Script for Week 1 LTCL

**Welcome Slide**

Welcome to Living the Called Life! We are so pleased that you have decided to invest this time in hearing from the Lord on how you are gifted and called and how He is calling you to live out your masterpiece mission. We’ll explore more about what we mean by that in just a few minutes.

***Let me pray for us, Father…***

**Training Team**

My name is Becky Terry and I’ll be one of your trainers for this course, along with Dori Eversmann. In future weeks we’ll also have Laurena Gonzales, who is here tonight, and Craig Foster. You’ll hear more in the coming weeks about our stories, but we’ve had the awesome opportunity to watch God work in many of people’s lives as we serve them both with their careers and with their calling and walk with the Lord. In a few minutes we’ll be asking you to introduce yourselves and why you decided to take the class.

Let’s dig in!

**Big Questions**

As we navigate through life it’s normal for us the wrestle with the BIG questions of life.

Questions like:

How do I discover my true calling?

How can I know God’s purpose for me?

What is my mission?

What should I do with my life?

What should I do next?

Big meaty concepts and issues. We’ve become acutely aware through a great deal of upheaval in the world, like COVID, the “great resignation”, wars, and contentious elections that we have a sense we’ve been made for more. More meaning, more significance, more purpose.

We recognized this wrestling and wanted to help people in a more purposeful way. In fact, PurposeWorks mission is to empower, equips and guide people to find purpose and fulfillment in every stage of their lives and careers through relationship, encouragement, and training – like this workshop. Craig and I developed the Living the Called Life workshop more than 13 years ago via Job Seekers Network, and we’ve worked with hundreds of people who want to discover purpose in their lives and go deeper in discovering their Masterpiece Mission.

**Key Objectives 1:30- Becky**

In light on those BIG questions, ones that have plagued humans throughout the millennia, we realized that we wanted to accomplish these key objectives through the course – big concepts, but we wanted to distill them down into something navigable. They are short, but very weighty.

The first one is the most foundational truth for us all: I know that God has called me to a relationship with Him through Jesus Christ. We have to get this in order before we can begin to learn and live out the others. We don’t know all of you and where you are in your spiritual journey, so if any of you would like to discuss this with us more personally, be sure to connect with any of the trainers at the end of class or via the prayer card on your table.

So for the other objectives, we want to impact you in a 3 fold:

**WE want you to**

**First of all KNOW:**

That you are secure in your relationship with God,

How God has gifted you and that

He has called you to serve both Him and humanity.

**We want you To FEEL:**

Empowered by understanding your gifting,

strengthened in your relationship with God, and

supported in executing your plan.

**And finally we want you step out and take ACTION:**

**Take action steps** to proactively serve in any area God calls you which will allow you to:

grow closer to Him

confirm your calling,

develop and strengthen your gifts and

live out your life growth plan.

**Graphic Objectives slide:**

In a graphic way, it looks like this. That relationship is the foundation, symbolized by the cross, and is the backdrop of all we do. The other objectives will come out of that as we grow and spend time with Him. And look, it’s more than just KNOWING, it’s that you know HOW God has Called you and WHAT he has called you to and then the practical steps to live that out.

**The way** we will accomplish all of these is in two ways, by both addressing **preparing your heart**, primarily through reading the book and the introspection questions we’ve assigned, in our teaching and in your personal prayer time, but also through **practical, application steps** and activities to help you live this out and move forward.

Tom took this course, he shared, “Through Living the Called Life, I learned that God has a plan and a direction for me. The materials revealed my God-given talents; I now have a scripture verse to keep me focused, and a life wheel to keep my life in check. This class has given me the opportunity to see just where God wants me to be. And how important it is to keep Him in the forefront of my life, actively following His word and giving back to those less fortunate.”

**Class Schedule - :30+ Becky**

What Tom in the quote I shared unpacked for us is a number of things that we’re going to be covering. You have in your workbook this schedule in the syllabus that includes the class topics and homework pages 1.

You can see the big things that Tom talked about like Life Purpose, Life Verse and Life Mission. We’ll also cover this concept of Divine Design where will dig in with you for several weeks on how God has made you uniquely and then toward end, you’ll work on your own life plan utilizing all these elements. There will be exercises and discussion during class. **Yes, there will be homework** and we’ll go over the details for next week at the end.

A couple housekeeping notes: No official breaks because we will be giving you some time to work on things in class, so you can take your breaks then.

We’d like to get your feedback along the way so if we say something that resonates with you or if you have a question, just write it on the post-it and we will collect them at the end of the night.

We also have prayer cards on your tables. Feel free to fill those out during the evening and give to me or Craig or just leave on your table and we will pick them up. We have a prayer team that will consider it a privilege to pray for you during this course.

**Spouse for Free**

Craig took a similar course with his wife and found it very impactful for helping them be on the same page in many areas of life. We encourage you to bring your spouse along, and PurposeWorks will pick up the registration fee. All they have to do is buy the book from us for $20 or y’all can share. Just please let us know

**A-Ha Hearing from God** **1:15: Becky**

Toward the very back of your handout on page 11 you will find an A-HA hearing from God page where you can jot down whatever comes to mind during the class. It is blank on purpose, for you to fill in on what God is going to say to you.

We know that God is going to use this time in a big way for you.

How do I know? Feels like a very bold statement to even say it. Well, we’ve been teaching Living the Called Life in one iteration or another for more than 13 years. Each and every time as we are preparing to teach the course, I hit this time I refer to as a wall of deep insecurity (what our book might call a “crisis of faith”), where I hear these voices in my head saying, what on earth business do you have teaching people these deep concepts. I do know that many of you have a deeper theological background than I do, and I hardly have any of this mastered. But through prayer, God reminds me again and again that it’s not me doing the teaching. It’s Him. He has given us some great materials to share and experience training people on this, but it’s Him working in YOU that accomplishes anything. We are simply here as fellow travelers on this path.

**Definition of Calling 1+ Becky**

You’ll also find the key slides we share on pages 2-4.

This is labeled a Calling class, so let’s take a minute to define calling. It’s a really big concept.

I love investigating words, and in looking at the roots in both Greek and Latin – we can see an element of an invitation, but that begs the question **who is doing the calling**. The Latin definition, along with the dictionary bring in the idea of divine purpose, so we obviously believe that God is that divine influence and one who calls us.

Practically as we talk about a calling, we’re calling it “Your Life Work” all the different roles that you have in life. It’s who you are as a Christian, spouse, parent, friend, employee, servant and more. When you think about the term life work, think about how at the end of our lives we’ll have the opportunity to sit back and reflect on our life work which will be the work that God called us to do and how faithful we were to do it. I also think it is unique to you and takes into account your “Divine Design.”

And One of the best definitions, because it’s both simple and profound is Tony Evan’s definition: A Calling is God’s direct purpose in your life.

**3 slides Our Call is Significant MLK JR. Time to read quote: 1:10 Plus 2 for discussion Becky**

Because it is God who is directing our purpose, our call is also significant.

Dr. MKL, Jr. said it this way.

*Volunteer to read or* ***Becky read*** *for emphasis and time. Read quote slide - Becky*

“We must all set out to discover what we were called to do and what we were made for, and then after we discover it, we should set out to do it with all our strength and all the power that we have in our system.

When you discover your life’s worth, set out to do it so well that the living, the dead, and the unborn couldn’t do it better. And no matter what it is, never consider it insignificant because if it is for the upbuilding of humanity, it has cosmic significance.

And so If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as a Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, 'Here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well.’”

*MLK (have microphones ready for insights) Discussion* “What does that quote say to you?” *Get 2 or so answers.*

***Stop until Dori After Living for Line or Dot***

**Cohort Discussion** **25 Dori**

One of the great things about doing this in a group is the opportunity to process things together. Each week we will have at least some time of discussion at your tables or as a large group. We are going to give you about 15 minutes, so you may want to do one question or the first two for everyone and then move on to the next.

*Becky & Dori mingle as groups discuss, answer questions*

**Where we are Headed: Oaks of Righteousness** **1:30 Becky if read whole thing.**

I always hate to disrupt those discussions, but we must move on to cover a few more things. You can look forward to some great discussion each week!

In John 15 the metaphor of a vine and branch is a common illustration used to show us growing in Christ. A key verse we are going to use throughout the course is Isaiah 61:3 which instead uses another nature illustration of an oak. Starting in verse 1, where the first part is attributed ultimately be talking about Jesus, but then it transitions to talking about His impact on His people:

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, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, — (Here the text turns to talk about those who mourn and what He will do for them, which includes us) to comfort all who mourn, 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. **That they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, for the display of His splendor.**

We love this picture that we are given of us as believers. That by following His calling, all these things have been done for us by Christ, we might be called or appear to be an oak. When you think about Oaks, and we have lots of good examples here in Texas, they portray an image of strength, mighty, growing, producing fruit and in an oak that’s an acorn. As they grow, they are glorifying God just as we display His life in us. We’ll share more in coming weeks of how to you’ll apply this to your life in later weeks. We also wanted you to potentially take this scripture and use it in your own private prayer time as well. Oaks of Righteousness, remember, that’s what you are!

**Mission Exploration Spotlight :30 Becky**

One of the things we will do each week take a few minutes to spotlight the typical ministry areas at your home church or in the community to let you know more about their ministries and what they do and for you to pray and ponder where you might want to join in with what God is doing here.

This week our spotlight is on the Children, Students and Parenting - One way we can really impact the world is by working with younger generations. They have their whole lives ahead of them to serve others and to be a positive influence. You may be one of the few positive influences in their lives. Another important part of this is equipping parents to bring up the next generations in a godly way. We encourage you to explore more about these types of opportunities at your home church. Page 6 lists a few ways that you can serve in these areas.

**~~One Word & Why Introductions~~**

~~Let’s get to know each of you a little bit better. Please introduce yourself, share one word you feel that God would use to describe you, and also share why you decided to sign up for the class or what you hope to get out of it – the express version!~~

*We have prayed for you over the last several months, not knowing exactly who you were going to be, but God did! We are very excited to watch Him work in all of our lives over the next two months.*

*I’m excited for you to begin to explore and live out your Masterpiece Mission!*

*I have a personal brand statement and in it I say that My calling is to help people discover, rediscover or confirm how God has created and called them.*

*In this course, you will learn why and how God has specifically gifted you and called you to serve both in ministry and in all areas of your life, and practical steps to start. Doing it in a group setting also helps give you accountability and a specific process.*

*And throughout each of these opportunities we’ve had to teach it over the past 10 years, we have heard story after story of how He has worked in the various activities and process to move people and change them. Craig and I are just blessed to have a ring side seat to watch Him work!*

*. I also really like the phrase Life Work, because it clearly communicates the big picture of your entire life and which also helps you define your Purpose*