

Small group discussion and individual reflection - episode 2

# God's Promise to Give You Purpose



**T**here's a story in the Bible about a man named Job. He was well known, he loved God, and he had lots of material wealth. Satan attacked him, and in a short time, he lost everything. One of the classic verses in the book of Job is in Job 1:21, "And he said, Naked, I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

**It's true, isn't it? We come into the world with nothing, and we will leave with nothing because we can't take it with us.** But let's be honest, between birth and death, we really do need stuff! We need food, we need clothes, and we need a place to live. These are the basics, but all of us hope to have a life that includes more than just the basics. There are two things, our "needs" and our "wants." God promises those who choose to trust in him will not only have their needs met in this life, but He will also bless them abundantly. Meaning, God wants to take care of your "needs" and even bless you with some of the extra things you "want."

**But how do we get ahead in life (or even survive) if we start out in a tough place?** Let's be honest, the kid born in a family with parents who live in a nice neighborhood, and the parents make good money, and they have a loving home, have a pretty good head start. But the kid who doesn't have these things is going to face a lot of challenges. Sometimes it's easy to think there are ways to get all the things you need by taking a shortcut. Whether it's through stealing something you don't have the money to buy, making quick money illegally because working for minimum wage seems crazy, or even joining a gang because you need a family, all these things are our way of taking care of our own needs and doing it our own way.

**But have you thought about this? God offers another way.** He promises us that if we choose the path of "wickedness," we will eventually suffer for it. He also promises that if we choose His path of truth, He will bless us! It may sound crazy, but putting your trust in God, even to take care of your wants and needs, is actually what God calls WISDOM. And when you choose to live in God's wisdom, He will bless you more and take care of you better than you can ever imagine!

Proverbs 10:12, "Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit, but righteousness delivers from death."

Matthew 25:36, "I was naked, and you clothed me, I was sick, and you visited me, I was in prison, and you came to me."

Psalm 37:25, "I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread."

Proverbs 10:1-4, "A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is a sorrow to his mother. Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit, but righteousness delivers from death. The Lord does not let the righteous go hungry, but he thwarts the craving of the wicked. A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich."

**Discuss in a group or with a friend** some of the things you WANT and some of the things you NEED. Write a prayer to God on the back of this sheet committing to God you will trust Him to meet your needs.

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