**LTCL 2024 Week 1 Ppt CF Notes:**

**Slide 6** - Love God graphic

CRAIG – It’s time to do an ice breaker. Introverts don’t leave the room. We are going to do these on your table.

This one word is a noun or adjective and a positive oriented word.

You might say…teacher, joyful, thinker, funny, creative, leader, determined, passionate, helper, servant, warrior, giver, beloved, loyal

Becky and I will model how it will go at your tables. You’ll have about **10 minutes.** ​

I’m Craig – connector, I hope to get a better plan on how to have more balance in my life. ​

I’m Becky – encourager​

**Slide 13** - iPhone graphic

CRAIG - One of our goals is for you to feel like God’s got you on **His iPhone Favorites**or speed dial if He has a flip phone.

In other words you’d **sense the Holy Spirit many times a day calling you**to say something, to do something, to not say something, to not do something,

to praise Him, or to thank Him

because you are more aware of Him at work around you and you are responding to his invitation to join Him.

God calls every believer many times a day. **Are His calls getting through to you?**

**Slide 14** - God Calls Every Believer

CRAIG - I love the first part of Ephesians. Let me read Eph. 1:3-5 from the Amplified Version. ​

Blessed and worthy of praise be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms in Christ, just as [in His love] He chose us in Christ [actually selected us for Himself as His own] before the foundation of the world, so that we would be holy [that is, consecrated, set apart for Him, purpose-driven] and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined and lovingly planned for us to be adopted to Himself as [His own] children through Jesus Christ, in accordance with the kind intention and good pleasure of His will—​

He chose you to be on His team to run some extraordinary, supernatural plays, ​a Masterpiece mission to live out. ​

​He **doesn’t want you to run** your own playbook ​and you aren’t just **killing time till you kick the bucket**. ​

**He set you apart**, He set you apart, He set you all apart and ​He blessed you with every spiritual blessing in His love and has adopted you as his child. ​

**Slide 15** - God Equips The Called When Asked

CRAIG - John 15:16 reads…You did not choose me, but I chose {called} you and appointed {commissioned} you to go and bear fruit, fruit that remains, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name He will give you. ​

Isn’t that awesome! So God has you on His Favorites list and He chose you. **But why?** ​

He chose you to be **his fruit producer, to tend His garden**. And fruit that lasts, fruit that ripples through eternity. ​

And look at this…He says He’ll give you whatever you ask the Father for. ​

In this context the Father is going to give you what you need to accomplish the Masterpiece mission he’s given you. How awesome is that. God equips the called when asked. ​

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**Slide 16** - God Uses Extraordinary People to do the Extraordinary

CRAIG - Your Experiencing God book says **God’s not just in the business** of just providing heartwarming devotional thoughts. He’s out to save and radically transform lives. ​

There are **many examples in the Bible** of God calling just plain ol’ ordinary people like you and me. The exciting thing is He uses us to do extraordinary things. ​

**David** was the youngest son, the runt of the litter, so to say and God empowered him to defeat a giant and to become a king. ​

**Amos** was a sheep breeder that He called to be a prophet​

Several of the disciples, like **Peter and Andrew, were fishermen** when he called them. ​

**Rahab, the prostitute**, was an instrument of protection for God’s people​

**Luke, the doctor**, was a companion of the Apostle Paul & the author of two NT books​

He chooses the ordinary and the ones that the world would not choose so that He can complete His work and He alone will receive the glory. ​

The **key is not our talents, but the cultivating of our heart** so that when God does work through us, ​

we can turn and praise Him and let others know that it was God who accomplished the work. ​

**Slide 18 –** God Calls Us To A Relationship, Not A Task

CRAIG - When God calls a play there is usually some action to take, some task to perform. ​

We aren’t saying there isn’t. And I feel like I’m wired that way. ​

**None of those tasks may be wrong** in themselves but if my heart is not in it they are just tasks. ​

God wants a relationship. ​

He doesn’t want you to just go **through the motions**, He wants you to know Him, to experience Him, and to learn from Him. ​

The whole Bible is that love story calling you to relationship.

**Slide 19** - Living For the Line Or The Dot?

CRAIG - Another thing we know is that **our response** to God’s calling **can ripple through eternity**. ​

When it comes to money, **financial planners** often tell us, “Don’t think just t**hree months** or three years ahead. **Think thirty years ahead**.” ​

Christ, the **ultimate investment counselor**, takes it further. He says, “Don’t ask how your investment will be paying off in just thirty years. Ask how it will be paying off in 30,000 years.” That’s not only true of how we invest our money, but every part of our lives, including our God-given time, talent and treasure.​

In understanding the call of God in our lives, it is important to realize that God **did not make us for time, but for eternity.** ​

We are just sojourners in this life but what we do here ripples through eternity. Let’s make the best of it. ​

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**Slide 22** - Calling Assignment: You have chosen to accept it

CRAIG - **Big picture this course is about** hearing from God for your purpose and mission and the follow on actions that God is calling you to in **ALL AREAS OF YOUR LIFE** LIKE FAMILY, FRIENDS, FITNESS, FINANCES, WORK, COMMUNITY, PERSONAL GROWTH, SPIRITUAL AND NOT JUST MINISTRY. A Calling assignment can come out of one of those areas. Remember the lady in Austin who had a passion for her neighbors and put a picnic table in her front yard and sat out in her front yard and neighbors starting coming around. Pretty soon lots of ladies across the USA who put picnic tables painted Nifty Turquoise out in their yard. A Calling Assignment could primarily be a primary ministry on steroids. It could have a transcendent cause to it and it definitely uses your God given gifting and wiring. It’s an Assignment because it’s something that God gives you that you discern. You don’t think these up in your own head and then ask God to bless. A Calling Assignment can be big but it doesn’t overtake your life to the point where you disregard your calling in the other areas of your life. ​

If you’ve watched the Mission Impossible movies, Tom Cruise gets a mission and they always say, Your Mission Should You Choose To Accept It.​

As a Christian and by taking this course you have chosen to accept the mission to choose the Calling Assignment. ​

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**Slide 23** - Calling Assignment, Masterpiece Mission, Big “Calling” & Calling Assignment Exploration

CRAIG - A “Calling Assignment” is a challenge to take your time, talent and treasures and invest them where God calls, which can also build your relationship with Him and allow you to experience significance. It’s an outflow of prayer, hearing from God and joining Him in His Kingdom work. ​

When we talk about a Calling Assignment we’re really talking about 2 different assignments that are related. ​

1. The first definition of a CA is a bigger passion fueled, Holy Spirit led ministry. A lot of people find these in ministries of the church or of nonprofits so some of talk and handout in those two areas. To name a few from the last class, one person said: ​

God has called me to be excellent, ethical, engaging and evangelistic at work. ​

God has called me to connect with those that have fallen away from the church or experienced religious wounds and disappointment ​

God has called me to teach, shepherd and encourage women through the Women’s ministry and Widows in Touch ministry​

To use my past experience with codependency to help others find freedom & healing through Celebrate Recovery​

God has called me to become a spiritual and personal mentor and business coach to young adults.​

That God would use the bad choices I’ve made to serve in the prison ministry. ​

Don’t you love those. HAND POLL – how many people feel like they have one of those? ​

1a. If you aren’t currently serving in your ministry calling, then we’ve provided you some ideas on the Calling Assignment handout of how to try something out over the next 7 weeks. These might be something at work or with nonprofits or through the church. ​

If you are serving in your calling, then use this time to confirm that calling. Again, you might explore something in your neighborhood or at work or other areas of your life. I have a friend that homeschooled and after teaching her kids about money she developed such a passion for it that she bought a franchise to help other parents teach their kids about money. But it’s a passion she would do whether she made money or not. ​

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**Slide 24** - Calling Assignment (Handout) logos graphic

CRAIG - Read bullets from the assignment sheet. ​

Some examples might be to: ​

Go serve at Reveal Resource Center in their food pantry on Monday nights for 4 nights​

or put together supplies for a disaster​

or employ the BLESS strategy for a couple of coworkers​

find a place to serve at HCBC​

pray for our missionairies​

* Pray and look at where God’s at work and how you can join Him. ​
* The three bears​
* Out of your comfort zone? From a hurt?​
* Consider HCBC, Community Impact, CRC, Global Outreach, workplace, neighborhood, community and nonprofits​
* Bonus points: Include others​
* Next week to report your idea​
* I’ve prayed for our missionaries, ​
* **We’ve made it easy to pray, think about and connect with the right person or opportunity.** ​
* **The links in your handout make it easy.** ​
* **Each week we’ll bring you a ministry leader from the HCBC staff to make you aware of opportunities in their area.** ​

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**Slide 26** -  Daily Calling Assignment

CRAIG - We don’t just have a big CA for the next phase of our life we have a CA to live every day for Christ and that takes an intentional mindset. It’s very easy for me to wake up, do my devotional time and have my day planned out in my mind to the point where if an small KA opportunity comes up I’d miss it. But if you intentionally ask God to open your eyes to today’s opportunities and keep a flexible mindset. ​

I had an opportunity when I went to get a haircut one time. The lady cutting my hair was working on her son’s 7th BD. She told me when she got off work he was going to take him to Dollar General and get him anything he wanted for $10. Well the kids in my life get a lot more than that for their BD and Holy Spirit prompted me to give her a bigger tip than normal. Did I? No, not right away. I got halfway home and turned around and interrupted her next customer to give her a big tip and say that God loved her and her son. If I was in the right mindset of looking where God was working then I would have done it right away.

**Slide 27** - God Uses Ordinary People Where They Are VIDEO

CRAIG - Here is a video of a FedEx driver who was aware of how God was at work around her and joined Him. Listen to what she prays every morning. ​

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-2JJ5yEKVF0&t=6s​](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-2JJ5yEKVF0&t=6s%E2%80%8B)

**Slide 28** - Experiencing God Book

CRAIG - One of the most impactful books for my faith has been Experiencing God by Henry & Richard Blackaby and Claude King and that’s why we’ve chosen to use it as our textbook. Part of the expectations of the Saturate Austin Institute is to complete the required reading and answer questions. Raise your hand if you are a book reader and it’s going to be easy. **RAISE YOUR HAND POLL.** ​

The subtitle is Knowing and Doing the Will of God. The first three things they talk about is: ​

1. God is always at work around you​

2. God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal. ​

{Passion, purpose, mission, spiritual gifts, wiring and experiences}​

3. God invites you to become involved with Him in His work. ​

So whatever we are doing during the day God is always at work around us and He invites us to join Him. Let’s watch this video to see how one person saw this play out one day. ​

Extra if needed:​

4. God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes and His ways. ​

5. God’s invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action. ​

6. You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing. ​

7. You come to know God by experiences as you obey Him, and He accomplishes His work through you. ​

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**Slide 29** - Homework for Week 2

CRAIG - Turn back in your workbook to the syllabus and homework outline, pg. X. ​   
There you will see specifics on what you are to read in the Experiencing God book.​

We do recommend you do the questions at the end of each chapter. They will help you personalize and process what you are learning. We will discuss it a bit each week, but most of the learning from the book is through your reading, prayer and processing.​

You’ll also see other projects for each week. So for this week, begin working on your KA, including prayer for where God would have you invest your time, talents and treasures.​

And of course, prayer in general! As I mentioned earlier, you can submit a prayer request to us and we’d love to pray for you, but your personal prayer needs to be an important part of this process. We honestly can’t emphasize it enough. ​

We also suggest you get a person to pray for you as well and to pray together with them, if possible.​

Finally, we want to make ourselves available for you. ​

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​**Slide 30** - BLESS - Every Disciple’s Normal On-Going Gospel Influence Activities

CRAIG - **Prayer, Care, Share,** BLESS is an acronym for five life patterns that Jesus and his early disciples constantly modeled. BLESS defines a good neighbor and friend. We see BLESS as every disciple’s approach to influencing people far from God with the love of Jesus Christ. ​

**B**egin with Prayer ​

Praying regularly for the same heart and love for people that Jesus has. ​

Praying regularly for people far from God in your spheres of influence (FRANC). ​

**L**isten with Care ​

• Entering spiritual conversations by asking questions, listening, and formulatingJesus-honoring responses.​   
**E**at Together​   
• Sharing meals with people who don’t yet know Christ personally. ​

**S**erve with Love​   
• Serving people and inviting them to help you in different ways. ​

**S**hare Your Story and God’s Story ​

Sharing your salvation story in relevant ways. Speaking openly about your ​

relationship with Christ and sharing how He is influencing your life​

Sharing a simple Gospel illustration clearly and inviting people to trust and follow Jesus Christ.​   
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**Slide 31** - FRANC - People far from God in my spheres of influence I pray for regularly:

CRAIG - Rate My Outreach Temperature (1–10):​

**Apathy** ​

\*Unaware \*Disobedient \*Hostility ​

**Growing Passion** ​

\*Love for God & People \*Desire & Prayer \*Building Relationships ​

**Growing Practice** ​

\*Learning Methods \*Trying & Improving \*Spiritual Dialogue ​

**Growing Influence** ​

\*God Uses Me​   
\*People Believe in Christ \*High Influence ​

**Slide 32 -** Commissioning You For This Process

*No Name/CF Continue?* - Examples of Commissioning in the Bible: 1. Before his death, Moses commissioned Joshua to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. He encouraged and charged Joshua to be strong and courageous, reminding him that the Lord would go with him. 2. King David commissioned his son Solomon to build the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem. David provided him with resources, plans, and encouragement for the task. 3. Before ascending to heaven, Jesus commissioned His disciples to go and make disciples of all nations in the Great Commission.​

SAMPLE PRAYER: We come before you with hearts open to your guidance and seeking the purpose you have for each of our lives. In this moment, Lord, I commission and empower your children to embark on a journey of discovering Your calling.​

May Your light illuminate the path before them, revealing the unique gifts and talents You have bestowed upon them. Grant them courage and resilience to navigate the challenges they may encounter on this journey, knowing that You are with them every step of the way. Lord, pour out Your wisdom upon them, helping them discern Your voice amidst the noise of the world. May they find joy and fulfillment in aligning their lives with Your divine purpose. As they seek Your will, may Your Spirit guide their steps and lead them to the places where Your calling is most evident. We pray for clarity of vision, a deep understanding of their identity in Christ, and an unwavering commitment to live out the purpose You have set before them. May they be vessels of Your love, grace, and mercy, impacting the world around them for Your glory. In Jesus' name, we commission these seekers of purpose, trusting in Your promises and relying on Your unfailing grace. ​