**Living on Purpose (Draft Sermon)**

**NOTES:**

**Welcome//Introduction to Compassion Celebration Service**

* Share how each year we (as a church) want to set aside time to purposefully celebrate what God is doing through our church and par­tnership with Compassion.
* Have a few individuals share their sponsorship stories *[if you’ve used our social media pack in the lead-up to the event, you may have some material to read out].*
* Share a story of how seasons in life come together to form a bigger picture:
  + For instance share a story of how, as a husband/wife, you purposefully build time into your week for each other.
  + Or a time when you studied to achieve something. Purpose was involved.
* Share another story of a time in life when things didn’t work out as you had initially purposed, but by trusting in God He worked it all out. (Romans 8:28, Jeremiah 29:11. Proverbs 3:5-6)
* Make the point – ***“In order to build purpose, we need to build on purpose.”***

**Lead in to the main scripture point//create a connection with the congregation**

* Purpose can be hard to explain – Describe what you believe purpose to mean. Share a life story of a difficult season when, despite your best efforts, nothing was going to plan.
* This would be a good opportunity to emphasise how it can sometimes feel as if nothing in life is going right ... maybe even share some of the distressed cries to God in the Psalms of Lament (Psalm 44, 60, 74, 79, 80, 85, and 90).
* Encourage people and let them know that we are in good company when things don’t go according to plan and we feel that our failings overtake us. List some biblical characters with big faults (i.e. Moses was a murderer, David an adulterer, Thomas was a doubter and Peter denied Christ … yet they all went on to do wonderful things in the name of our Lord).
* Remind people of the key point ***“In order to build purpose, we need to build on purpose.”***
* ***CELEBRATION POINT: Christ came through for Moses, David, Thomas and Peter and he has for you and will do again. Our God carries us through the troubles and that’s worth celebrating.***

**NOTES:**

**Unpack main thoughts//Keep focus on building purposeful lives**

* When discussing purpose there is one book of the Bible that comes to mind. The original book of wisdom, Proverbs.
* Proverbs 30:24-28
  + V24 - Four things on earth are small, yet they are extremely wise:
    - Psalm 90:12 – Teach us to number our days, so we may gain a heart of wisdom.
    - Let’s take wisdom whenever we can get it. These four creatures give us four specific lessons on building purpose and wisdom into our lives.
  + V25 - ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer;
    - ***Purpose lives for the future.***
    - Those who give to the poor, lend to the Lord (Proverbs 19:17). I am so certain in my life that I want to make eternal deposits that have the Lord’s financial support.
    - Share a story of how you took a decision to live for your future ... dieted, became healthier or invested in relationships.
    - Share how your own sponsored child is building purpose for the future through your investment.
    - ***CELEBRATION Point: Consider telling one of the inspirational stories of a sponsored child [URL TBC]. Remind people that all the children we sponsor have potential, just like our children. What we give them is opportunity.***
  + V26 - hyraxes/conies are creatures of little power, yet they make their home in the crags;
    - ***Purpose can live anywhere.***
    - You may feel your background, financial situation, job, family or past disqualifies you from being useful to Christ. (Romans 3:23-24, Philippians 1:6).
    - God has a plan for your life.
    - Share a time when you felt God didn’t have any form of plan for your life, yet you trusted in him and have seen him do wonderful things (Share how you met your wife, saw a friend encounter Jesus, etc).
  + V27 - locusts have no king, yet they advance together in ranks;
    - ***Purpose is connected to the body.***
    - Psalm 92 – Planted in the house of God they will flourish. In seeking purpose in life we are connected to the local Church.
    - Psalm 133:1 – “*Where there is unity the Lord commands a blessing.”* As a local church, we are connected to the work of Compassion. We have the joy of seeing many wonderful children being released from poverty in Jesus’ name. Not everyone will get the chance to visit one of the field countries Compassion works in ... but you can send 83p per day, £25 a month, and enter into a letter-writing relationship with your sponsored child. Your connection to the body, building purpose can see a life transformed.

**NOTES:**

* + V28 - a lizard can be caught with the hand, yet is found in the king’s palaces.
    - ***Purpose takes you places.***
    - When we are walking, working, praying and striving for purpose, then purpose takes us places.
    - Share a story of difficult odds, perhaps at a job interview or in gaining new ministry ground and how your consistent approach to prayer, relationships or otherwise saw God come through and take you to a place of fulfilment of purpose.

**Closing//Opportunity to stir vision//Share Compassion stories//Point people towards potential sponsorship**

* Stir some vision that your city, town and community is waiting for the people of Christ to start walking and living on purpose:
  + To invite someone to church
  + To send an encouraging text or email to someone who is going through a tough time
  + To support our ministry (kids, foodbank, youth, outreach) with your time/talents.
  + To support a child through monthly sponsorship and letter writing.
* (Insert area name) needs missional individuals. A generation that walks intentionally to make a difference in the world we live in. ***This is a great opportunity for you as the church leader to share/cast vision for your local church and really engage individuals.***

**Close with a time of response at the end. A “call to arms” so to speak. Encourage people that *“to build purpose, we need to build on purpose”*.**

**Today why not:**

* Invite that friend over for dinner.
* Invest in your marriage by having an afternoon together.
* Sponsor a child through our projects in (insert nation/area).
* Pray for others in the church and encourage them with those prayers.