

A Parent's Guide

to Helping Your Children Discover Their Life Purpose



BY NESTOR AND DINA LIMA

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I praise You, for I am awesomely, wonderfully made! Wonderful are Your works – and my soul knows that very well.

—Psalm 139:14 (TLV)

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Your children have a specific life purpose.

Our job as parents is to raise our children with purpose and identity so that they'll grow to influence the world around them. According to Proverbs 22:6, parents have the challenging privilege and divine responsibility to "Train up a child in the way he should go, when he is old he will not turn from it" (TLV).

"The way he should go" refers to the child's path in life, or his life purpose. It is our job to help our children find their path. Parents don't need to be clear on their own life purpose to offer help.

To discover one's life purpose we must first begin with the basics. We must understand that every person possesses individuality, purpose and greatness. Every boy and girl must know and recognize this in order to experience their own encounter.

Before helping your child in their discovery, it is important to understand these three principles:

1. THE PRINCIPLE OF INDIVIDUALITY

Our individuality does not make us superior or inferior to others; it makes us **different**. Embracing our difference is accepting the work of our Creator. It is our difference that makes us unique and special.

2. THE PRINCIPLE OF PURPOSE

Every birth is intentional. Every child is a divine masterpiece deliberately created for a **divine assignment**. When children identify their purpose, they gain amazing boldness, focus and accelerated personal and spiritual growth. Their life goals become clearer, making distractions and ungodly influences easier to deal with.

3. THE PRINCIPLE OF GREATNESS

We believe in the greatness of human beings because a Great God created us. The greatness deposited inside your children will **empower** them to fulfill their God-given dreams, engineer new inventions and offer sound solutions to social and spiritual issues this world desperately needs.

How to help your child discover their life purpose

Your children have the ability to hear God because they came from Him. God is always speaking. The question is: are we listening?

1. PRAY

Pray for God's guidance as you become more observant of your children. Ask God to help you see your children the way He does. Pray for discernment as you become more aware of God's assignment for your children.

2. OBSERVE

Look for clues of your children's divine assignment. You don't need to be clear on your own life purpose to offer help. Write down unique gifts, talents and strengths you notice in your children. Seek ways to support and resource your children in their unique gifts and talents — i.e., getting them books on the subject (that are age appropriate); musical instruments if they're musically inclined; signing them up for a class on the subject that interests them at church or other local community offerings.

3. TEACH

- **Teach your children the principles of individuality, purpose and greatness.**

INDIVIDUALITY – God created each person unique

Psalm 139:13-16 (NLT)

"You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous – how well I know it. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed."

"And the very hairs on your head are all numbered." – Matthew 10:30 (NLT)

PURPOSE – God created each person with a specific life task

EXAMPLES

God created Jesus to be a savior (set people free) – Luke 4:18 (NLT)

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the Lord’s favor has come.”

God created Jeremiah to be a prophet – Jeremiah 1:5 (NLT)

“I knew you before I formed you in your mother’s womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations.”

God created Isaiah to be a bearer of good news and comfort – Isaiah 61:1 (NLT)

“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, for the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed.”

God created Paul to be bring God’s Message to the Gentiles, Kings and the House of Israel – Acts 9:15 (NLT)

But the Lord said, “Go, for Saul is my chosen instrument to take my message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel.”

GREATNESS – God placed greatness inside each person that empowers them to complete their God-given life mission

God created us a little lower than the angels – Psalm 8:5

“Yet you made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor.” (NLT)

God created us in His image and likeness – Genesis 1:27

“So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” (NLT)

- **Guide your children to declare affirmations from God's Word.**

Example – based on Deuteronomy 28:13 and Psalm 1

I am the head and not the tail.

I am above and not beneath.

I am blessed coming in and blessed going out.

And everything I put my hands to will prosper.

- **Train your children to keep a journal of what God speaks to them.**

It's a good idea for you to keep a journal as well and document those special memories.

4. ASK

The most powerful way to help your children in the discovery of their life purpose is to ask soul-searching questions. For children ages six and under, it could be an adventure to have this type of conversation! For pre-teens and teens, the conversations could become profound and you'll learn more about your children as you continue to dig deeper. You'll be amazed at how much goes on in the minds and hearts of your children... simply by asking the right questions.

Ask God for guidance as you practice the art of asking questions to draw out from your children what God has placed inside them. God has already designed your children perfectly for their life mission. Our job as parents is to help them draw out what God wants to do through them and use them for His glory and the benefit of they are called to serve.

Examples of soul-searching questions:

- Have you ever thought about your life purpose?
- What do you love doing?
- What connection do you see between your talents and what you love doing?
- How do you visualize yourself living out what you love to do?
- How does that bring glory to God and help to people?
- What resources have you found that could prepare you to live out your God-given assignment?
- What can I do to support you?

“You must decide if you are going to rob the world or bless it with the rich, valuable, potent, untapped resources locked away within you.”

—Dr. Myles Munroe

1954-2014

Was a Bahamian evangelist, author, speaker, leadership consultant and founder of Bahamas Faith Ministries International

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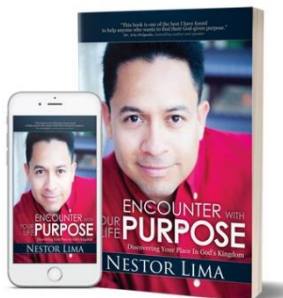


Designed as an 8-week course, *Beyond Parenting: Building a Godly Dynasty* inspires and equips parents to effectively connect with the hearts of their children as mentors and coaches. You will learn how to:

- Be the best mentor and coach your children need
- Transfer your values to your children effectively
- Design a lasting spiritual legacy for your current and future generations

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Recommended Resource



Encounter With Your Life Purpose: Discovering Your Place in God's Kingdom by Nestor Lima.

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