

Are You Being Robbed?

8 Essential Keys To Reclaim Your God-Given Purpose

Study Guide
Groups / Individuals

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This study guide is designed to print double-sided so that each session can print on one A4 8.5x11 paper.

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HOW TO USE THIS STUDY GUIDE

Pre-Session Preparation

This study guide is divided out over the eight key chapters, the *Introduction* and the *In Closing* for a total of 10 segments. Each study session should begin with preparation before your group meets. This preparation includes reading the designated chapter and taking notes along the way. Some topics may be uncomfortable, challenging, or debatable. Ask God to reveal what He desires for you as you read each chapter, and resist the temptation to run from a challenge.

Group Discussion

This portion will have questions for your small group to discuss. Most small groups will spend the core of this time discussing their answers to these questions. Focus on the time to have honest fruitful discussions about the book bearing in mind the ground rules that will make your group a valuable place for learning. Start each session by reminding everyone of the ground rules that your group agrees on. That can include maintaining a safe environment for everyone to be honest about their thoughts and feelings and working through these concerns by listening carefully and being respectful of others. Some of the discussion questions may not have one right answer. They are intended to elicit brainstorming with one another. Remember that it's not always about correcting someone else's theology, but it's about directing people to the Word of God. Unless someone says otherwise, always assume what is shared in your group is confidential.

Living Out the Keys

One of my desires is for you to walk in your God-given purpose. The *Living Out the Keys* section is a time to discuss with the group the actions you have taken for each key learned from the chapter. Discuss ways to implement each key into your life and make whatever changes are necessary for your spiritual growth moving forward.

Session 1

Introduction

Pre-Session Personal Study

“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

John 8:31-32

Objectives:

- Recognize that there is a thief that comes to steal, kill, and destroy.
- Understand the robbers tactics for thievery.
- Understand the eight keys to end the robber’s thievery.
- Realize that now is the time to walk in your God-given purpose.

To prepare for this session, read the *Introduction*, and highlight and/or make notes concerning anything that you want to discuss with your group. Pray to the Lord before reading the chapter. Keep in mind the objectives for this chapter. Take time to meditate on the things God brings to your attention. Each chapter is full of information; don’t be discouraged if you need to read something more than once.

Power Point:

The robber loves to hide in the shadows. The *Introduction* is the first step in helping to expose who he is.

Group Discussion

1. Are you being robbed of the fullness of God's purpose and promises for your life? If so, how?
2. There are eight questions on page 15 to test your exposure to spiritual thievery. Discuss each question and share your personal assessment.
3. How real of a threat is the robber (our adversary the devil) to us?
4. Do you recall a time in your life when his act of thievery could have been thwarted?
5. How has exposing his strategies and objectives empowered you to do battle?
6. The great news is God has provided a way to end thievery. How does His plan for redemption impact your life?

Living Out the Keys

What did you do to implement your knowledge of the thief, his strategies, and how he can be stopped?

What did you learn from this experience?

If you found it a challenge to implement this in your Christian walk, why do you think that is the case?

Session 2
Chapter 1
Our Identity in Christ

Pre-Session Personal Study

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

2 Corinthians 5:17

Objectives:

- Understand the robber’s intensions and tactics for luring you away from your true identity.
- Understand humans are triune being with a physical body, soul, and spirit.
- Know and walk in your true identity in Christ.
- Understand the importance and nature of heaven and hell.
- Understand why your identity (redeemed or unredeemed) determines your destination.
- Know how to maintain your awareness of who you are in Christ.
- See the “real you” in yourself and others.

To prepare for this session, read Chapter 1: *Our Identity in Christ* and highlight and/or make notes concerning anything that you want to discuss with your group. Pray to the Lord before reading the chapter. Keep in mind the objectives for this chapter. Take time to meditate on the things God brings to your attention. Each chapter is full of information; don’t be discouraged if you need to read something more than once.

Power Point:

Our identity is determined by God alone. In our fallen state, our identity is skewed to be what it is not supposed to be, but in our redeemed state, we are children of God, with all the inheritance and blessings that it entails.

Group Discussion

1. What are the parallels and differences between our government-issued identity in the natural world and our spiritual identity in the spiritual world?
2. Do you use the privileges your spiritual identity offers? How?
3. Everyone is desperately seeking identity because the identity we once had before sin is now missing at birth. With this understanding, have you changed the way you see yourself and others who are seeking identity to fill the void?
4. Jesus spoke more about hell than heaven for a reason. The reality of hell should compel us from a place of compassion to warn unbelievers. What are the barriers that keep you/Christians from discussing hell and are they legitimate compared to the example Christ set for us?
5. How does the hope of restoring your real identity encourage you?
6. Have you ever used a counterfeit identity or experienced identity theft? If so, what are some ways that can happen on a spiritual level?
7. As Christians, our identity is not what the world says we are but who Christ says we are in him. Of the 15 identities in Christ listed in the chapter, which ones do you identify with the most and least? Why?

Living Out the Keys

What did you do to maintain your real identity in Christ?

How has knowing who you are in Christ transformed you?

What did you learn from this experience?

If you found it a challenge to implement your real identity in your Christian walk, why do you think that is the case?

Session 3
Chapter 2
The Five Callings

Pre-Session Personal Study

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:”

Ephesians 4:11-12

Objectives:

- Understand that according to Scripture, God is calling us at all times.
- Know the five callings.
- Walk in your calling.
- Live out the four general callings to all Christians.
- Understand how each calling has its own set of strengths and weaknesses.
- Work together with all the other callings to be effective in the body of Christ.

To prepare for this session, read Chapter 2: *The Five Callings* and highlight and/or make notes concerning anything that you want to discuss with your group. Pray to the Lord before reading the chapter. Keep in mind the objectives for this chapter. Take time to meditate on the things God brings to your attention. Each chapter is full of information; don't be discouraged if you need to read something more than once.

Power Point:

Scripture lists five main callings, and each believer is created to operate in one of those callings. If we operate in our calling that God has designed us to walk in, then we will feel more fulfilled and we will be more effective in God's kingdom because we are walking out who He made us to be.

Group Discussion

1. There are four general callings for all Christians listed on pages 85 & 86. Discuss which callings come naturally and which ones you should improve?
2. Christians fall into one of four categories listed on page 69 when it comes to the five callings. Which category do you identify with? Have your views changed after reading this chapter? If so, why?
3. The five callings can be witnessed in the world around us (like in the example of a corporate structure). Why do we not see this in most churches?
4. Of the five callings, what is your calling?
5. How will understanding the five callings change your relationships with those around you?
6. Reflecting on the five callings, do you naturally gravitate toward people of the same calling as you? If so, why?
7. Why do you think God created each calling with its own set of strengths and weaknesses?

Living Out the Keys

What did you do to walk into your calling and implement the four general callings in your Christian walk?

How has discovering your calling transformed you?

What did you learn from this experience?

If you found it a challenge to start walking in your calling and living out the four general callings in your Christian walk, why do you think that is the case?

Session 4
Chapter 3
Knowing the Shepherd

Pre-Session Personal Study

“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.”

Psalm 23:1-2

Objectives:

- Understand the roles of a shepherd.
- See how Jesus Christ fits the description of a Good Shepherd.
- Trust the Good Shepherd.
- Know that Jesus is also the Sacrificial Lamb that God provided to reconcile us back with Him.

To prepare for this session, read Chapter 3: *Knowing the Shepherd* and highlight and/or make notes concerning anything that you want to discuss with your group. Pray to the Lord before reading the chapter. Keep in mind the objectives for this chapter. Take time to meditate on the things God brings to your attention. Each chapter is full of information; don't be discouraged if you need to read something more than once.

Power Point:

In order to be able to navigate the world and the times safely and successfully, we have to know the character and voice of Jesus Christ.

Group Discussion

1. Has learning the responsibilities of a shepherd changed the way you see Jesus?
2. Of the six parallels between shepherding and Jesus Christ, which ones stand out to you and why?
3. Are you more willing now to let the Chief Shepherd lead your life? If not, what is holding you back?
4. Shepherds lead with their voice from the front; animal herders push cattle to the slaughter from behind. How often in your Christian walk are you being led from ahead or pushed from behind?
5. What part of Psalms 23 is the most comforting to you?

Living Out the Keys

What did you do to follow the Shepherd this week?

How has being lead by the Shepherd transformed you?

What did you learn from this experience?

If you found it a challenge to be lead by the Shepherd, why do you think that is the case?

Session 5
Chapter 4
Knowing the Will of God

Pre-Session Personal Study

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

Romans 12:2

Objectives:

- Recognize God as our Master, and do what He wants us to do.
- Understand and know how to choose the perfect will of God.
- Understand how our free will interacts with God’s will.
- Know the three categories of God’s will: perfect, permissive, and sovereign.
- Desire God’s perfect will, and know it is not without its struggles.
- Recognize that it’s never too late to enter the path to God’s perfect will in life.
- Know God will answer your prayers with a yes when you are praying His sovereign will.
- Always pray, even when you don’t know what God’s will is.
- Understand that even when God answers with a “no,” there are still blessings that come from it.

To prepare for this session, read Chapter 4: *Knowing the Will of God* and highlight and/or make notes concerning anything that you want to discuss with your group. Pray to the Lord before reading the chapter. Keep in mind the objectives for this chapter. Take time to meditate on things that God brings to your attention. Each chapter is full of information; don’t be discouraged if you need to read something more than once.

Power Point:

Discerning and obeying God’s will is critical to living a full and successful Christian life.

Group Discussion

1. Has your knowledge and understanding of the three wills of God changed the way you view decision-making? If so, how?
2. Of the three wills of God, is there one that is best? Which one?
3. What decisions have you made lately that fall under God's permissive will?
4. In what areas of your life do you follow your will instead of God's?
5. Are there areas of your life where you struggle to follow God's perfect will?
6. When God's answer is no, do you see it as an obstacle to overcome or an opportunity for something greater?
7. Do you trust God's will when fear or suffering stand in your way?
8. How does God's sovereign will bring peace and comfort to you?
9. God's permissive will is where we have free will to choose. What are the tools to choose wisely?
10. God's perfect will may not always be the easiest, but is choosing it worth the rewards?

Living Out the Keys

What did you do to change the way you make decisions this week?

How has knowing God's wills transformed you?

What did you learn from this experience?

If you found it a challenge to choose God's perfect will, why do you think that is the case?

Session 6
Chapter 5
Hearing the Voice of God

Pre-Session Personal Study

“but this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.”

Jeremiah 7:23

Objectives:

- Understand the robber’s strategies to distort or cut off God’s voice.
- Displaying the mark of being one of Jesus’s sheep by hearing God’s voice.
- Understand why spiritual maturity requires us to listen to God’s voice.
- Have a clear understanding of the dispensations of hearing God’s voice.
- Know that Jesus leads us with His voice.
- Know the advantages of reading God’s Word.
- Understand the differences between His voice and written Word.
- Know the benefits and curses for hearing and not hearing God’s voice.
- Receive faith by hearing and responding to God’s voice.
- Receive the keys to prepare yourself for hearing God’s voice.
- Know how to discern the voice of God.

To prepare for this session, read Chapter 5: *Hearing the Voice of God* and highlight and/or make notes concerning anything that you want to discuss with your group. Pray to the Lord before reading the chapter. Keep in mind the objectives for this chapter. Take time to meditate on things that God brings to your attention. Each chapter is full of information; don’t be discouraged if you need to read something more than once.

Power Point:

Hearing God’s voice is both a commandment from God and essential to living a full Christian life without being robbed.

Group Discussion

1. What are the blessings for hearing His voice? What are the curses if we do not?
2. What are the three biblical steps that confirm that we know the Shepherd's voice?
3. Looking at page 157, does your level of faith reflect your ability to hear God?
4. God speaks to us in two ways: the written word and the spoken word. Is one more important than the other? If so, why?
5. What are the competing voices in your life? How can you silence them?
6. One mark of Christian maturity is the ability to hear God's voice. Looking at the five steps to hearing God's voice on page 162, discuss any challenges you may have and ways to overcome them.
7. After reviewing the dispensations on hearing God's voice, what are some of the privileges we now enjoy as Christians following the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross?
8. Share a time in your life when hearing God was a blessing?
9. Does your desire for faith equal or exceed your desire to hear God's voice?
10. Do you utilize the four tools listed on page 165 for confirmation of hearing God's voice? Is there one that is most important?

Living Out the Keys

What did you do to change the way you listened to God this week?

How has hearing God's voice transformed you?

What did you learn from this experience?

If you found it a challenge to hear God's voice, why do you think that is the case?

Session 7
Chapter 6
Do Not Be Deceived

Pre-Session Personal Study

“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”

Revelation 12:9

Objectives:

- Be equipped with the tools to stop deception.
- Be grounded in The Truth.
- Understand the four types of hearers.
- Recognize the three types of voices: the flesh, a spiritual voice, and God.
- Believe the totality of Scripture and experience transformation from it.
- Know the robber’s tactics for deception.
- Identify your vulnerabilities to deception and fortify them.
- Be humble and patient through the process of learning how to discern truth.
- Possess the tools and knowledge to discern prophecy.
- Desire the gift of prophecy but understand the high level of responsibility that comes with it.

To prepare for this session, read Chapter 6: *Do Not Be Deceived* and highlight and/or make notes concerning anything that you want to discuss with your group. Pray to the Lord before reading the chapter. Keep in mind the objectives for this chapter. Take time to meditate on things that God brings to your attention. Each chapter is full of information; don’t be discouraged if you need to read something more than once.

Power Point:

The robber’s main tool for driving us away from God is deception. Jesus commands us repeatedly not to be deceived.

Group Discussion

1. Has being equipped not to be deceived been a priority in your Christian walk?
2. We need to be grounded in the way, the truth, and the life. Of the three, which one are you most grounded in and which ones need deeper roots?
3. Discuss the four promises we can expect from being grounded in truth.
4. Of the four types of hearers Jesus spoke of in Luke 8:11-15, which one do you identify with the most?
5. Of the three types of voices that speak to us, which ones do you allow to speak into your life, and how much influence do they have?
6. Do you experience all eight expectations for transformation that come from studying the Word of God? If not, why?
7. Of the three ways we can be deceived listed on page 207, which ones are your strengths and weaknesses and how can you fortify your weakness?
8. Assess your vulnerability to deception using the questions listed on pages 207 & 208. Is there an area that needs fortification?
9. What are the three primary tools to fight deception?
10. What are the keys to discern prophecy? Have you ever needed to use them?

Living Out the Keys

How did you fight deception this week?

How has learning not to be deceived transformed you?

What did you learn from this experience?

If you found it a challenge to use discernment, why do you think that is the case?

Session 8
Chapter 7
The Holy Spirit

Pre-Session Personal Study

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

Acts 2:1-4

Objectives:

- Know the Holy Spirit is for you right now.
- Recognize the need for The Helper.
- Know that the Holy Spirit is how God indwells us.
- Know the mark of being filled with the Holy Spirit is being a witness to Christ.
- Know what the Holy Spirit does for us.
- Understand why the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin.
- Know and ask for the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- Know the robber’s strategy to rob us of the things of the Holy Spirit.

To prepare for this session, read Chapter 7: *The Holy Spirit* and highlight and/or make notes concerning anything that you want to discuss with your group. Pray to the Lord before reading the chapter. Keep in mind the objectives for this chapter. Take time to meditate on things that God brings to your attention. Each chapter is full of information; don’t be discouraged if you need to read something more than once.

Power Point:

The Holy Spirit is an often neglected but important part of the Trinity. He is the Helper that Jesus sent when He left the earth.

Group Discussion

1. Do you believe the Holy Spirit is still the giver of gifts today? Has your perspective changed after reading this chapter?
2. The primary reason for the purpose of being filled with the Holy Spirit is to point people to salvation in Jesus Christ. If this is the litmus test, do you see evidence in your own life that you're filled with the Holy Spirit?
3. Of the fifteen things listed in the chapter that the Holy Spirit does, which ones are you most thankful for and why?
4. The Holy Spirit brings conviction to our life not for the purpose of condemnation but for the sake of sanctification. Why do you think this is necessary? Can you assume someone doesn't have the Holy Spirit if he or she doesn't have conviction of sin, righteousness, or judgment?
5. Are any of the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit observable in your life? Which ones are there in abundance and which ones need to grow?
6. Of the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit, which ones do you have? Are there any you aspire toward?
7. Are there any gifts that are more important than others?
8. Why do you think this topic tends to be one of the most controversial subjects in the body of Christ?

Living Out the Keys

What did you do to change the way you walked in the Spirit this week?

How has the Holy Spirit transformed you?

What did you learn from this experience?

If you found it a challenge to operate in the spiritual gifts, why do you think that is the case?

Session 9
Chapter 8
By the Blood and Our Testimony

Pre-Session Personal Study

“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.”

Revelation 12:11

Objectives:

- Know what the blood of Christ does for us.
- Know how to apply the blood of Christ.
- Understand how unique Christ’s blood is.
- Understand why the blood of Christ is necessary.
- To understand the power of our testimony comes from its focus on Christ and what He has done.
- Know the meaning of testimony and its relevance in a court of law.
- Know that your testimony has the power to change things.
- Know that your testimony should be grounded in biblical truth, not feelings or opinions.
- Understand the seven reasons to share your testimony.
- Learn how to use the building blocks to give your testimony.

To prepare for this session, read Chapter 8: *By the Blood and Our Testimony* and highlight and/or make notes concerning anything that you want to discuss with your group. Pray to the Lord before reading the chapter. Keep in mind the objectives for this chapter. Take time to meditate on things that God brings to your attention. Each chapter is full of information; don’t be discouraged if you need to read something more than once.

Power Point:

As believers, we overcome by the blood of the lamb and the word of our testimony of Christ.

Group Discussion

1. If God's people were still required to sacrifice a perfect innocent animal every year for our sins, would you view sin differently? If so, why?
2. When reading about the differences between man's blood and Christ's blood, what are the most significant things that stand out to you?
3. What does the blood of Christ do for us? Have you ever applied the blood of Christ to your own life or another's?
4. Is there any sin that the blood can't cover?
5. Christ's blood redeems sinful man that was created in His image, but does it redeem man if he is genetically modified into another image?
6. When was the last time you shared your testimony? Was the focus of your testimony the testimony of Jesus Christ?
7. How has the process of David's testimony inspired you?
8. Of the seven biblical reasons to share our testimony, is there one that stands out from the rest?
9. Use the five building blocks on pages 314 & 315 to develop your testimony and share it with others in your group. Help each other if needed.

Living out the keys

What did you do to share your testimony and walk covered in the blood this week?

How has the blood of Christ transformed you and how has your testimony changed others?

What did you learn from this experience?

If you found it a challenge to share your testimony and apply the blood, why do you think that is the case?

Session 10

In Closing

Pre-Session Personal Study

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

John 14:6

Objectives:

- Accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- Take the steps to walk in spiritual freedom.
- Know and walk in the three tenses of being saved.
- Take action by using the eight keys to redeem your God-given purpose.

To prepare for this session, read *In Closing* and highlight and/or make notes concerning anything that you want to discuss with your group. Pray to the Lord before reading the chapter. Keep in mind the objectives for this chapter. Take time to meditate on things that God brings to your attention. Each chapter is full of information, don't be discouraged if you need to read something more than once.

Power Point:

Aside from the eight keys to reclaim your God-given purpose, the greatest key of all is making Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior.

Group discussion

1. Which chapter or chapters have been the most impactful to you and why?
2. Have you accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior? Of the seven steps to deliverance listed on page 318, are there any that you have yet to take?
3. As Christians, we are always living in the three tenses of being saved. Has this changed the way you view the Christian life?
4. Are you ready to end spiritual thievery and walk in your purpose?
5. Do you have any final thoughts about what you've learned in this book?

Living Out the Keys

What did you do to reclaim your God-given purpose this week?

How have the eight biblical keys transformed you?

What did you learn from this experience?