



more

GROUP STUDY GUIDE

WEEK ONE

INTRO



GOAL FOR WEEK ONE

The goal for this week is to embrace Jesus' promise that we can take hold of a more abundant life, and to see how God's calling equips us to experience so much more than we settle for.



WEEK ONE: INTRODUCTION



GETTING STARTED

More uses the phrase restless discontent to describe the feeling that each of us experiences at various times in our lives. Reflect on the times you've found yourself thinking, "There must be something more to life!"

DISCUSS: What words or thoughts best characterize any restless discontent that you've experienced?



MORE OF THE STORY

Read: Samantha's Story. Todd Wilson, the author of *More*, tells the story of his dog Samantha's separation anxiety. Read the story starting on page 33 of chapter 3.

We see that good motives, rooted in deep longings to be returned to her master, produced unhealthy behaviors.

THE BIG POINTS OF WEEK ONE

1. THE HISTORY OF MAN'S FALL AND MY SIN NATURE HELPS ME SEE WHY I FEEL RESTLESS DISCONTENT.
2. I WANT TO LIVE MORE ABUNDANTLY IN THE FULLNESS OF JESUS. BUT HOW?
3. GOD GAVE ME A SWEET SPOT OF PERSONAL CALLING—HOW DO I KNOW WHAT MY SWEET SPOT IS?
4. I HAVE TWO CALLINGS.
5. I'M EXCITED TO DISCOVER MORE ABOUT ALL OF THESE—THE FULLNESS OF JESUS, MY SWEET SPOT, MY CALLING—THIS WEEK AS I PRAY AND SEEK.

POINT 1

THE HISTORY OF MAN'S FALL AND MY SIN NATURE HELPS ME SEE WHY I FEEL RESTLESS DISCONTENT.



CONSIDER: We experience a form of the separation anxiety surprisingly similar to that experienced by Samantha. Like her, we are separated from our Master and have a deep longing to be in relationship with Him. Unfortunately, in our restlessness we mistakenly get distracted pursuing and conquering worldly desires. These pursuits are like popping pills that temporarily numb our underlying longings for the more abundant life Jesus promises.

DISCUSS: Describe something that you have witnessed in our society where an unmet longing has created an unhealthy behavior.

PERSONAL REVELATION: In what ways do you try to suppress your deep, unmet longings with the pursuit of conquering worldly accomplishments and desires?

The world wasn't always messy. God met all our longings—we had a relationship with God, days were joyful, and the earth was safe and comfortable. Then man sinned and was separated from God. We were left with a messy world and a deep longing to be back in relationship with God.

At the fall of man (Genesis 3) a new script was introduced—"three chasms" or losses were created—Loss of Identity & Relationship, Loss of Purpose & Mission, and Loss of Place & Eternal Bliss (If you want, check out a more complete description on pages 35-36). These three chasms produce a deep longing and three key questions with elusive answers: (1) Who am I created to BE? (Identity); (2) What am I made to DO? (Purpose); (3) Where am I to GO do it? (Place or position).

POINT 2

I WANT TO LIVE MORE ABUNDANTLY IN THE FULLNESS OF JESUS. BUT HOW?



READ: John 10:10 – This is Jesus' promise to you.

CONSIDER a marriage. Two people have a ceremony, say their vows, sign the license, and have a marriage. Only a few take hold of and live an abundant marriage.

DISCUSS: What's the difference between having a marriage and taking hold of an abundant marriage?

What's the difference between having life and taking hold of the more abundant life Jesus promises?

Why does Jesus make a distinction?

What factors cause us to settle for having life rather than fighting to take hold of a more abundant life?

POINT 3

GOD GAVE ME A SWEET SPOT OF PERSONAL CALLING—HOW DO I KNOW WHAT MY SWEET SPOT IS?



God has created the universe with thousands of sweet spots. Every sweet spot has three common elements, a design (BE), a purpose (DO), and a place/position (GO).

When something is functioning in its sweet spot it's natural, smooth, effortless, and often produces its greatest output—like a baseball bat hitting a home run, a musical instrument hitting a perfect note, and the rotation and orbit of the earth. Why would we think that He would have created us differently?

READ: Ephesians 2:10 (NLT) Do you believe this promise is God's personal promise to you?

DISCUSS: What does Ephesians 2:10 say about the elements of identity (who I'm created to BE), purpose (what I'm made to DO), and place/position (where I'm to GO) that were lost when sin entered the world?

CONSIDER: The integration of the three elements addressed in Ephesians 2:10 represent our sweet spot of personal calling. It's no accident that these three elements address the identity, purpose, and position (BE, DO, GO) questions created as a result of the fall of man.

The purpose of this study is to understand your calling by finding your BE, DO, GO.

- **Who** am I created to BE? (design)
- **What** am I created to DO? (purpose)
- **Where** am I created to GO? (position)

These three questions will help us apply the truth of your sweet spot to your real life. Your sweet spot, inseparable from your calling, will feel natural, smooth, and effortless when you act on it.

DISCUSS: How would discovering and engaging our sweet spot of personal calling (Ephesians 2:10) help us take hold of a more abundant life?

DESCRIBE an activity or area of your life that feels natural, smooth, and effortless.

Do you feel joy and harmony when you do it? If yes, then that's a clue that God has left for you to discover your own sweet spot within your calling.

Read the description of *design*, *purpose*, and *position* on starting at the bottom of page 89 and continuing to the second paragraph on page 90.

ASK: Which of these three most excites you to discover about yourself?

POINT
4

I HAVE TWO CALLINGS.



I have a primary or common calling that draws me into a relationship with God and is shared by all other Christians, everywhere, all the time. In most cases when the Bible refers calling or "being called," it is referring to our primary calling to a restored, intimate relationship as God's children.

I also have a secondary or unique calling that is God's equipping in my life to play my unique part in His mission for the church. Our secondary or unique calling makes us distinct and different from all other people.

READ: The Cotton Mather story in *More* starting on the first paragraph on page 91 and continuing through the third paragraph.

DISCUSS: Cotton Mather does a great job describing primary and secondary calling, but each of us has to personalize our own calling. If you were going to share what you learned in small group this week with a co-worker, how would you describe the differences between primary and secondary calling?

POINT
5

I'M EXCITED TO DISCOVER MORE ABOUT ALL OF THESE—THE FULLNESS OF JESUS, MY SWEET SPOT, MY CALLING—THIS WEEK AS I PRAY AND SEEK.



HANDOUT: Use the *My Personal Calling Card* to see your personal BE, DO, GO elements fit with our primary and secondary calling.

The *My Personal Calling Card* will also provide you with a road map for the next six weeks. The goal each week is to fill-in one of the six elements of your card. Each week will build on the previous weeks until you have all six elements filled in. As you gain clarity on these six elements, a simple statement of your unique calling will emerge. This simple statement is like a compass that can guide your future decisions for investing your time, talent, and treasure. If you are diligent and intentional, your newfound clarity of calling will equip you in taking hold of more abundant living Jesus promises.



1-THING SHARE






What is one thing that you heard, said, or thought tonight that you want to keep in the forefront of your mind all this week?



TAKING MORE HOME

Your *My Personal Calling Card* will be your guide as we progress through this study. This week spend some time getting to know it. Be sure to understand why the card has six total elements (three BE-DO-GO elements for primary calling and three for secondary calling). Also seek to understand how the integration of the BE-DO-GO elements in the card will reflect your unique primary calling and your unique secondary calling.

MY PERSONAL CALLING CARD

PRIMARY OR COMMON CALLING		
<i>My Core Identity (cI)</i>	<i>My Core Mission (cM)</i>	<i>My Core Position (cP)</i>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>BE</p>  <p>Uniquely Made</p> <p>IDENTITY/DESIGN</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>DO</p>  <p>Purpose</p> <p>MISSION/PURPOSE</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>GO</p>  <p>Position</p> <p>MISSION FIELD/POSITION</p> </div>
<p>I am uniquely made</p> <p>What is your unique [_____]? identity</p>	<p>to do good works and deeds</p> <p>What is your unique [_____]? mission</p>	<p>where I can be most effective.</p> <p>What is your unique [_____]? position</p>
<i>My Unique Identity (uI)</i>	<i>My Unique Mission (uM)</i>	<i>My Unique Position (uP)</i>
SECONDARY OR UNIQUE CALLING		

CALLING

Calling is God's longing for us to be in eternal relationship with him, as his children. He calls us to be disciples of Jesus and to carry the fullness of Jesus into the world.

OUR PERSONAL CALLING IS
GOD'S UNIQUE HANDIWORK
 IN OUR LIVES, TO EQUIP US TO
 PLAY **OUR UNIQUE ROLE** IN
 HIS MISSION HERE ON EARTH.