

discover devotionals

As a teenager I knew with much more certainty what I wanted to be when I grew up than at age 27, when I was, in fact, supposed to be “grown-up.” Just 5 years out of college I had worked for more employers in more industries that both of my parents had their entire lives, combine. As a young adult I struggled day after day with my purpose in life. I had more questions than answers. Many nights I would cry my eyes out to the Lord asking Him to reveal His plan for my life. And now in my early 30s I am finally embarking on the journey I feel God created for me. A dream that was born 7 years ago is now beginning to blossom. The journey thus far has been rocky at times, and smoothing sailing at times. The Discover Devotional is the overflow of what I have learned over the years about my identity, my significance and my purpose. But it doesn't just stop there because as we encounter God we don't just learn about ourselves, but also about the One who created us.

This devotional is a 6-day study weaving together both the lessons I've learned about God and about myself. I pray that as you embark on this journey you will walk away having discovered your Identity, Significance & Purpose in Jesus Christ.

I am honored that Heather Proctor has joined me in writing this devotional as a follow-up to the Discover Conference. Our prayer is that God will use this devotional to challenge you in a new way as you allow Him to redefine your identity, establish your significance in Him, and live out your God-designed purpose.

God bless!

Faith Klein Herrgesell
with Heather Proctor

discover devotionals

Day 1

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's workmanship

There are sweet mornings in our home I cherish so dearly that I want them to last the whole day long. These mornings are filled with unhurried creativity as my husband sits down at his piano and writes a new song. The divine inspiration and talent God has blessed him with allows him to create the most loving melodies that bring life to the notes as his fingers dance across the keys. These mornings are so precious to me as he uses his God-given talent to create a new work of art.

Living with an artist has given me a new perspective of the first phrase in Ephesians 2:10, "we are God's workmanship." When Carl writes a song, I see all that it takes to make the final product sound like the music he hears in his heart. And I appreciate even more the end product because I know the care he has taken in finding the perfect melody to express his heart.

When I listen to his music it calms my soul, and when I watch him play, I see the notes he has chosen. He doesn't just play on the white keys, he mixes in the black keys as well. And it is this dynamic of black and white keys together that brings depth to his music.

Similarly, God uses His infinite creativity when creating you and me. Just as each of my husband's songs are unique, you are unique. You are a work of art created by the original artist, the Creator of the Universe. He carefully carved out each of your features and combined it with your one-of-a-kind personality, gift set and talents that He knew would best suit you for His purpose.

Just as Carl uses the black keys to bring depth to his songs, God "black keys" in our lives to bring depth as well. Maybe you see your body type, your talents or your past as a "black key" in your life, but God does not. He will use the things we see as mistakes as beautiful notes in the melodies of our lives.

Reflection Questions: What song is God writing in your life? What have you seen in your life as a "black key"? How might God want to use this to glorify Himself? Ask God to help you stop seeing these "black keys" as flaws, but rather as the perfect harmony to your life's song.

discover devotionals

Day 2

Isaiah 40:26

Lift your eyes and look to the heavens
Who created all these?
He who brings out the starry host one by one,
and calls them each by name.
Because of his great power and mighty strength,
not one of them is missing.

Growing up in Nebraska, the skies were so clear and the lights so few the nights practically begged us to stargaze. As teenagers, my friends and I would lay for hours talking and staring up at the sky. The ambiance created by the stars was the perfect backdrop for honest conversation-the kind of conversation you save for a select few friends whom you hold dear. The awe we felt as we took in the sight of the starry host led us into a place of reflection that was precious and tender. Even at a young age we knew there was something amazing about the Creator of these stars. As we grew up and fell in love with the Creator, we began to use these intimate moments under the stars as opportunities to have amazing conversations not only with each other, but also with the One who created the starry host.

As I grew in my relationship with Him, I began reading His love letter to me, the Bible. In His Word I discovered verses like this one that moved me from being awestruck about the stars, to awestruck about His love. Can you picture it? In your mind can you imagine God creating the universe and bring the stars out one by one and calling them each by name? It overwhelms me. If the Creator of the universe takes enough care to create each star, place it in its unique place in the sky, AND call it by name, then He how much more care does He take in designing me.

God didn't reach in His bag of stars, grab a handful and scatter them across the sky letting them fall wherever may be. Instead, He took the time to bring them out one by one and call them each by name. In the same way, he does not throw a bunch of body parts onto a holy conveyor belt and hope they come together looking like a semi-attractive human. He takes time to place us in the exact place He wants us. He creates us uniquely so that we can accomplish His will for our lives.

And He call us each by name. Do you know your name, Daughter? Not the name your parents gave you, or the name you call yourself when you look in the mirror, but the name that your Heavenly Father calls you? Beautiful, Daughter, Loved One. These and more are the names God uses when He calls you. And He does call you. Tonight, step outside and look at the stars. As you look be reminded that each one was put into place, called by name and is not missing, and the same is true for you.

Reflection Question: How does knowing God placed you where you are and calls you by name change the way you think about yourself? How does this affect your identity as you see it?

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Day 3

Your Identity is found in Christ.
His Love Makes You Significant.

I will forever be a daughter. Once a daughter, always a daughter. Make a list of the privileges your children have because they are part of your family. (Or write the privileges you have because you are a child of your family)

Read I John 3: 1-2

Every day you are able to say "I am a child of God". And because you are child, you are significant. I can almost hear John's enthusiasm as he writes at the end of verse one "And we are!"

Make a list of privileges you have as a Child of God. (if you need help, read Eph. 1 or Romans 8)

Wow! Amazing isn't it? We have so much because of Christ! I John 4:19 says "We love because He first loved us." We are children because He loved us first.

One evening, I was flipping through the channels when Beth Moore popped up on my screen. I listened for about 30 seconds before I was in tears. She was discussing a part of her prayer journey. She said that God had led her, for a season, to repeat the following phrase as she ended her prayers

"I love you, too."

When you realize that He loves you first, what else is there to say, except
I love you, too?

Write out a prayer of thanksgiving for His unfailing love for you and the joys of being his child.

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Day 4

II Peter 1:3-8--

As a Child of God you have some entitlements. You are an heir with Christ after all!

You are victorious (Romans 8:37), you have the ability to take every thought captive and make it obedient to Christ (II Corinthians 10:4-5) and you have been given everything you need for life and godliness.

Read II Peter 1:3-8

Make a list of the attributes mentioned in II Peter 1:5-7 that the child of God has been given.

Don't you just love how they build on each other! As you receive good things from Christ, He continues to grow and build on each of them.

Now read verse 4

Do you find it significant that you are given the ability to participate in the divine nature of God? Why or Why not?

What happens when you participate? (v. 4, 8)

Because you know Christ personally and because of His love for you, you are able to grow in these attributes. As these attributes increase you can know--not just guess or hope--that you are useful and fruitful for His Kingdom. How great is that! As He adds faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control and perseverance to your character, others will see in the day-to-day godliness, kindness and love that you show them. They will see Christ in you.

Is there one of these attributes that you need help obtaining? Write a prayer below confessing which attribute you are currently struggling with and ask God how to add it to your everyday life. Then ask how to build on it as well.

discover devotionals

Day 5

“I am created on purpose with a purpose.” A wise woman taught me these words in high school during a youth group study on “purpose.” As she taught over the course of several weeks she always repeated this phrase, and she would make us repeat it. And although I thought this was a silly exercise then, I now cling to these words knowing they are validated by the Word of God.

- 13 For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
- 15 My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place.
When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,
- 16 your eyes saw my unformed body.
All the days ordained for me
were written in your book
before one of them came to be.

The Holy Bible : New International Version. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Ps 139:13-16

David's words confirm what my sweet friend taught me so long ago. I was created on purpose with a purpose...and so are you. God created you, knit you together, made you wonderful, AND wrote down all the days of your life before you were even born.

God didn't create you and bring you into the world with your life as an empty book...He had a purpose in creating you! He has a God-designed purpose for your life. And this purpose is unique for each of us. Your purpose will not look like your neighbors, so find comfort when your talents and gifts aren't the same as hers either. You have been given a special sets of gifts, interests, and abilities that God will utilize in an original way in your life.

God's plan for my life was so original at times that I thought for sure I was living out the pages of someone else's life. At age 27 I had been employed by more companies in more industries than both of my parents had in their entire lives, combined. I needed and wanted to find my purpose! And as God revealed my purpose to me, He also revealed that the days of chaos, moving from town to town always beginning a new job were all on purpose. Each part of my past has helped shape me into the woman He desired me to be. And each one has better prepared me to live out my God designed purpose.

Reflection Questions: What gifts, talents and abilities has God given you that you can use to fulfill His purpose for your life? Are you living out your purpose everyday? What is one thing you can do today to live out your purpose for today?

discover devotionals

Day 6

5 Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him and he will do this:

6 He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn,
the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.

Commitment. This is almost a bad word in today's society. We are slow to commit to anything, afraid that after we commit something or someone better will come along, and we won't be available. I've seen friends who won't commit to dinner plans, vacations, jobs or even ice cream flavors because they are always waiting for a better option to arise. Nevertheless, commitment is one thing that God clearly asks of us.

When living out our purpose, I see two parts to the commitment. The first part involves laying your plans at His feet; giving the Lord full authority over your life and the plans you make in your life--a complete commitment and surrender of our plans to the Lord. It is in this first step that we trust Him to know what is best in the long run and to know the road map so well that He knows the best way to get us where He wants us to go.

The second step is to actually commit to doing something. We can't commit our way to him if we have no way. We must take the first step. Each day we must commit to taking the directed step for that day to fulfill the purpose God has determined in our lives. Some days this will be more difficult than others depending on the step. If the step has a more tangible outcome it might be an easier step to take, but if the directed step is to "wait" or "be still." Then it may be a more difficult step to take. In either case, we must fully commit to taking the next step.

I love that this verse explains that the outcome of our commitment is righteousness! How amazing is that? I know that I need righteousness in my life to be able to live out the dream God has given me. In fulfilling your purpose in life, I pray you long to do this with righteousness. And not just a small dose of righteousness, but a righteousness that "shines like the dawn."

Today as you begin to commit your ways to the Lord, I pray you join Paul in his praise of God's ability, "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21

Reflection Questions: What commitment is God asking of you? What is the first step He is asking you to take? Write down steps you can take today, this week, this month and this year to live out your God-designed purpose.