



# GREATER Greater Purpose

#npgreater

Week 4  
4 of 4

July 25, 2021

**Bottom Line:** You demonstrate your life in Jesus by living it intentionally, with purpose.

**Icebreaker:** What's an item in your life (technical or otherwise) that fulfills its purpose so well that you feel like you couldn't do without it? Why?

**Key Verse:** *Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity.* Col. 4:5 NLT  
*Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.* Col. 4:5 NIV

God's plan for us through Jesus is that we would live a greater life! Jesus affirmed this when He said, "My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life" (John 10:10 NLT). God has created you for purpose and significance. Not just that but GREATER purpose; your greatest potential. Christ has given us ALL we need to live out that purpose. Paul shares with us in Colossians 4 three pillars to living a godly life filled with GREATER purpose: **1) Greater purpose in how we pray.** The key to prayer is not how we pray but in our focus on getting to know God, our Father. PRAY WATCHFULLY. Be aware of what God is doing around you. Believe that God is putting people in front of you for a purpose. PRAY THANKFULLY, remembering He is working all things out for your good. Practice gratitude. It puts hope in the soul. PRAY STRATEGICALLY, relationally, and specifically. **2) Greater purpose in how we live.** When we live the life God calls us to live, we will be extraordinary, and the world will notice. LIVE WISELY, in a way that's consistent with who you are in Christ. Show others that you are truly alive by the way you live. LIVE INTENTIONALLY. Be a good steward of the time you have been given. Find time to share life and the gospel with people. **3) Greater purpose in how we speak.** When it comes to sharing the gospel, we tend to fall into two polarized groups: silence (saying nothing) or contempt (speaking as if we are better than others). Paul tells us to SPEAK WITH GRACE. The gospel is a serious and often offensive message. With that said, we must never water down the gospel, but we should share it with kindness and grace. Speak the truth in love. SPEAK WITH READINESS. It doesn't mean that we have all the answers, but if we know Jesus we should always be ready to share the gospel. We should win attention by the attractiveness of our life and speech, and then be able to confidently share the gospel of Jesus Christ that has changed us. Paul is saying that the local church is the hope of the world, living and teaching the truth of Jesus Christ. The thrust is love people, serve people, respect people, care about people, honor people, remember people. Paul ends this letter by mentioning a handful of people who are living out the greater life. They lived their lives with great purpose, and it became their legacy. God values people who serve the church. God values people who serve people. God values people who serve Him.

## THINK IT OVER >>>

What was the most significant part of Sunday's message to you?

What do you think it means to "devote yourself to prayer"?

The key to prayer is to get to know God as Father. What helps you do this?

What gets in the way of you being watchful in prayer, looking for the opportunities God puts in front of you?

How can you up your gratitude? How can you pray strategically today?

"When you do the common things of life in an uncommon way, you will command the attention of the world" (George Washington Carver). Discuss. Where do you think upping your attention to the things you do might attract more positive attention?

Living with wisdom means knowing how to live in a way that is consistent with who we are in Christ. What inconsistencies do you think particularly impact our witness?

## LOOK IT OVER <<<

What struggles do you have in being intentional and initiating relationally? How might you grow?

For you, what would represent wise stewardship of your time and opportunities?

Where do you fall on the "sharing your faith" scale? Do you lean more toward silence or contempt? If you are active in sharing, share some experiences.

The gospel is a serious and often offensive message. With that said, we must never water down the gospel, but we should share it with kindness and grace." How is it naturally offensive? Practically, what does sharing with grace look like?

Paul believed that all of us who follow Jesus have enough information to be ready to effectively share the gospel. Do you feel equipped? How regularly do you share? What do you think keeps you from sharing more often? Some people are too "wrapped up in church" to be in the world to share. How do you responsibly combat that?

# NEXT STEPS

1. Evaluate where you are in living the significant and effective life of purpose Jesus desires for you.
2. Consider what areas need your prompt attention.
3. Write a strategy and goals for the second half of 2021 to address these areas.

## EVALUATION/ACTION

### Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

**Bottom Line:** You demonstrate your life in Jesus by living it intentionally, with purpose.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

## PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

## DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at [newpointe.org/daily](http://newpointe.org/daily):

Monday: John 4:13-14

Tuesday: Luke 5:16

Wednesday: Psalm 90:12; Colossians 4:5

Thursday: Ephesians 4:29

Friday: 1 Peter 3:15

***Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.***

*(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)*