

**D**ESTINY

# LEADER GUIDE

40 days of transformation  
through community and  
God's word.

# LOVE

*Is Our  
Source*

## 40DAYS

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**“LOVE is our source”** is the 2017 focus we will be taking as a church family. This will be a year of transformation as you form new rhythms establishing a new normal that will create a new you! We must resolve that our main reason for being here is to become more like Christ and to help others become more like Christ.

We are encouraging all of our leaders to encourage the people they disciple, mentor and serve to love others as God gives us His love. We believe that groups are a gateway into a lifestyle of discipleship and practicing true Christian Community.

# INTRODUCTION

We have provided this guide to assist in the facilitation of gatherings for our 40 day focus this year. We have outlined Five Weeks (Five Meetings) of questions and content that relate to our Five Core Values and how these bring transformation to our lives and our world.

Those desiring to become part of the Destiny family will need to attend a Community Group and walk through conversations about the five core values of Destiny: Outrageously Loving, Passionately Pursuing, Irrationally Giving, Consistently Submitting and Effectively Discipling. Please integrate this into your meetings as we lovingly challenge people to a more fruitful lifestyle of loving, pursuing, giving, submitting and discipling others.

WEEK 1

# OUTRAGEOUSLY LOVING

God loves you with a PERFECT love!

God's family loves you with an IMPERFECT love.

God's family is a family of forgiven, dysfunctional people. Our mistakes are frequent and our love is imperfect. But we are still the bride of Christ.

Even in the church's imperfection our spiritual well-being is tied to our SUBMISSION to her.

**Rom 12:10** Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. NIV

✓ *“brotherly love” speaks of a family love specifically the love of brothers & sisters.*

✓ *Honor is translated from the original Greek language here and the Greek word is spelled “time”*

**Rom 12:10** Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. NLT

✓ *When we are willing to be inconvenienced for others we honor them in doing so.*

**Discussion:** We are created in the image of Trinity/Community God. What are some good things that result when we devote ourselves to living lives that are more devoted to community?

✓ *We live in a world that is over-committed & under-connected. We must beware of the barrenness of a busy life.*

✓ *In our fast paced culture you can have access to people and still be relationally malnourished. Discussion: What does it take to have relationships that are nourishing to our lives?*

✓ *The absence of community creates deficiency and dysfunction. You and I are created in the image of God and community is rooted in his very nature – Father, Son, Spirit.*

**Discussion:** Community enrichment happens intentionally. When you think about ways to enrich your family time what comes to mind? Practical ideas:

✓ *Take a walk and turn it into a scavenger hunt where each person lists one thing everybody on the walk must find.*

✓ *Buy a fire pit for your back yard.*

✓ *Movie night with a pallet on the floor and popcorn.*

**Quote:** “Purposing inconvenience for the sake of relationship is community.”

**Discussion:** Have each person share what they can you do over the next week to put today’s discussion into practice? Let’s report on how we did when we get together next week.

✓ *Make it your mission to enrich someone’s life this week on your wonderful journey of knowing Jesus.*

WEEK 2

# PASSIONATELY PURSUING

**Discussion:** How did everyone do with their commitment last week?

**Icebreaker:** What is one of your least favorite chores to do around the house? Why?

You were not born for your pleasure. You were born for God's **PURPOSES**!

**Gen 25:29-34** Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. He said to Jacob, "Quick, let me have some of that red stew!" Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright." "Look, I am about to die," Esau said. "What good is the birthright to me?" So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left. So Esau despised his birthright. (NIV)

✓ *The mind is like a muscle and is strengthened with exercise. Feed the carnal mind, it will flourish. Feed the spirit, it will flourish.*

✓ *When your spiritual man is underdeveloped, spiritual things are like a workout that wears you out quickly.*

Stir up your passion to pursue God and his **PLANS** for our life! It's never too late to be what you might have been.

**Eph 2:10** It is God himself who has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ages ago he planned that we should spend these lives in helping others. TLB

**Discussion:** If time and money weren't limitations for you what would you do to leave your world a better place? Why would this be of interest to you?

✓ *Studies show, the more often families eat together the less likely kids are to smoke, drink, do drugs, be depressed & consider suicide and the more likely they are to do well in school, delay having sex, eat veggies, learn big words and know which fork to use.*



✓ *It's inspiring to learn Joshua had 14 consecutive generations of sons in service to God! Our decisions echo for hundreds of years among thousands of people both for good and for bad!*

✓ *We have gifted perspectives that cause us to be touched by different things. Have everyone take this online gift assessment and discuss the results next week.*

**Gift assessment online:** - After you take the test please keep your results to share. - [16personalities.com/free-personality-test](https://16personalities.com/free-personality-test)

**Discussion:** Your deepest sense of purpose is born from learning to be part of other people's need. Share a time when somebody did something to express love and/or generosity to you.

✓ *Ask people to connect personally with each other in groups of 2 or 3 carrying each other's burdens over the course of the coming week.*

✓ *Ask each other how you can pray during the week. Then make a point of praying and letting each other know about it. Make it your mission to enrich someone on your journey.*

# IRRATIONALLY GIVING

**Icebreaker:** Share at time when somebody gave in such a way that it made a difference in your life.

✓ *Share some meaningful sacrifices you and your family made in order to make a difference in somebody else's life.*

✓ *Consider the times you weren't generous and later regretted it compared to the times you were generous and later regretted it. It's very rare that we find ourselves regretting generosity but often that we wish we could go back and do more.*

**Rom 12:6** Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them... NKJV

Learning about and participating in the **GENEROUS** nature of God is very important to our lives, our legacy and generations after us.

*✓ Using your gift to generously serve another is the act of submission to Christ and a ministry to others. Understanding our gifts positions us to be aligned with the purposes of God. Your history can give you clues to your destiny.*

**Discussion:** What areas have you excelled in or experienced success? What passions or interests can you not shake? What are your frustrations or concerns as these are clues to your call? What hard work might you gladly do for free?

*✓ You've spent your entire life accumulating experiences improving your skills and discovering your passions. Don't abandon this personal history. Your life is precisely equipped with the exact experiences your dreams require.*

**Discussion:** Take the time to allow each person in the group to share their results from the online test.

✓ *If anybody in the group didn't take the test let them listen and offer some kind of resembling assessment after hearing the others share.*

✓ *Our desire is to see every person in the church grow and mature! We are different on purpose and all of our gifts working together express the image of Christ!*

Remember **Rom 12:6** said of our gifts, "...let us use them..."

The purpose of the gift is not that we have them but that we           **USE**           them.

✓ *Knowing what we ought to do and doing what we know to do are two entirely different things.*

All of the world's resources came from God. God           **OWNS**           and God           **LOANS**           it.

**Deut 14:23** The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God first in your lives.  
(TLB)

**Discussion:** What are the common challenges with the Biblical idea of tithing 10% of our income?

*✓ Ask every person to prayerfully consider how they can use their time, money and talents to enrich the lives of others more effectively this week.*

**For the online assessment explanation see the next page.**

# ONLINE TEST 40DAYS

There are 8 letters that are used, and they make up sixteen possible Myers-Briggs Types. The letters and what they represent are:

**E Extraversion:** People who prefer Extraversion tend to focus on the outer world of people and things.

**I Introversiion:** People who prefer Introversiion tend to focus on the inner world of ideas and impressions.

**S Sensing:** People who prefer Sensing tend to focus on the present and the concrete information gained from their senses.

**N iNtuition:** People who prefer Intuition tend to focus on the future, with a view toward patterns and possibilities.

**T Thinking:** People who prefer Thinking tend to base their decisions on logic and objective analysis of cause and effect.

**F Feeling:** People who prefer Feeling tend to base their decisions primarily on values and on subjective evaluation of person-centered concerns.

**J Judgment:** People who prefer Judgment tend to like a planned and organized approach to life and prefer to have things settled. They are more scheduling with their activities. J types prefer “the destination” over “the journey”.

**P Perception:** People who prefer Perception tend to have a flexible and spontaneous approach to life. They are less scheduling with their activities and prefer to keep their options open. They are more probing with their activities. “P” types prefer “the journey” over “the destination”.

# CONSISTENTLY SUBMITTING

**Discussion:** Describe a great example of a Christian without stating the obvious, Jesus.

*✓ You can never be a great example until you stop trying to be a perfect example. Imperfection in your life is helpful to others when you are generously vulnerable for them to see.*

**Discussion:** Share how authenticity or even imperfection in the lives of others has helped you personally as a Christian.

*✓ The idea of being a great example is probably one of the most confusing ideas in our faith. God takes just a man and makes him a just man but we must never forget he's still just a man.*



Even in the church's imperfection  
our spiritual well-being is tied to our  
**SUBMISSION** to her.

**1 Cor 1:27** God chose the “foolish” things  
of the world to shame the wise; God chose  
the weak things of the world to shame the  
strong. NIV

✓ *The Greek word for “foolish” is “moros”  
from which we get our English word, “mo-  
rons.” God’s not looking for the most amaz-  
ing people in the world who have it all to-  
gether. God’s looking for morons and wants  
to be shown in our weakness. This means  
we’re all qualified!*

**Quote:** God’s love in our messed up lives is  
the message of the Gospel.

✓ *God didn’t hide any of the dirty laundry in  
the Bible. This vulnerability and authenticity  
causes Christianity to stand in a class of its  
own as no other religion allows humanity to  
be exposed in their sacred writings.*

✓ *Jesus’ family lineage was a mess and is  
recorded in Scripture for all to see. Perhaps  
this is why we reference Jesus as the MESS-  
iah:*

✓ *Jesus' mom was pregnant and not married? Jesus' great, great grandma Rahab was a prostitute. His great, great Grandpa David had an affair and tried to cover it up by killing the woman's husband.*

✓ *Abraham was too old. Leah was unattractive. Joseph was abused and forgotten. Moses stuttered. Jonah was slow to respond. Elijah was suicidal. Peter was hot-tempered. Martha was a worrier. Thomas had doubts.*

✓ *Don't let your issues be your excuses. God has always used dysfunctional people so we're all in luck!*

**Quote:** “We are not merely carriers of a message. We are the message.”

✓ *Others can be encouraged when they see our limitations in the same way we find encouragement by seeing these mighty men and women of God in their mistakes.*

✓ *Moses, Gideon, Saul, David, Solomon and Isaiah all have something in common: They all thought they couldn't do what God was telling them to do before they did it. We are guaranteed to miss 100% of the shots we never take.*

Great relationships are not about having all the answers. Great relationships are about asking the **RIGHT QUESTIONS**.

*✓ Make it your mission to enrich others by being vulnerable and transparent on this wonderful journey of knowing Jesus this week.\**

**Discussion:** Can you think of a time when you disqualified yourself from doing something that could have been God's direction for you? Could we pray with you about this specific area as a group?

# EFFECTIVELY DISCIPLING

**Discussion:** What are the names of some people who have impacted your life in a good way and what was it they did to make such a difference?

***Making a difference is making disciples.***

**Matt 28:19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. (NIV)

Effectively discipling begins in the  
**HOME**.

*✓ For the Jews the ministry center of the family is the home. For Christians the ministry center has become the church.*

*✓ We are called to be fruitful and multiply. To be fruitful we must learn to be focused. The more consumed we are with the purposes of God the more difficult it is to be distracted from our destiny!*

**Discussion:** What things can we do to actively follow Jesus more whole-heartedly? (Examples below.)

1. Reading your Bible consistently.
2. Attending AND serving at church
3. Being involved in a Community Group
4. Giving tithes and offerings.
5. Intentionally care for the needs of others.

*✓ Maybe you don't come from a family that loved Jesus and served his purposes with all of their heart. You can be the first generation of many to establish this pursuit.*

Broken walls of legacy can be  
**RESTORED** !

**Neh 7:1-2** Now when the wall was rebuilt and I had set up the doors, and the gatekeepers and the singers and the Levites were appointed, then I put Hanani my brother, and Hananiah the commander of the fortress, in charge of Jerusalem, for he was a faithful man and feared God more than many.

When you live a life of     **LEGACY**     you not only find places to serve but you enrich your children's lives by involving them and giving them a heart to serve Jesus and His family.

**Discussion:** What are some typical things that distract you from the purposes of God and how can you make adjustments to focus more effectively?

*✓ It's vitally important that we take all we've learned in these weeks together and put it to work.*

*✓ Knowing what we need to do is one thing. Doing what we know to do is another.*

**Discussion:** What are some highlights or insights you have gained through our time together that have helped you on your journey?

*✓ Let's devote ourselves together to the desires of God and his purposes. We can choose to live a life that is inspired by God. Anything else is a distraction.*

**Ps 119:165** For those who love what you reveal, everything fits - no stumbling around in the dark for them. Message

**Prov 29:18** If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; But when they attend to what he reveals, they are most blessed. Message

*✓ Our prayer is that we would all be more awakened to the purposes of God as we prayerfully pursue knowing Jesus more intimately.*

*✓ Make it your mission to love others as you continue on this wonderful journey of knowing Jesus.*

**THANK  
YOU FOR  
ALL THAT  
YOU DO  
AS A  
LEADER  
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MAKER.**

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**LOVE**

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