gentleness and respect?
- Care for and Disciple Others (Matthew 22:36-40; 28:18-20)
Am I investing in the spiritual and personal growth of others?

Assessing Your Maturity Level

Based on the reflections above, where do you currently see yourself? (Check one)

- ☐ **Beginning Level of Maturity** – I am just starting my journey of understanding and following Christ.
- ☐ **Emerging Level of Maturity** – I have begun to see evidence of growth in my knowledge, values, and behaviors.
- ☐ **Established Level of Maturity** – I consistently demonstrate evidence of maturity in Christ and help others grow.

Support Your Answer:

- What experiences, habits, or commitments led you to choose this level?

- How does this maturity level impact your understanding of your personal purpose?

- What next steps will you take to continue growing?

Ability:

Spiritual Gifts

- What are your spiritual gifts (spiritualgiftstest.com General Access Code 5A29C5)?

- How have you developed them?

- In what areas of ministry have you utilized your gifts?

- List an example of an occasion when your spiritual gifts helped others in their spiritual development.

Natural Abilities

- What are some of your natural abilities?

- Which abilities do you enjoy using most?

- Which abilities do you least enjoy using?

Teach-Ability

- What would others say about your ability to be taught by others?

- What evidence would they use to support their answer?

Energy:

For Christ

- What excites you most about your relationship with Christ?

For the Church

- What excites you most about being connected to Antioch?

For a Specific area of Concern

- What makes you weep and pound the table?

History:

Ministry Experiences

- What positive ministry experiences have you had that might be helpful in finding the right ministry fit at Antioch?

- What negative ministry experiences have you had that might be helpful in finding the right ministry fit at Antioch?

Personal Experiences

- What positive personal experiences have uniquely prepared you to serve in a specific ministry setting?

- What negative or painful experiences have uniquely prepared you to serve in a specific ministry setting?

Chemistry:

Personality

- How would you describe your personality to other ministry participants (input your results from your personality test here)?

Group dynamics

- How has your personality been helpful in a group setting?

- How has your personality been challenging in a group setting?

Availability:

- How much time can you commit to ministry activity?

What Has God Been Saying?

The context of God speaking

John 10:27 says, *“My sheep hear my voice, I know them and they follow me.”* God speaks to us because we belong to Him *“My sheep.”* He also speaks to us because he knows us intimately and wants to lead us in the right direction *“I know them and they follow me.”* One of the ways he directs us is in our personal purpose. One of ways we discover our personal purpose is to seek a closer relationship with Him.

The primary way we draw closer the God is through engaging in spiritual disciplines (fasting, prayer, study, worship, etc.). In doing so, not only will we draw close to God, but we will also come to recognize His voice when he speaks to us about our purpose.

How does God speak to us?

God speaks to us in four primary ways:

1. **Through His Word** - First and foremost, God speaks to us is through His word (2 Tim 3:16-17). The bible reveals to us God’s will for our lives in detail. The bible speaks about money, relationships, marriage, family, communication, conflict, and other topics related to holiness and daily living.
2. **By His Spirit** - The Holy Spirit indwells the believer (John 14:15-17) to guide us in ways that are consistent with His word (John 14:26). Often the Holy Spirit will guide our thoughts in ways that reveal God’s will for our lives (Act 8:29, and various other scriptures).
3. **Through Other People** - God instructs us to listen to people who speak to us in ways that are in alignment with His word (Heb 13:17).
4. **Through Circumstances** - Since He is control of all things (Psalm 24:1) God uses circumstances to speak to us and advance His redemptive plan in the world (1 Pe 1:6-7).

What do you think God has been saying to you lately?

Where Should I Be Engaging?

There are three primary areas of service at Antioch. Members are encouraged to serve in multiple areas. Engagement opportunities include the maintenance, ministry, and mission of the church.

The Maintenance of the Church

The maintenance of the church involves everything that is necessary for the church to operate smoothly. Every member may not engage in this area but those who do need to be competent and responsible disciples. Maintenance opportunities include:

- Administration
- Trustee
- Stewardship Ministries (treasurer, stewardship commission, trustees)
- Culinary
- Transportation
- Media
- Music
- Ushers

Where do you see yourself serving in the maintenance of the church?

The Ministries of the Church

The primary commands for the church are found in the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. Every member of Antioch is called to care and make disciples. Our church ministries are organized to help us do what Christ commands.

Demonstrating Care

- Antioch Ubuntu Systems of Care (self-care, group care, congregational care, pastoral care, community care)
- Health Ministry
- Bereavement Support
- Benevolence

Making Disciples

- Discipleship Groups Worship (life groups, study groups, care group)
- Family Ministries (Antioch Kids, Men's Ministry, Women's Ministry)
- New Member Orientation

Where do you see yourself serving in the ministry of the church?

The Missions of the Church

At its core, the church is also a sending organization and not just a gathering one. Our mission, as instructed by Jesus, is to be witnesses unto Him throughout the world (Acts 1:8). Every member should be engaged in the mission of the church. The mission ministries of Antioch include:

- Home mission initiatives (family, friends, and the familiar)
- Cross cultural mission initiatives (different communities and cultures)
- Global mission initiatives (different languages and lands)

Where do you see yourself serving in the mission of the church?

Section Five: Pastor/Member Feedback

Important: This section should be completed together with your pastor or designated church leader. After completing Sections 1-4, submit this document and schedule a meeting to discuss your reflections and establish accountability for your next steps.

Observations

Next Steps
