

## FIVE IN FEBRUARY 2020

### WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF 40 DAYS?

You may be wondering, "Why 40 days? What's so special about that time frame?" The Bible is clear that God considers 40 days to be a spiritually significant time period. Whenever God wanted to prepare someone for his purposes, he took 40 days:

- Noah's life was transformed by 40 days of rain.
- Moses was transformed by 40 days on Mount Sinai.
- The spies were transformed by 40 days in the Promised Land.
- David was transformed by Goliath's 40-day challenge.
- Elijah was transformed when God gave him 40 days of strength from a single meal.
- The entire city of Nineveh was transformed when God gave them 40 days to change.
- The disciples were transformed by 40 days with Jesus after his resurrection.

### DIRECTION, NOT JUST DURATION

It's not just the duration, however, but the direction of *40 Days of Purpose* that changes lives. This emphasis is designed to help your members answer the most basic question of life: What on earth am I here for? During 40 days, your members will rediscover God's five eternal purposes for our lives:

- **WORSHIP:** We were planned for God's pleasure!
- **FELLOWSHIP:** We were formed for God's family!
- **DISCIPLESHIP:** We were created to become like Christ!
- **MINISTRY:** We were shaped for serving God!
- **EVANGELISM:** We were made for a mission!

### WHAT END RESULT DO WE WANT TO SEE?

Every part of *40 Days of Purpose* is designed to help people...

- 1. CENTER** their lives on God, not themselves, and live a lifestyle of worship for the glory of God, because we were planned for God's pleasure. This begins with complete surrender of our lives to Christ.
- 2. CONNECT** with other believers who experience real fellowship, because we were formed for God's family. This includes identifying with other believers through baptism, joining a local church family and participating in some kind of small group fellowship.
- 3. CULTIVATE** spiritual maturity and godly character, because we were created to become like Christ. This includes developing the habits necessary for spiritual growth.
- 4. CONTRIBUTE** something back by using their talents in ministry because we were shaped for serving God. This includes discovering your SHAPE for ministry and finding a place of service in your church.
- 5. COMMUNICATE** God's love to others and develop a heart for the world, because we were made for a mission. This includes learning to share your faith and participating in some kind of mission activity.