**Module 10: Endow Life with Meaning and Purpose!**

**Reach Out! Connect! Share!**
***Kentucky Council of Churches
Campus Ministry Modules*Endow Life with Meaning and Purpose**

**Module Flow**

1) Introduction

2) Guiding Question

3) Guiding Bible Passages

4) Bible Passages

5) Bible Study: Reflection and Activities

 Life has Meaning

6) Mission and Outreach with Community and Global Partners

7) Resources: KCC, WCC, TED, The Moth, Films, etc.

**Introduction**

The question, “Does life have meaning and purpose” is as old as time. The culture we live in does not always help us live a good life. Christians believe that their faith makes sense and that it provides a path towards a meaningful life even if we have to struggle to understand how God wants us to live. We believe that our faith is trustworthy. It is the truth that gives meaning to life.

**Guiding Question**

How can we, as Christians, ensure that our lives and the lives of others are endowed with meaning and purpose?

**Guiding Bible Passages**

# Romans 8:28 (NRSV)

**28**We know that all things work together for goodfor those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

# John 6:28-29 (NRSV)

**28**Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?”**29**Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”

**Bible Passages**

Roman 8:28.

Hebrews 11:1-40.

John 11:26.

John 1:12.

John 6:28-29

**Worship Center**

You will need: Bibles, a candle.

One piece of cardboard for every participant, glue and staples, string, adhesive tape, sticky tack etc. White paper, colored markers, crayons, pencils, and/or pens

**Preparation**

Have the group gather to gather in a room that is comfortable and yet has enough room for three groups. Place the candle on a small table at the center and light the candle as the Lord’s Prayer is prayed.

**Opening Prayer**

Pray the Lord’s Prayer.

Close with a prayer of thanksgiving. Invite each person to share with the group something for which they are thankful and end with a prayer that mentions each person’s gratitude.

**Bible Study and Reflection.**

Read to the entire group the following famous passage.

# Romans 8:28 (NRSV)

**28**We know that all things work together for goodfor those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the Sun has risen not only because I see it but because by it I see everything else.”

C.S. Lewis from his paper entitled “Is Theology Poetry,” (London: Geoffrey Bless, 1962), pp.164-5 .

Cf. <http://www.cslewisinstitute.org/webfm_send/2639>

“God has placed in the human heart a desire to know the truth.”

“In the far reaches of the human heart there is a seed of desire . . . for God.”

John Paul II, Encyclical Letter, *Fides et Ratio*, 24. Cf. http://www.vatican.va/holy\_father/john\_paul/encyclicals/documents/hf\_jp-ii\_enc\_15101998\_fides-et-ratio\_en.html.

Human history reflects the fact that reality is open to many interpretations. Since every interpretation has a different existential outcome, we need to reflect honestly about our beliefs. The meaning and purpose of our lives hangs in the balance. Our desire to understand runs deep. One of the chief markers of our humanity is the desire for significance. Christians believe that world we live in points to something beyond that puts things in perspective and gives meaning to our lives; that no theory or interpretation is adequate unless it affirms this experience of longing for the unknown. Blaise Pascal spoke of this longing for more as a desire “to be filled with something that is infinite and unchanging – in other words, by God himself. God alone is our true good.”

The Christian view of reality is not just a set of ideas; it is much more. It embraces our faiths, vision of hope, values and trusts.

The Bible speaks of setting our hope on Christ, so that we might live according to the glory of God. (Eph 5:12).

Divide the group into three small discussion groups. Have each group address one question and prepare their discussion notes for the whole group.

1. Why does the life of another human being matter?
2. Can we really make a difference?
3. Does the Christian community make a difference? Does our shared witness make a difference?

After twenty minutes, each group presents their ideas to the group as a whole, using the cardboard to express their ideas. They can use art, Biblical passages, etc. After each presentation, the entire group discusses the issue presented. After all groups report the group seeks to make a statement for the entire group. If they wish they can post all three cardboard presentations in the room or create a single poster for the entire group.

**Closing Prayer**

Close with prayers of thanksgiving. Invite each person to share with the group something for which they are thankful.

End with the Lord’s Prayer

Design a worship service that focuses on the longing to know God. Invite the public to join you when you conduct the service on campus.

**Video Resources**

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Alistair McGrath. Talk addressing the question of why believing in Jesus matters. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wjWVSvK6bg0>

N.T. Wright. After you believe.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ukyNU51OcnA>