

ON PURPOSE FOR A PURPOSE

HOW HAS GOD UNIQUELY DESIGNED YOU AND FOR WHAT REASON?

Week 1: Character Study – Apostle John

Discussion Overview: We are entering a series that's going to look at God's purpose for our lives. We are going to look at how God has uniquely designed each one of you and take some time to discuss how God wants to use those unique qualities to bring Him honor. But first, we are going to look at a guy in the Bible who Jesus called to follow Him. We will look at his background and unique qualities and see how God used those in a huge way.

Key Scripture Matthew 4:21-22, Mark 3:16-19, Luke 9:54, Mark 15:40-41, John 19:25, Galatians 2:7-9,

Getting Started

- Off the top of your head, what do you know about the Apostle John?
- Which books of the Bible did he most likely write? (Gospel of John, 1st-3rd John, and Revelation)
- Why do you think Jesus chose John to be one of His 12 disciples?

Digging Deeper

- Read Matthew 4:21-22 and Mark 3:16-19. What do we learn about John from these verses?
- Read Luke 9:54. What can we infer about John's personality from his reaction here?
- Read Mark 10:35-45. Why were the other 10 disciples so ticked at James and John?
- Read Mark 15:40-41 and John 19:25.
 - Many historians believe that Salome was Zebedee's wife and James and John's mother, and was Mary the mother of Jesus' sister which would make James and John and Jesus, cousins.
- What do you think it was like for John to know Jesus as a cousin and then be called to follow him?
- Peter, James, and John were Jesus' inner circle. They witnessed unique miracles and had personal time with Jesus that the others didn't have. They were present when Jesus raised a girl from the dead (Mark 5:37), they were with Jesus at the transfiguration (Matthew 17) and were closest to Jesus when He was dying on the cross.
- In John 19:25, Jesus asks John to take care of his mother Mary. What does this show about the depth of their relationship?
- Read Galatians 2:7-9. John became a pillar of leadership in the early church, and the Gospel of John reveals a guy transformed by Jesus' love. The son of thunder now a son of love. He was called to proclaim the gospel and to lead and grow the early church.
- What unique talents, personality, education, or relationships did John have that prepared him and qualified him for ministry?