

## Making the Most of Your Life in 2011

### Isaiah 61:1-3 - The Year of the LORD's Favor

<sup>1</sup> The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim freedom for the captives  
and release from darkness for the prisoners,  
<sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor  
and the day of vengeance of our God,  
to comfort all who mourn,  
<sup>3</sup> and provide for those who grieve in Zion—  
to bestow on them a crown of beauty  
instead of ashes,  
the oil of joy  
instead of mourning,  
and a garment of praise  
instead of a spirit of despair.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
a planting of the LORD  
for the display of his splendor.

1. How has God gifted you for ministry?  
(*Reflect back on your Spiritual Gifts from 4G*)

Ask people to review what God revealed to them in the Spiritual Gifts evaluation from 4G or from what they already knew. Have them share.

2. What need has God placed in front of you, possibly for you to meet through the power and guidance of His Holy Spirit at work within you?

Ask people to share about relationships at work, home, neighbors, friends, passions that might reveal the calling he has on their lives.

Read Isaiah 61:1-3. (Spend some time discussing this scripture and the powerful message from God in these words. Remind the group that this was the first recorded message Jesus picked to read in the Temple so it obviously has deep meaning and purpose for our lives.)

3. Who do you know that is Poor? Brokenhearted? Captive or A Prisoner? In Mourning? Grieving? ....In need of finding beauty in their life? ....In need of finding joy? ...In need of finding a reason to give praise to God?

Continue to discuss who God has placed in your lives. Dive in to what it really means to be poor, brokenhearted, captive.... And who among you may be experiencing those conditions in life.

4. How might God be guiding you to do something, to be the hands, the feet, and the voice of God's grace in their life?

Ask the group to share how God is lining up the gifts, with the heart He has placed in his people with the needs found in the world.

**This Weeks Memory Verse: Ephesians 2:10 NLT**

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

5. What does this verse, Ephesians 2:10 say to you? How should it guide your life in the coming year?

Let people share.

Write a New Years prayer to Jesus Christ asking Him to use and guide your life to the Glory of His Name.

Ask for volunteers to share their prayer with the group. Join them in offering it up to God.

I pray for all of you, that our God will send out an army of warriors equipped and overflowing with grace to do the good works He planned for us in advance. And I pray that He will be high and lifted up in our lives, starting now and lasting throughout eternity.