

Discussion and Review (Pre-Meeting)

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.
Hebrews 10:24-25*

Introductions

Take some time to get to know each other.

Clarify the structure and cadence of this group going forward.

Story Check-In

Talk a bit about each of your stories, why you want to tell that story (your theme), and where you are in the plotting/outlining process.

Bible Study Check-In

Share a bit of your background with God (your testimony) and what you hope to gain from this study of the book of John.

God's Story in Your Life

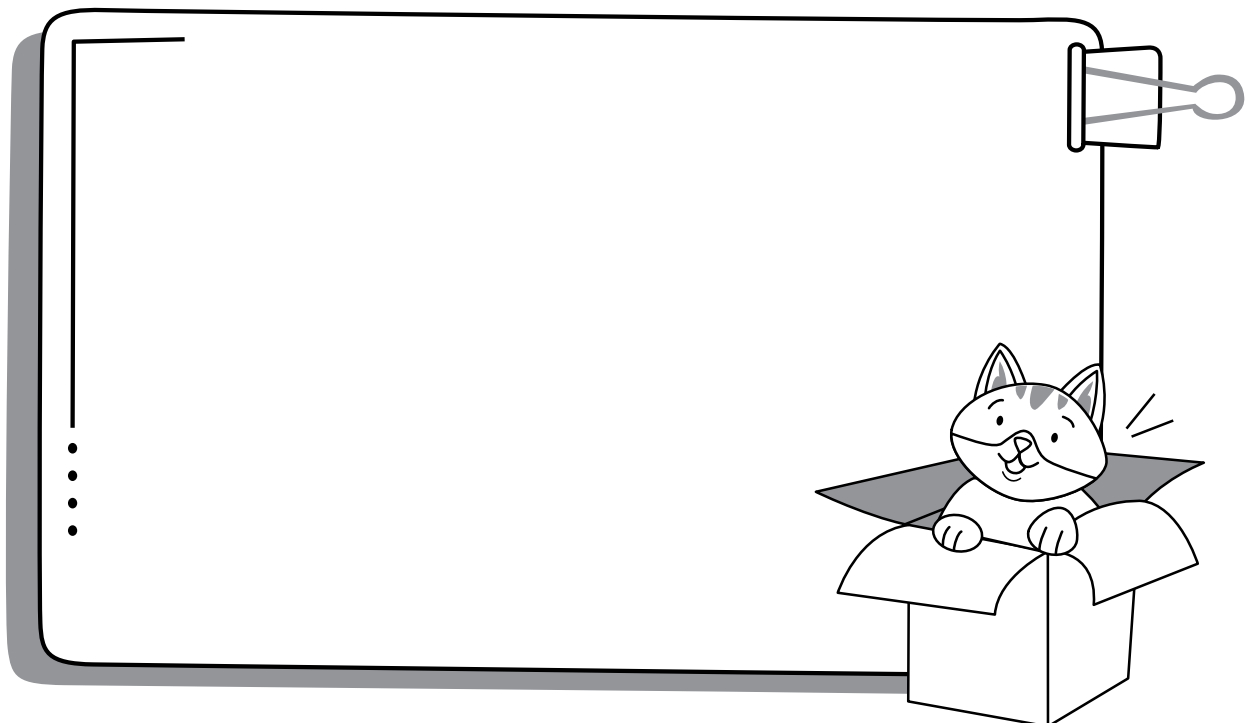
How confident are you that God has a purpose for your life? What do you think it is?

What is holding you back from acting on what you feel called to do?

Pray and Close

Ask God to use this study to help you write your stories, grow closer to God, and better understand the purpose God has for each of you.

My notes and doodles:



Week 1 Discussion and Review

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16

Story Check-In

How is writing going?

What has gone well? What one sentence are you most proud of or want to share?

Where did you get stuck or where do you need feedback?

Bible Study Check-In

What most surprised or impacted you from this study of John 1-3?

Which “debate” from John 3 resonates most with you?

Writing Your Story with God

What purpose do you believe God has for your life?

What fear, misbelief, and backstory did you identify?

What is the Biblical truth that contradicts your misbelief?

Pray and Close

Ask God to give each of you courage to overcome your fear, wisdom to counter your misbelief, and healing to soothe the pain in your backstory.

My notes and doodles:



Week 2 Discussion and Review

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” Matthew 18:20

Story Check-In

How is writing going?

What has gone well? What one sentence are you most proud of or want to share?

Where did you get stuck or where do you need feedback?

Bible Study Check-In

What most surprised you from John 4-6?

How have you been guilty of seeking God’s “hand” instead of His “heart?”

God’s Story in Your Life

What action did you take, or habit did you start, to build momentum toward your purpose? If you didn’t, when will you?

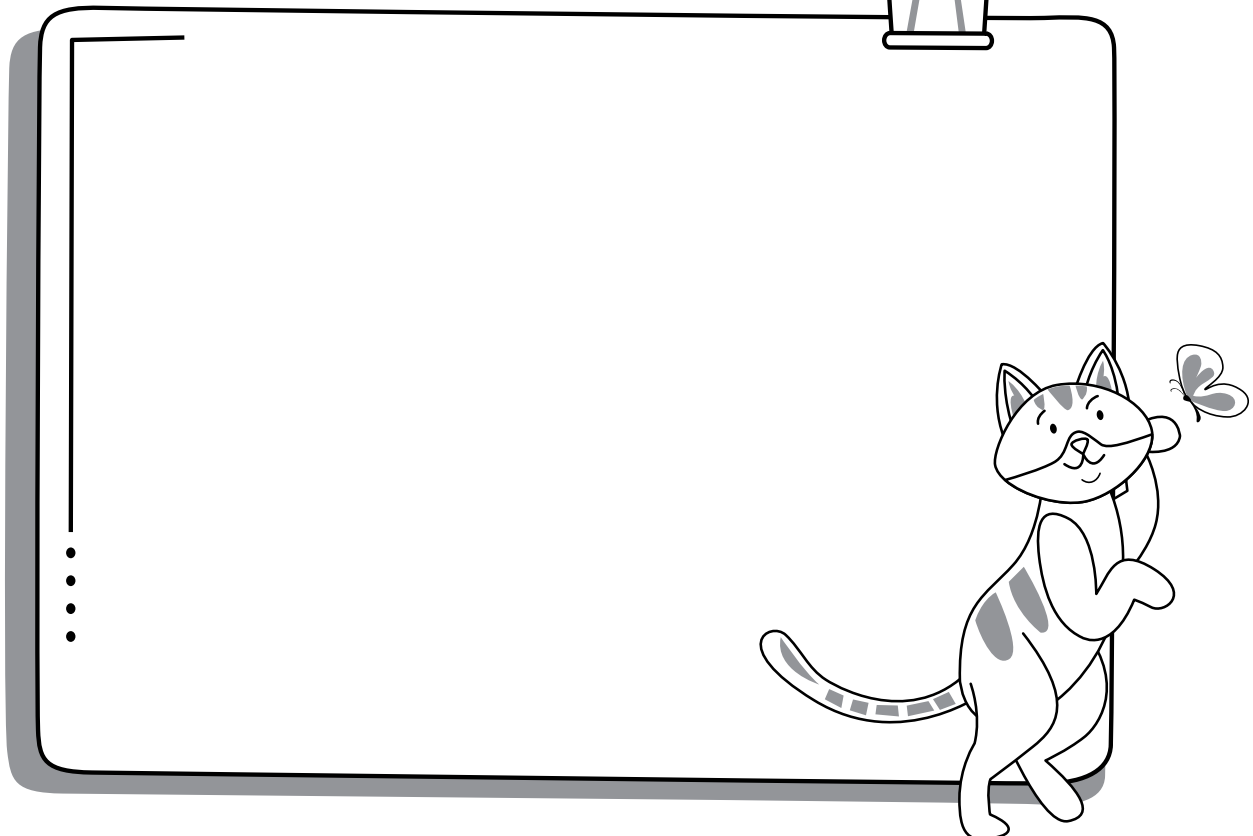
How do you keep going when you face resistance or setbacks?

Pray and Close

Ask God to help you stay committed to your daily habits.

Pray for God to bring the right people into your lives to support your individual purposes.

My notes and doodles:



Week 3 Discussion and Review

Assemble the people, men, women, and little ones, and the sojourner within your towns, that they may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God, and be careful to do all the words of this law, Deuteronomy 31:12

Story Check-In

How is writing going?

What has gone well? What one sentence are you most proud of or want to share?

Where did you get stuck or where do you need feedback?

Bible Study Check-In

What most surprised you from John 7-9?

How have you been willfully “blind”? What biblical truth do you avoid or deny?

Read and discuss this story of the woman caught in adultery found in John 7:53-8:11.^a

God’s Story in Your Life

What works best for you to avoid burnout? How did you rest in God this week?

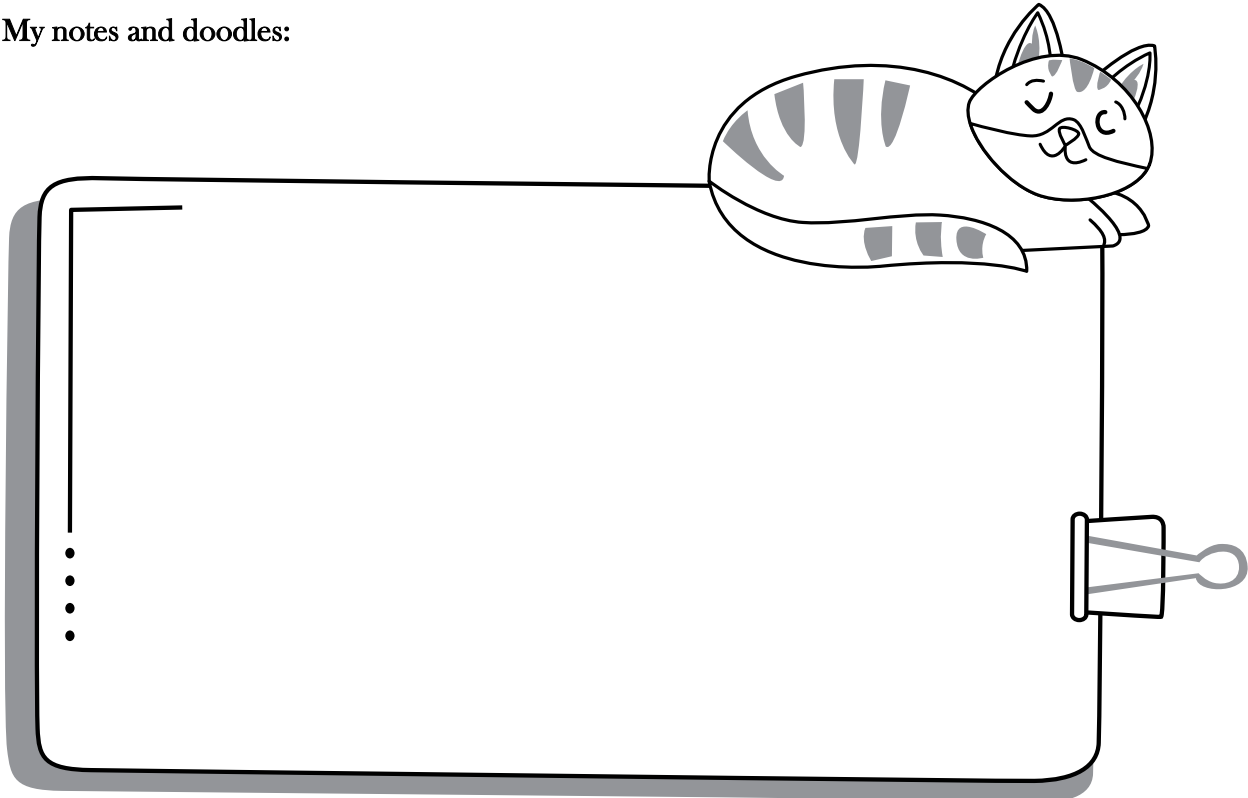
What will you do this week to “raise the stakes” in your pursuit of purpose?

Pray and Close

Thank God for how he has prepared you for twists in the past.

Pray for renewed commitment to your purpose as you go into the second half of this study.

My notes and doodles:



^a John 7:53-8:11 is not in the original manuscripts. The most recent manuscripts to include this passage are from AD 500. Most scholars believe this is probably a true story and John might have recorded it. But they also don't think it belongs here. The passages before and after both take place on the same day, in the same place, and flow together like a continuous scene. My decision to skip it is not discounting its truth. I skipped it because we are looking at John's story structure and scholars do not agree this belongs where it is in John's story.

Week 4 Discussion and Review

*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.
Acts 2:42*

Story Check-In

How is writing going?

What has gone well? What one sentence are you most proud of or want to share?

Where did you get stuck or where do you need feedback?

Bible Study Check-In

What most surprised you from John 10-12?

Why do you think Mary's story is so important to Jesus?

What specific action can you take this week to go "all in" with Jesus?

God's Story in Your Life

What internal, external, and spiritual resistance are you facing?

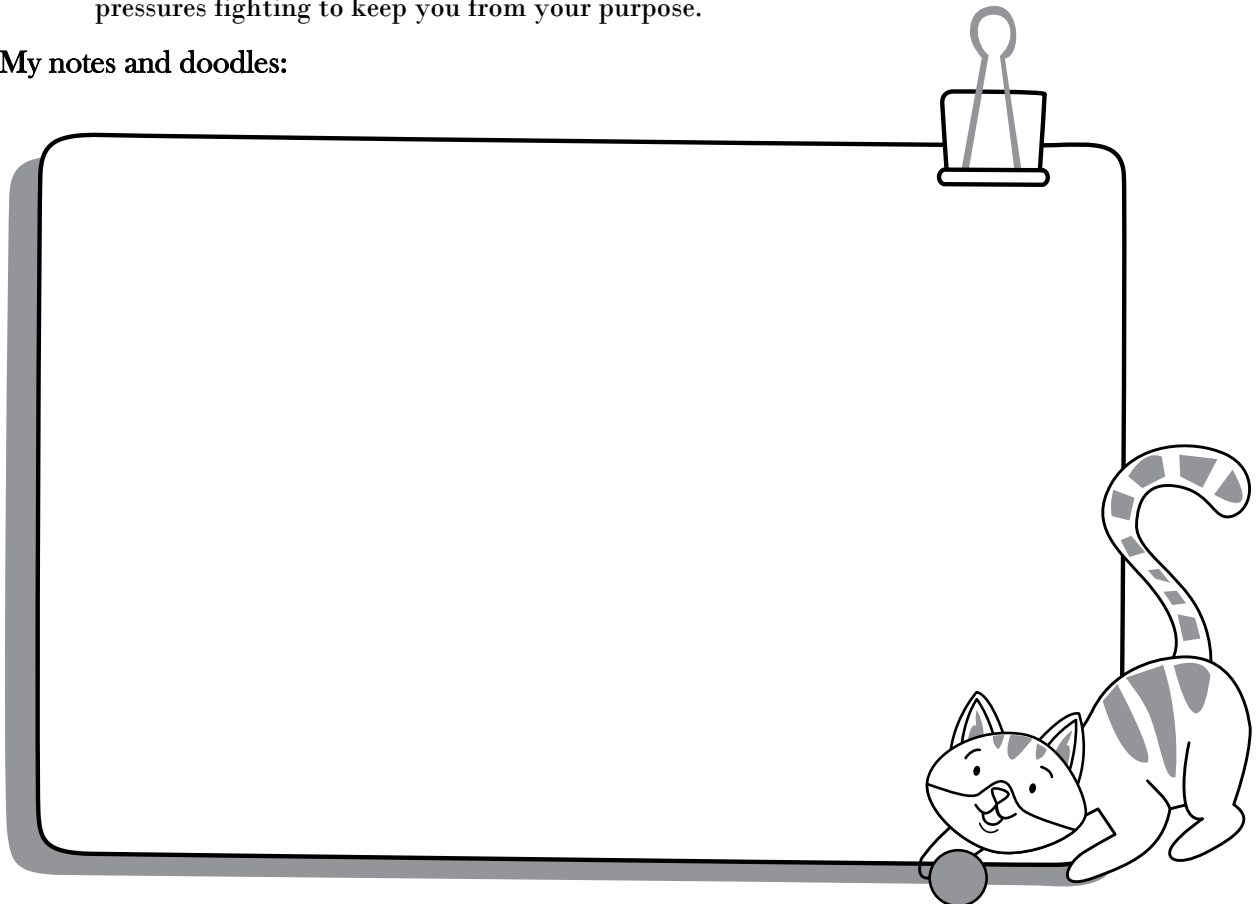
What can you do to encourage each other to keep going despite these "bad guys"?

Pray and Close

Pray for each other to be strong in faith and willing to pay the "price" of belief.

Pray for strength and increased capacity as you push against internal, external, and spiritual pressures fighting to keep you from your purpose.

My notes and doodles:



Week 5 Discussion and Review

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, Hebrews 12:1

Story Check-In

How is writing going?

What has gone well? What one sentence are you most proud of or want to share?

Where did you get stuck or where do you need feedback?

Bible Study Check-In

What most surprised you from John 13-16?

Who do you relate most with in the foot washing scene?

(Jesus, Peter, Judas, or the other disciples)

How can you serve people well, even when they are not kind to you?

How do you hope people respond when you serve them? How do you respond when others serve you?

God's Story in Your Life

Describe an "All is Lost" moment in your past and how you overcame it.

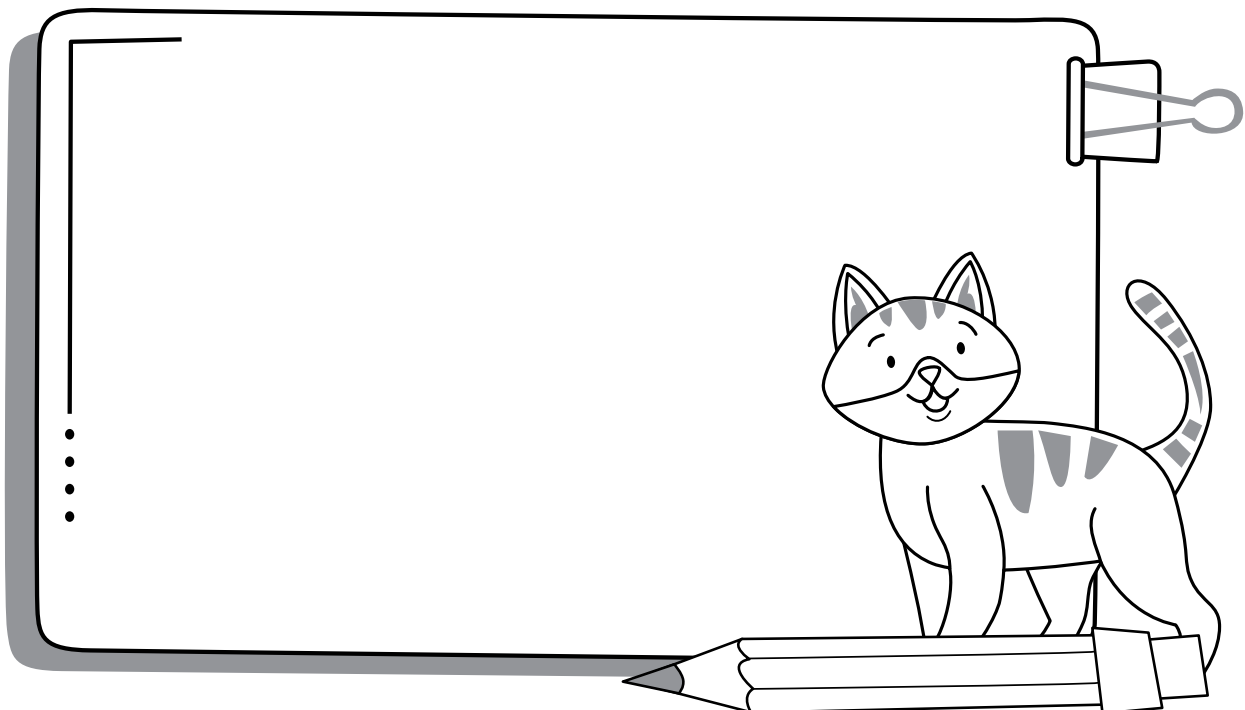
What hurt or habit is holding you back right now from taking the next step in your purpose?

Pray and Close

Pray for endurance to finish the work you started as you go into the last week of this study.

Pray for the relationships you have with each other and with the people you serve alongside.

My notes and doodles:



Week 6 Discussion and Review

But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. Hebrews 3:13

Story Check-In

Overall, how do you feel about your writing journey? What are the successes and struggles of this experience?

Celebrate with those who hit their goal and encourage those who didn't. It's about writing your story, not meeting an arbitrary timeframe.

Bible Study Check-In

What most surprised you from John 18-21?

What affected you most in this look at Jesus' death and resurrection?

Where do you tend to "look" that distracts you from your purpose (backward or at others)?

How will you maintain the habit of staying in the Word now that this study is ending?

God's Story in Your Life

How have you made progress on your purpose over the last six weeks?

What next steps do you have in pursuing your purpose?

Pray and Close

Thank God for what He taught you in this study and through writing your story.

Thank God for the progress you have all made in pursuing your purpose. Pray for the road ahead.

Pray for the books you have written to be used by God to impact the world. Ask Him to guide you through the editing, publishing, and marketing processes.

My notes and doodles:

