



Made for This Week 2 – My Highest Purpose Groups Guide

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or with a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take a next spiritual step, contact us at info@wschurch.org.

Scripture:

A debate broke out between John's disciples and a certain Jew over ceremonial cleansing. So John's disciples came to him and said, "Rabbi, the man you met on the other side of the Jordan River, the one you identified as the Messiah, is also baptizing people. And everybody is going to him instead of coming to us."

John replied, "No one can receive anything unless God gives it from heaven. You yourselves know how plainly I told you, 'I am not the Messiah. I am only here to prepare the way for him.' It is the bridegroom who marries the bride, and the bridegroom's friend is simply glad to stand with him and hear his vows. Therefore, I am filled with joy at his success. He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.

John 3:25-30

"But all these things did happen to King Nebuchadnezzar. Twelve months later he was taking a walk on the flat roof of the royal palace in Babylon. As he looked out across the city, he said, 'Look at this great city of Babylon! By my own mighty power, I have built this beautiful city as my royal residence to display my majestic splendor.'

"While these words were still in his mouth, a voice called down from heaven, 'O King Nebuchadnezzar, this message is for you! You are no longer ruler of this kingdom. You will be driven from human society. You will live in the fields with the wild animals, and you will eat grass like a cow. Seven periods of time will pass while you live this way, until you learn that the Most High rules over the kingdoms of the world and gives them to anyone he chooses.'"

Daniel 4:28-32

The greatest among you will be your servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

Matthew 23:11-12

Introduction & Icebreaker (10 minutes)

- Keep learning names and helping people feel welcome! As you answer the opening question, introduce yourself with your name.
- What's one thing everyone knows about you and one thing not everyone knows about you?

Message & Scripture Discussion (30 minutes)

- **What stood out to you from Sunday's service?** How did you sense God at work in you through the songs, the story video, the message, and being together with others as part of the church? (The message main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you think back.)

- In the sermon, Eddie talked about John the Baptist as someone whose purpose and job description was to introduce Jesus. **Have someone read John 3:25-30 out loud. What do you notice about John the Baptist in these verses?**
- Eddie also shared the story from the Old Testament of King Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4. **Have someone read Daniel 4:28-32 out loud. What do you notice about Nebuchadnezzar? What do you notice about God?**
- In the message, Eddie listed several tendencies to watch out for in ourselves. Read through this list and note if anything stands out to you in particular:
 - Insisting on credit – making sure our contribution is noticed and acknowledged
 - Religious lingo – propping ourselves up or making ourselves seem more knowledgeable or important with spiritual words
 - Self-justification – finding technicalities or loopholes to excuse our behavior (rather than confess and own our mistake)
 - Harsh judgement of others – focusing on others behavior instead of our own
 - Self-loathing – chronic insecurity or putting ourselves down when we compare ourselves to others

Which one of these do you most struggle with? **Are there certain situations or relationships where you struggle with making yourself bigger and more important?**

- **Have someone read these words from Jesus out loud:** “The greatest among you will be your servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.” Matthew 23:11-12
Jesus is saying something that challenges the way we expect things to work. **How do you react to Jesus’ words here?**
- Eddie closed his message by saying this: “Friend, you and I were made for this: to become less and less, so that Jesus can be more and more.” **How does this challenge you today?**
- Is there anything else from the message that you want to explore more this week?

Reflection (10 minutes)

Take a moment to complete the following prompts:

- One relationship or situation where I need to grow in humility: _____.
- One way I can make myself less and less so that Jesus can be more and more is by:
_____.

(Allow group members to share answers if they want.)

Daily Time With God Debrief (25 minutes)

Using the notes in your book, give people an opportunity to share anything they are willing from their daily time with God.

- How did you spend time with God throughout this week? What worked well and what was difficult? Share some practical and honest feedback.
- Was there a Scripture from Colossians that stood out to you as you read this week?
- What is one thing you want to apply or put into practice from your Bible reading this week? (Use your SOAP notes to look back.)
- Did you write down anything on your gratitude list that you’d be willing to share?
- Is there a moment this week where you noticed God with you or at work in your ordinary life? What was it?

Group Logistics (5 minutes)

The leader will walk through several important details for your group.

- **Daily Time with God** – Any questions or issues?
- **Bonus Experience** – Open your books to pages 19-20. This is a BONUS experience for you to do outside of regular group time.
- **Do as much during the week as you can, but show up regardless of how much you do.**
- **Sunday On-Site Groups: next week, Super Bowl Sunday, Feb 11, we’ll meet from 2:00PM – 3:30PM.**

Prayer (10 minutes)

- Open the book to page 21 and look at the Breath Prayer from John 3:30. Read through the page. Invite your group to pray the phrases from Scripture silently, connecting them with their breath.
- Then, have one person from your group (the leader or a volunteer) pray out loud to close your group time.

Keep digging into the teaching themes this week! To find resources like a Bible reading plan, a way to sign up for daily text devotions, and more, go to wschurch.org/madeforthis.

Sign up for daily text devotions by texting DEVO to 217217.

Message Main Points & Scripture:

- **Edmund Halley**
- **The job description of John the Baptist was to introduce and elevate Jesus.**
- John 3:25 - A debate broke out between John's disciples and a certain Jew over ceremonial cleansing. So John's disciples came to him and said, "Rabbi, the man you met on the other side of the Jordan River, the one you identified as the Messiah, is also baptizing people. And everybody is going to him instead of coming to us."
- John 3: 27-30 - John replied, "No one can receive anything unless God gives it from heaven. You yourselves know how plainly I told you, 'I am not the Messiah. I am only here to prepare the way for him.' It is the bridegroom who marries the bride, and the bridegroom's friend is simply glad to stand with him and hear his vows. Therefore, I am filled with joy at his success. He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less."
- **we are made to exalt God over ourselves**
- Daniel 4:4 - "I, Nebuchadnezzar, was living in my palace in comfort and prosperity. But one night I had a dream that frightened me. I saw visions that terrified me as I lay in my bed. So I issued an order calling in all the wise men of Babylon, so they could tell me what my dream meant."
- Daniel 4:25 - "Seven periods of time will pass while you live this way, until you learn that the Most High rules over the kingdoms of the world and gives them to anyone he chooses. But the stump and roots of the tree were left in the ground. This means that you will receive your kingdom back again when you have learned that heaven rules."
- Daniel 4:28 - All these things did happen to King Nebuchadnezzar. Twelve months later he was taking a walk on the flat roof of the royal palace in Babylon. As he looked out across the city, he said, "Look at this great city of Babylon! By my own mighty power, I have built this beautiful city as my royal residence to display my majestic splendor."
- Daniel 4:31 - While these words were still in his mouth, a voice called down from heaven, "King Nebuchadnezzar, this message is for you: you are no longer ruler of this kingdom."
- Proverbs 30:5 - Every word of God proves true.
- **insisting on credit**
- James 1:17 - Every good and perfect gift is from above...
- **religious lingo**
- **self-justification**
- Luke 10:29 - He wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"
- **harsh judgment of others**
- Luke 18:13 - "God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner."
- **self-loathing**
- Romans 8:31, 34 - If God is for us, who can ever be against us? If he did not spare even his own Son, but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? Who then will condemn us? No one...
- Matthew 23:11-12 - The greatest among you will be your servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.