



UNIQUELY WONDERFUL

PART 2

LIFE



in this series

**MADE TO GIVE GLORY
TO GOD**

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**HOW DO OUR
EXPERIENCES SHAPE US?**

• •

**SPIRITUAL GIFTS
AND TALENTS**

• •

LOVE LANGUAGES

• •

THE INFLUENCE WE HAVE



SHARING MY FAITH



More LIFE resources available at
toolkit.salvos.org.au/yourhandkinds



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MADE TO GIVE GLORY TO GOD



How do you give glory to God in your everyday life?

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Isaiah 43:7 1 Corinthians 6:20
1 Corinthians 10:31 1 Peter 4:10-11
Matthew 5:16

Write a prayer asking God to help you glorify Him in your life everyday.

2/5

HOW DO OUR EXPERIENCES SHAPE US?



What's one experience that has helped you grow?

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Romans 8:28
2 Corinthians 1:3-7

How will you change how you respond to different experiences knowing that God uses them to shape us?



1/5

MADE TO GIVE GLORY TO GOD

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summary

Why do I exist?

It's a question people have been asking for centuries.

In this guide, we'll explore the truth that our purpose and existence can be summed up in the phrase:

"we are made to give God glory".



you will need

- Enough print outs of *appendix 1* for all to look on

If you choose to brainstorm in "Discuss" rather than just discuss

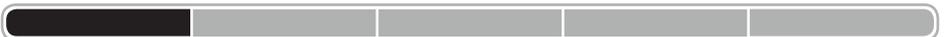
- A piece of butcher's paper
- 2 or 3 textas

If you choose activity 1 in "Involve"

- One strip of blu tac
- 2 sheets of butcher's paper
- *Appendix 2* printed and cut up
- A packet of textas for the group to share
- (Optional for "Involve" activity 1) "In My Life Lord Be Glorified" (Bob Kilpatrick) or "Lord of All" (Darlene Zschech) for background music

If you do activity 2 in "Involve"

- Know the words to the chorus of "In My Life Lord Be Glorified" (Bob Kilpatrick) or have a youtube clip/song lyrics ready for your group



CONNECT



To help your group connect on a relaxed level, spend some time discussing the following:

- » Give your week so far at a score out of 5. Why did you give it that score?
- » Would you rather be the President or the Queen? Why?
- » What was the best thing you ate this week?

DISCUSS



- » If you could ask God one question about life, what would you ask?
- » What do you think God wants you to do with your life? You might not have the full picture but do you have any ideas?

read the bible

Ask volunteers to read the verses from *appendix 1*.

- » Which of these Bible verses stands out to you the most? Why?
- » In *Isaiah 43:7* God is speaking about why He created His people Israel. In your own words what does say their purpose is? Do you think this is the same for us now? Why or why not?
- » What do you think it means to give someone glory or honour?
- » Can we only give glory and honour to God when we sing?

(See questions on the next page)



- » In 1 Corinthians 10:31 we read that even if we are just eating or drinking we should do it in a way that gives God glory.
- » What are some of the normal everyday thing you do?
- » How do you think a person can give God glory or honour in these things?
- » 1 Corinthians 6:20 talks about honouring God with our body. Would you say you honour God with your body? Why/why not?
- » In Matthew 5:16 Jesus tells us to live our lives in such a way that people look to and admire God. What sort of life do you think would make people do this? Have you ever seen this happen?



If your group is full of visual learners you could brainstorm this onto paper, rather than just speak about it.

INVOLVE



Choose ONE of the following activities for your group:

- Activity 1 - Creative Prayer
- Activity 2 - Bringing glory to God through song

activity 1

Bluetack your '*Lord, continue to be glorified in...*' butchers paper up on one side of the room and your '*Lord, I am sorry for not glorifying you in...*' butchers paper up on the opposite wall.

Give all group members time to prayerfully contribute to the pieces of butchers paper. They can write, draw or use the examples you cut out from *appendix 2*.

When everyone has finished, have them pray out loud. They could start their prayers with:

"Lord continue to be glorified in..." And

"Lord, I'm sorry for not bringing you glory in..."



activity 2

Sing the chorus 'In My Life Lord Be Glorified' by Bob Kilpatrick.

When you finish singing the traditional verses, take turns at choosing another word to substitute 'life'.

E.g. In my 'friendships', in my 'study', in my 'language'.

Encourage your group members to choose things that have special meaning for them.

APPLY



What is something you would like to do differently this week based on what we have looked at?

OR

Every morning this week spend 5 minutes (or more) praying that God would be glorified and honoured throughout your day. Encourage your group to be specific as they pray.

OR

Start by every morning by prayerfully singing "In My Life Lord Be Glorified".



LEADERS NOTES

IDEA!!! Next week, how about you ditch the normal LIFE meeting format and watch a movie? Grab some popcorn and chocolate and watch the movie "Soul Surfer". Watching this movie and thinking about our experiences will enrich your discussion in the following week immensely! Here are some helpful questions you might want to ask after watching the movie to help your group think about experiences.

Discussion Questions for after the movie:

- How does Bethany respond to the attack at different points in the movie?
- Where does she find her strength? Where do you find your strength?
- In what way does Bethany's experiences shape her in regards to her faith?

If you are unable to have a movie night, feel free to progress straight to the next guide.

FOLLOW UP

About 3 days after your group has met, follow up all your group members and encourage them about what they learnt in your LIFE group. You could ask them:

How have you been glorifying God this week?



APPENDIX 1



Isaiah 43:7

They are my people. I created each of them to bring honour to me. (CEV)

I Corinthians 10:31

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. (NIV)

I Corinthians 6:20

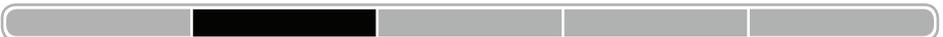
God paid a great price for you. So use your body to honour God. (CEV)

Matthew 5:16

Make your light shine, so that others will see the good that you do and will praise your Father in heaven. (CEV)

I Peter 4:10-11

Each of you has been blessed with one of God's many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others. So use your gift well. If you have the gift of speaking, preach God's message. If you have the gift of helping others, do it with the strength that God supplies. Everything should be done in a way that will bring honour to God because of Jesus Christ, who is glorious and powerful forever. Amen. (CEV)



APPENDIX 2



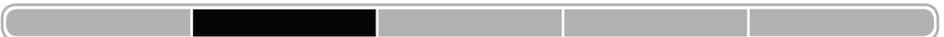
... my words at work

...my actions on the sports field

...the way I talk to my family

...my thoughts about people I don't
get along with

...my time spent with family



2/5

HOW DO OUR EXPERIENCES SHAPE US?

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summary

Not all of the experiences we have in life are pleasant. This week we'll explore how our experiences can shape us and equip us to better help others.

We'll also look at giving God glory in response to the good and the bad things that we go through.



you will need

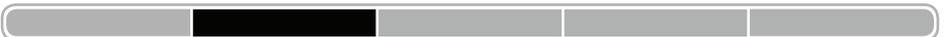
- 2 sheets of A4 paper per person
- A packet of textas for the group to share
- A strip of Blu tac

If you choose "Connect" option 2:

- Beanboozled jelly beans - these can be bought from ebay for approx \$5

keep in mind

- Some of your group members may have experienced some very traumatic experiences. Use caution and sensitivity as you discuss this topic.
- As a leader it would be good to have a bad experience ready to share with your group to encourage them to feel comfortable to share experiences. Remind your members that LIFE group is a safe space.



CONNECT



Option 1:

To help your group connect on a relaxed level, spend some time discussing the following:

- » Would you rather eat worms that have been frozen or fried?
- » What's the worst thing you have ever eaten? What was bad about it?
- » What's the most bizarre experience you've had lately?

OR

Option 2:

Bring some beanboozled jelly beans to LIFE group. Give everyone a chance to choose one to try.

At the end, ask them how they would describe the jelly bean tasting experience they just had.

DISCUSS



This week we are going to look at our experiences.

- » How would you explain the word 'experience' to someone who has never heard it before?
- » Do you think our experiences decide who we become as people? Why/why not?
- » What is one good experience that has helped make you who you are today?



read the bible



Ask a volunteer to read aloud:

Romans 8:28

- » People often say: "Everything happens for a reason." Do you think this is what this verse is saying? Why/why not?
- » Can you think of an example of God 'working everything together for good'? (It can be from their own life or someone else's).
- » Have you ever been through a bad experience that helped bring about something good in the end?
- » Have you ever been helped by hearing someone's testimony? Why do you think it helped you to hear about that person's experiences?
- » If God loves us, why do you think He doesn't just stop us from having bad experiences in the first place?



Ask a volunteer to read aloud:

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

- » What do you think this passage is saying about our experiences?
- » God's is described as the "God of all comfort". Do you find these words encouraging? Why?
- » What are some ways we can glorify God through all of our experiences, good and bad?



INVOLVE



Give everyone a moment to draw *one good* experience they've had in their life and (on a separate sheet of paper) *one bad* experience.



Assure your group that they don't need to be good at drawing and they can write if they prefer.

Blu tac everyone's pictures to a wall.

As a group, look at each of the experiences and brainstorm (out loud) ways that the experience could be used to *glorify God* and to *help others*.

When you have finished, spend some time praying for each other.

APPLY



What is one thing you will do differently this week based on what we've talked about?

OR

In what ways will you change how you respond to different experiences after this study?



LEADERS NOTES

Ask every group member to complete the test at:
www.spiritualgiftstest.com/test/youth in preparation for next week's session.
Get them to text you their results once they have done the test.

FOLLOW UP

About 3 days after your group has met, follow up all your group members and encourage them about what they learnt in your LIFE group.
You could ask them:

Has there been an experience this week that you have responded differently to because of what we looked at?



3/5

SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND TALENTS



summary

Whether you realise it or not - you are gifted and talented. God has given special abilities to each of us. Are you using yours? Is God being glorified?

This week we'll take a look at what our different gifts and talents are and how we can please God in the ways that we use them.



you will need

- 2 pieces of butchers paper
- 2 textas
- A beanbag or chair



Make sure everyone has texted you their results from the spiritual gifts quiz before the session. Follow up any group members who haven't before your group meets.

keep in mind

This week we are discussing the way God has gifted us spiritually and the talents He has given us. Some group members may not know what gifts/talents they have so for each of your members have at least two gifts/talents in mind to share with them.



CONNECT



To help your group connect on a relaxed level, spend some time discussing the following:

- » If you could have any super-power what would it be and why?
- » Would you rather never eat fast food again or only ever be able to eat fast food? Explain why?
- » Have you ever received a gift you didn't want? What was it? How did you react when you received it?

DISCUSS



- » What do you think of when you hear the word 'talent' or 'gift'? How would you describe them to someone who has never heard of them before?
- » Who is the most gifted or talented celebrity you can think of? What are they good at?
- » Who is the most gifted or talented person you know in real life? What are they good at?

read the bible



Ask a volunteers to read the following verses aloud:

1 Peter 4:10

Ephesians 4:11-12

1 Corinthians 12:8-11

- » Based on these verses, why do you think God gives us gifts or talents?
- » Can you think of a Christian who uses their talents and gifts for God? What is their talent/gift and how do they glorify God with it?



- » What do you think the difference is between a spiritual gift and any other gift or talent? (See Leaders Notes for clarification on this).
- » According to the results of the survey, what are your top spiritual gifts?
- » Did anything surprise you about your results? Why/why not?
- » What do you think the point of learning about our spiritual gifts is?
- » If God could say one thing to you about your gifts and talents today, what do you think it would be?



Remember that any spiritual gift survey is only a tool. Your group member's results may or may not be helpful and wisdom needs to be exercised.

INVOLVE



Throw a beanbag or chair in the middle of the room and give each group member a turn sitting in it.

Have the rest of the group gather around them and speak life in to them. They could use the words like: "God made you good at..." and "He could use you to..."



The objective is not to inflate the person's ego. We are encouraging (i.e. putting courage into) each other.

APPLY



Share ONE way that you will use one of your spiritual gifts this week (*see Leaders Notes for examples*).

AND/OR

Share ONE way that you will use one of your talents for God this week.



Make a note of what your group says so can follow them up.



LEADERS NOTES

- Differences between Spiritual Gifts and other gifts/talents:
Spiritual Gifts = Come from the Holy Spirit
Talents = Can come through genetics/experience
Spiritual Gifts = Only Christians have them
Talents = Every human has them
Spiritual Gifts = Specifically named in the New Testament
Talents = Can be any of an unlimited number of skills/competencies
- Examples for 'Apply'
I have the spiritual gift of:
 - exhortation/encouragement so I will send 3 encouraging texts
 - pastoring so will meet for coffee with someone who I know is in need
 - administration so I can help organise my youth group camp
 - discernment so I can help people to work out the lies that society teaches us
 - evangelism so I will aim to share the gospel with someone at work/school this week
 - giving so I will give some of my money to the church to help ministries happen
 - showing mercy so I will organise to go and serve at a soup kitchen
 - serving so I will help pack away the chairs or serve tea and coffee after church
 - teaching so I will help lead kids church on Sundays

(see further notes continued on the next page)



- Further learning about Spiritual Gifts
If group members are eager to take a more in-depth look at their spiritual gifts they could complete the:
 - "3 colours of ministry" survey by Christian Schwartz
<http://3colorworld.org/en>
Also find a Spiritual Gifts survey here
 -
- Ask every group member to complete the 'Love Languages' test at www.5lovelanguages.com/profile/teens
Get them to text you their results once they have done the test.

FOLLOW UP

About 3 days after your group has met, follow up all your group members and encourage them about what they learnt in your LIFE group.
You could ask them:

How have you used [insert specific gift/talent]
for Jesus this week?



4/5

LOVE LANGUAGES



summary

There's no question that God wants us to love others. But we're not all created the same. We don't all give or receive love in the same ways.

In this guide we will look together at different types of 'love languages' and how knowing about these different 'love languages' can help us to love others more like Jesus did.



you will need

appendix 1 printed and cut out



Make sure everyone has texted you their 'Love Language' test results before the session. Follow up any group members who haven't done this before your group meets.

keep in mind

The Love Language's test is a helpful tool for understanding ourselves better in an area we may not have thought of before, but remember it is only a tool and wisdom needs to be exercised.



CONNECT



To help your group connect on a relaxed level, spend some time discussing the following:

- » What is your favourite day of the week and why?
- » What is the most helpful tip you've ever been given?

recap

- » How did you go last week using one of your talents or spiritual gifts for God?

DISCUSS



- » Share about a time when you felt loved by someone? What did they do/say to make you feel so loved?
- » Who is one person in your life that you love? When you are really trying, how do you show your love to them?



Ask a volunteer to read the following verse out loud from their Bible, phone or tablet:

John 13:35 (NIV)

*"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,
if you love one another."*

- » Based on this verse, how important do you think it is for us as Christians to show love to each other?
- » Do you think God made certain personalities to be more loving than others? Why/why not?



- » This week you did a 'Love Languages Test'. What do you think people mean when they talk about 'love languages'? Why do you think they use the word 'languages'?

Jesus used all of the love languages at different times.

Take the cut outs from *appendix 1*. Read them out together and see if you can match the example from Jesus' life to the love language.

- » When Jesus healed the leper (a man who no one ever touched because his disease was contagious), He reached out and touched him. He healed lots of other people without touching them. Why do you think He touched the leper?
- » Zacchaeus was a social outcast. Why do you think it was significant that Jesus went to his house for dinner? What love language was Jesus showing here?
- » Why do you think Jesus used all of the love languages at different times? (Hint: He wanted everyone to feel loved)
- » According to the quiz, what are your top two love languages? Can you give an example of how you have seen this in your life?



INVOLVE



Give each group member one of the following situations to role play.
How would you show love?



If role playing is too difficult or stressful for people in your group members they can explain what they would do.

Who:	Love Language:	Situation:
Mum	Physical Touch	Her birthday
Teacher	Acts of Service	End of term
Friend	Receiving Gifts	Pet just died
Grandma	Quality Time	You're visiting
Life Group Leader	Words of Affirmation	He/she is a great leader
Boyfriend/Girlfriend	Receiving Gifts	Anniversary
Aunty/Uncle	Acts of Service	Sick in hospital
Church Pastor	Words of Affirmation	Seems very tired
Best Friend	Physical Touch	Parents getting divorced
Friend	Quality Time	Has depression

APPLY



What is one thing you will do differently this week based on what we've talked about?

OR

What is ONE practical thing you will do this week to show someone love in their language?



FOLLOW UP

About 3 days after your group has met, follow up all your group members and encourage them about what they learnt in your LIFE group. You could ask them:

How have you gone at showing love to people in their love languages this week?



APPENDIX 1

PAGE 1 OF 2



PHYSICAL TOUCH

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

GIFTS

QUALITY TIME

ACTS OF SERVICE



Mark 1:40-41 (NIV)

A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.

John 13:14 (NIV)

Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

Luke 19:5b (NIV)

Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.

Matthew 16:17-19 (NIV)

Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Luke 11:11-13 (CEV)

Which one of you fathers would give your hungry child a snake if the child asked for a fish? Which one of you would give your child a scorpion if the child asked for an egg? As bad as you are, you still know how to give good gifts to your children. But your heavenly Father is even more ready to give the Holy Spirit to anyone who asks.



5/5

THE INFLUENCE WE HAVE



summary

Even the most introverted person will influence ten thousand people over their lifetime.

We all have influence. Have you thought about this?
How will you use yours?



you will need

- One large piece of butchers paper
- 2 textas (different colours)
- A blue or black pen for each group member

keep in mind

- There are lots of questions in this guide. As with all our LIFE guides they are just that - a guide. You might want to pick and choose questions that you think will be helpful for your group.



CONNECT



To help your group connect on a relaxed level, spend some time discussing the following:

- » How would you sum up your day today in one word?
- » What's the most helpful thing you've learned about yourself lately?
- » What weird party trick would you love to have?

recap

- » How did you go last week showing love to others using different love languages?

DISCUSS



- » Which celebrity do you think has the most influence over young people at the moment? How are people's thoughts or actions affected by that celebrity?
- » Apart from Jesus, who is one person who has had a lot of influence over your life? What impact have they had on your thinking or behaviour? How did they become an influential person in your life?

read the bible



Ask some volunteers from your group to read aloud:

Matthew 5:13

(See questions on the next page)



- » When Jesus said these words, salt was how meat was kept fresh. It would stop meat from becoming rotten, smelly or maggot covered. Based on this, what do you think Jesus means when He tells us to be the 'salt of the earth'?
- » What sort of influence do you think He wants us to have on the people around us? What sort of impact does He want us to have on our community/school/country/world?
- » Salt was also used for bringing out flavour in food. How can we 'bring out the good flavours' in the people/world around us?



Ask some volunteers from your group to read aloud:

Acts 16:22-34

- » In your own words, retell the events you just read about.
- » Read verses 22 and 23 out loud again. Would you say that Paul and Silas were in a strong position of influence? Why/why not? Do you think you need to be the boss of something or someone in order to have influence? Why/why not?
- » Paul and Silas end up influencing their prison guard and the prison guard's entire family to give their lives to Jesus! Have you ever imagined that you could influence the authority figures in your life for Jesus? Can you think of any ways that you could do this?
- » What is one way that you are already being 'salt' in your world? What is one new thing you could do?

INVOLVE



See *appendix 1* before you start so that you know what you are working towards.

We are going to create a whole group spider diagram to help us think through the people we influence.

(Continued on next page)



Use one of the coloured textas to write the word 'Influence' in a circle in the centre of the page.

Use the second coloured texta to create circles coming off the inner circle. Create one circle for each place where anyone in your group connects with people.
For example: neighbourhood, gym, dance group, public transport, supermarket, facebook.



If only one person in the group has that 'place' in their life (For example, only one of them goes to the gym) it should still be included.

Using the pens, have every group member add names of people they connect with in those places.



Encourage your group that they don't need to have close relationship with the people they add. If they have ANY connection at all they should add their name.

Once you have finished, ask the group what they think God would say to them today about their influence.

APPLY



What is one practical thing you will do this week to be 'the salt of the earth'?

AND/OR

What is one thing you want to do for the rest of your life as a result of what we've talked about in this whole series?



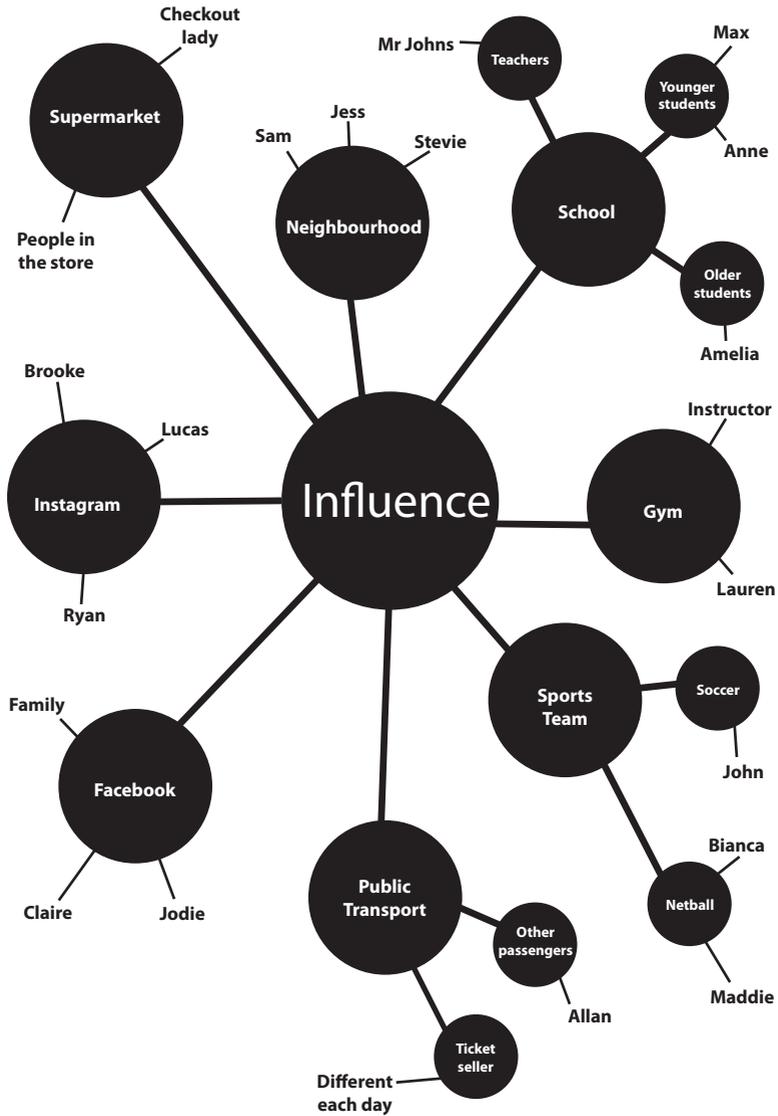
FOLLOW UP

About 3 days after your group has met, follow up all your group members and encourage them about what they learnt in your LIFE group. You could ask them:

How have you gone at being "salty" this week?



APPENDIX 1





This is a free resource produced by
The Salvation Army Australia Territory.
More LIFE Series and other free resources available at
toolkit.salvos.org.au/youthandkids

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