GUIA DE ESTUDO

What if your life isn't an accident?

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New Hope Fulton · doxus.org

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BIG IDEA

Life finds purpose in following God through justice, mercy, humble love, and abundant relationship with others.

Why am I here?

The preacher says the most important personal question is, “is there a purpose to my life? You know, why am I here?” He connects that midnight question to moments when work feels mundane, school is ending, or life feels stalled.

Meaning versus a secular story

He contrasts a faith-based view of life with a secular evolutionary story. If a person is only “the result of some accidental, like, lightning strike in a pond somewhere,” then life can seem reduced to survival, reproduction, pleasure, and eventually the end. In that view, purpose is thin; in a faith-based view, there is a designer behind the design, and that means life may have a design too.

> *If you're just if you're just, the result of some accidental, like, lightning strike in a pond somewhere,*
>
> — The preacher on secular meaning

His own search for purpose

He shares that neither he nor the other speaker originally planned to become a preacher. One was on a path toward being a fireman, then business in the San Francisco Bay Area; the other was working as a journeyman butcher, making “crazy money” in his early twenties but feeling stuck with a sharp knife cutting pigs. He remembers a big breakup that sent him into a tailspin and reopened faith questions. For him, discovering purpose was not instant; it came through conviction, through months of resisting, and finally through submitting to what God wanted him to do as a pastor.

Purpose as a path confirmed over time

He describes going back to junior college, then considering theology as a step of faith. He even framed it simply: if he finished school and got a job, he would know it was part of the plan; if not, he had still done his part. Instead, he received multiple job offers and understood that as confirmation. He presents purpose as something discovered by taking real steps, not by waiting for perfect clarity.

> *Do justice. Mhmm. Love mercy. Walk humbly with your god.*

— Micah's summary

Justice, mercy, humility

He treats Micah's words as a concise description of what is expected of humanity: live justly, show mercy, and walk humbly with God. He emphasizes that these are not small tasks, even if they sound simple. Justice, compassion, and humility shape an entire life, and they keep a person from taking himself too seriously.

> *love God with everything you've got. And love your neighbor as yourself.*
>
> — Jesus' summary of life

Love as the center of meaning

He says Jesus compresses the whole biblical moral vision even further: love God fully and love your neighbor as yourself. The preacher stresses that this is about relationship, direction, and becoming the kind of person who treats others well. Love is not a shallow feeling; it is a deep commitment that expands into a whole way of life.

PARA REFLEXÃO

Discuss together

1. Why do the preacher's 3:00 a.m. examples make the question of purpose feel so real?
2. What do you think he means when he says a secular story can make life feel meaningless?
3. Which part of Micah's summary is hardest for you personally: justice, mercy, or humility?
4. How does Jesus' command to love God and neighbor give shape to everyday decisions?
5. Where do you see people around you living as if life is about getting more for themselves?

REFLEXÃO

Look inward

When have you felt the hollowness of success without purpose?
Where are you still trying to control your future instead of taking the next faithful step?
Do you tend to think of love as emotion, or as committed action toward God and others?
What would it look like for you to walk more humbly this week?

> *I've come to give you life and life in its fullest life and its abundance.*
>
> — Jesus on abundance

Abundant life, not a smaller life

He explains that Jesus contrasts the thief, who comes to kill, steal, and destroy, with a life of abundance. He rejects the idea that following God squeezes life into a small box; instead, he says abundance is about quality as well as quantity. He names a

Porsche, a Mercedes, a BMW, and a house as examples of things people wrongly assume abundance means, then insists that true abundance is a meaningful life.

The teenage boys and the last plate

He tells a story about a group of high school boys, including the other speaker's son, arriving at his house around 4:00 in the afternoon after messing around. His wife asked if they were hungry, which, he says, is never safe to ask a teenage boy. They emptied the refrigerator, food disappeared from the plates as fast as he could carry them, and in the end the son turned to another boy and said, "would you like that?" The point was that abundance creates generosity: when someone knows there is enough, he can think about the other person instead of grabbing everything himself.

> *I've come to give you life and life in its fullest life and its abundance.*
>
> — Abundance and generosity

APLICAÇÃO PRÁTICA

Practice abundance and generosity

Notice where you act as if there is not enough—time, money, attention, or love. Like the teenage boys at the table, begin by trusting that God is not leaving you empty. Then practice generosity in concrete ways: share the last serving, make space for another person, and let abundance lead you to care rather than grasp.

Faith, doubt, and messy beginnings

He argues that both belief and unbelief require faith, so the real question is the direction of that faith. He also pushes back against the idea that a person must have everything figured out before believing. The disciples themselves did not start with strong faith; they moved from fear at the crucifixion to courage after the resurrection, and even at the end of Matthew some still doubted. He says faith develops over time and often begins with a first step, not with full understanding.

> *you don't have to understand everything to believe something.*
>
> — The preacher on next steps

Messy people can follow Jesus

He says it is a mistake to think you must clean up your life before coming to Jesus. In fact, "being you know, having kind of a messy life is actually prerequisite to following Jesus." Jesus was criticized for eating with sinners, but the preacher says Jesus treated that as part of his job description. He also notes the Bible's honesty about its heroes: it is a "warts and all" story, showing that God works through flawed people rather than polished ones.

APLICAÇÃO PRÁTICA

Take the next step

Do not wait for perfect clarity before moving toward God. Read the Bible honestly, admit where your life is messy, and take one next step: ask a question, pray, attend worship, or keep following when doubts remain. The point is not to be

finished, but to keep going with Jesus, one step at a time.

> *this is about taking the next step and then taking the next step and the next step.*
>
> — The preacher on discipleship

Yoked with Jesus

He closes with Jesus' picture of a yoke shared by two animals pulling a plow. He likes it because it shows Jesus asking to share the work, and because Jesus is the one who does the heavy lifting. Even when he wanders, Jesus keeps him moving straight. This becomes a picture of grace: believers can leave the yoke at any time, but while they remain joined to Christ, he provides the forward motion and keeps them in the path.

ORAÇÃO

Closing prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for giving life in abundance. Teach us to do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with God, and love our neighbors as ourselves. Help us trust that we do not need to understand everything before we believe, and give us courage to take the next step with you. Fill our lives with purpose, generosity, and compassion. Amen.