

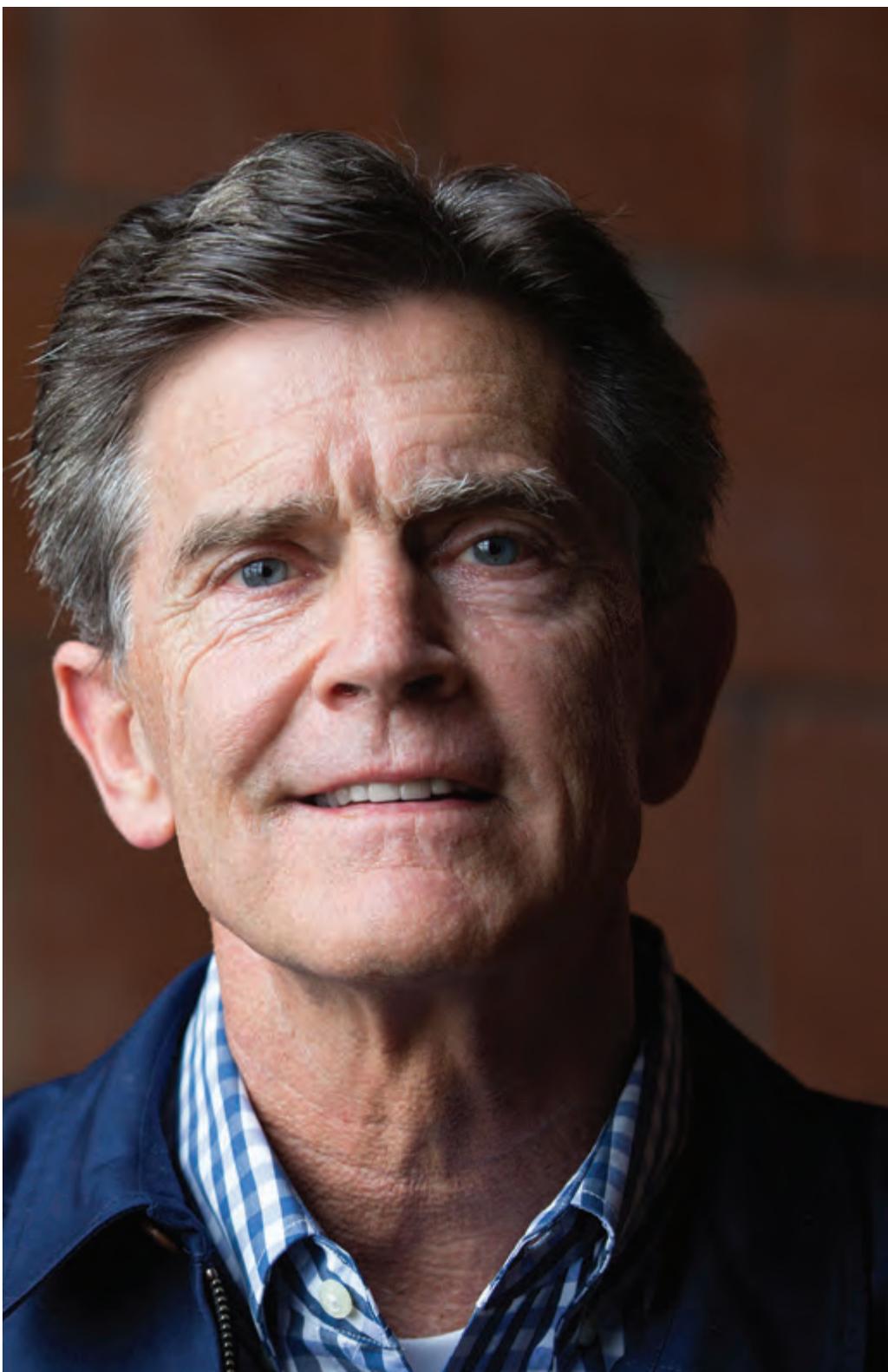
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VENTURE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



Discovering God's Purpose for Your Life

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



Introduction

Dear Small Group Attendee,

As you dive into this life changing study, you will have the opportunity to begin discovering God's purpose for your life. We call this your Holy Ambition. You will explore six incremental steps that will prepare and engage you in His service. They are, in order of experience:

- **Developing a Dislocated Heart**
- **Experiencing a Broken Spirit**
- **Practicing a Radical Faith**
- **Creating a Strategic Plan**
- **Exercising Personal Commitment**
- **Growing a Courageous Soul**

These six developmental phases are explained and illustrated from Scripture through the life of Nehemiah. The story of Nehemiah reveals God communicating a calling to a person to meet a big need. We see this repeatable process as one that God wants to initiate in your life today. As you study and experience these developmental phases in relationship with others in your small group, you will begin to discover

your Holy Ambition and a new perspective on what Jesus meant when He said, "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it" (Matthew 16:25 NASB).

My prayer for our journey together,

Holy Father, ignite us with great dreams and ambitions that are God-given and empowered by Your Spirit and grace. Lord, make us ambitious for Your agenda and Your glory. Do a deep and great work in us and through us that will have great Kingdom impact.

Holy Father, help us with every step of this journey, that the motive of our hearts would honor You, that You would give us Your Spirit and the faith to trust You. We long to plan our lives around Your will and Your plans. We are tempted to stay where life seems safe, even though we know that our only real security comes from You. We long for significance, but fear stepping out to make a difference.

O Holy Father, give us courage, give us Holy Ambition.

Session 1



WELCOME TO OUR GROUP

Welcome to the Holy Ambition study and your group's open house. Take some time to get to know the other group members, especially if you haven't met before.

Since this introductory week is more informal, your group will only be going through a few questions in Session 1. Your group will have the full meeting format beginning with Session 2.

GETTING STARTED

- 1 Let's get started by sharing something with the group maybe no one knows about you. Share something like your middle name, or a hidden talent, or something else the group might not expect to hear from you.



LIVE IT OUT—B.I.O.

BIO is a word that is synonymous with "life." Found in those 3 simple letters B.I.O. is the key to helping you become the person God wants you to be.

B COME BEFORE GOD DAILY. To meet with Him personally through His Word and prayer to enjoy His presence, receive His direction, and follow His will.

I DO LIFE IN COMMUNITY WEEKLY. Structuring your week to personally connect in safe relationships that provide love, support, transparency, challenge, and accountability.

O BE ON MISSION 24/7. Cultivating a mindset to "live out" Jesus' love for others through acts of sacrifice and service at home, work, play, and church.



COME BEFORE GOD

7 Prayerfully think about people in your life who might enjoy or benefit from this study. Who among your neighbors, co-workers, relatives, friends, and others can you pray about inviting to come with you next week?

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DO LIFE IN COMMUNITY

8 When you think about your answer to the question about what you would do if God gave you an unlimited check, what kinds of people or skills would you need in order for that dream to become a reality?

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BE ON MISSION

9 2 Chronicles 16:9 (NAS) says that "the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His." As you close your group meeting, spend some time praying for one another. As a means of direction for your prayer time, complete the following statement...

"One of the things that stands in the way of me pursuing my Holy Ambition is..."

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.....

Also pray about inviting the people you listed in Question 7.

ACCELERATE *(20 minutes that turns concepts into convictions)*

Inspiration comes from hearing God's Word. Motivation grows by discussing God's Word. Transformation occurs when you study it for yourself.

If you want to "accelerate" your growth, here is an assignment you can do this week. To help you get the most out of this exercise, consider partnering up with somebody in your group who will also commit to do the assignment this week. Then, after you have each done the assignment, agree to spend 10 minutes by phone, Skype, FaceTime, or face to face sharing what you learned and what you are applying.

COME BEFORE GOD

This week read the story of King Asa in 2 Chronicles 14-16.

- 1** In one sentence, how would you define Asa's Holy Ambition?
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- 2** What are some practical things Asa does that demonstrate he is a good and godly king?
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- 3** Where do you see selfish ambition in Asa's life?
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DO LIFE IN COMMUNITY

- Connect this week with someone who seems to have a "Holy Ambition."
- Have a spiritual conversation about making an impact with your life.
- Learn from them what steps they have taken to pursue their "Holy Ambition."

BE ON MISSION

- This week work hard at noticing what is going on around you. It is easy for us to become desensitized to the brokenness around us.
- Take 30 minutes and do a prayer walk this week. Slowly walk around your neighborhood or some part of your community and ask God to give you a burden for the things that He cares about.