



WILDFIRE
LEADERSHIPSM

Facilitator Guide



MISSION PORTRAIT

Uncover Your Purpose. Unleash Your Potential.



INTRODUCTION

Thank you for agreeing to facilitate this small group. Small groups can be a powerful tool for personal growth, learning, and community building. Each person in your group is created in the image of God with a unique purpose that you can help uncover and guide them to discover for themselves. By building these meaningful relationships and helping the participants gain a greater understanding of who God has designed them to be, you are a huge part of making a positive impact on the world around you!

As a facilitator, it's important to create a welcoming and safe space for everyone in the group to share their thoughts and experiences. Depending on your situation, you might want to play a worship song and pray for God's help and guidance. Start with an icebreaker activity to help everyone get to know each other and feel comfortable. Then, establish the purpose and goals of the group and set expectations for behavior and confidentiality. During the discussion, actively listen and encourage participation from everyone, while also being mindful of time constraints. At the end of the session, summarize the main points discussed, and provide an opportunity for participants to reflect on what they learned or how they can apply the discussion to their lives. Finally, express gratitude to everyone for their participation and willingness to be vulnerable in the group. By creating a supportive environment and following these guidelines, small group facilitators can help their group members grow and connect with one another.

LESSON 1

THE POWER OF YOUR STORY

Welcome/Worship/Prayer (10 minutes)

Before class, make copies of the Spiritual Gifts Assessment and have pens available for each person.

Video (5 minutes)

Wildfire Leadership - Uncover Purpose, Unleash Potential (6:37) and/or **What Is a Mission Portrait? - Day to Day Focus (3:30)**

Why Does Your Story Matter? (15 minutes)

Stories are powerful—especially YOUR story! Jesus understood the power of stories.

He went back to teaching by the sea. A crowd built up to such a great size that he had to get into an offshore boat, using the boat as a pulpit as the people pushed to the water's edge. He taught by using stories, many stories.

Mark 4:1–2: (MSG)

Jesus used parables and stories to connect with people in ways that were relatable and easily understood. His stories brought hope, faith, love, and so much more. Our stories do the same for people, as we embrace the power of our own stories and choose to allow God to use our stories. You may think your story is too ordinary to be used to impact anyone. God has used ordinary people and their ordinary lives to do extraordinary things—when surrendered for His use.

God desires to use every part of our stories—the messy parts and the beautiful parts—for His glory. As we understand our story, we begin to discover who we are and why we were created. This leads to creating a plan to live with purpose and impact. By allowing God to use our stories, others can be blessed and impacted, and we can discover greater purpose as we reflect the character of Jesus.

Each of us is an original who was personally created by the most gifted, powerful, loving artist! Each of us is uniquely and intricately designed to never be a copy or an imitation of someone else! Can you imagine how boring this world would be if we were all exactly alike?

Since this is the kind of life we have chosen, the life of the Spirit, let us make sure that we do not just hold it as an idea in our heads or a sentiment in our hearts, but work out its implications in every detail of our lives. That means we will not compare ourselves with each other as if one of us were better and another worse. We have far more interesting things to do with our lives. Each of us is an original.

Galatians 5:25–26 (MSG)

God created and gave gifts, passions, and personalities that make us who we are—all unique and part of His well-thought-out and loving design. Out of all of the billions of people on Earth, He created you to be and do what only you can do. Each unique life is a story daily bringing out beauty that might otherwise not be there. Embrace your unique story!

Mission Portrait Workbook Pages 2–3 (5 minutes)

Briefly discuss the quote and explain the five components of the Mission Portrait. Each section will be explored in-depth in upcoming sections. Point out the power of the visual they will be creating through this small group.

Develop (5 minutes)

God created you for a purpose and equipped you to fulfill it. Let's take time to discover some of your specific, God-given gifts. When you recognize your areas of gifting, you can use and leverage them to help you live your life's mission.

Spiritual Gifts Assessment (15 minutes)

Make sure everyone has a pen and copy of the Spiritual Gifts Assessment. Encourage everyone to trust their initial response and not to overthink or dwell too long on each gift. Read the statements and have everyone circle the number if it is applicable to them.

Discuss (15 minutes)

1. Which of your spiritual gifts surprised you, and why?
2. How have your spiritual gifts impacted your story?
3. How do you envision using them to impact your story in the future?

Closing (10 minutes)

Encourage the group to start thinking about their story because it is the foundation of their Mission Portrait. Talk about the importance of reflecting on their past as a means to understand details that contribute to who they are now. One way to reflect is to view their life through the lens of a linear timeline. By gazing at life events and details in black and white, patterns might become evident and a sense of purpose might emerge. Discuss the pros and cons of remembering past events and the power of placing memories in God's hands to help us make sense of them. Encourage forgiveness and moving on toward fulfilling all God has for them.

Next Steps (10 minutes)

Challenge everyone to create a timeline with life milestones and experiences that have helped shape who they are today. Begin a timeline on paper or on the computer and add to it as you remember details. This timeline will help provide the Mission found in Lesson 4.

Begin your timeline with your top 3 impactful life experiences. Continue to add to the timeline as you analyze these questions:

- How did that moment impact your life?
- What did you learn about yourself?
- What positive lesson did you learn from this experience?