

# BETHLEHEM HOUSE OF WORSHIP, BANGALORE

## YOUTH CAMP – 2010

Theme: “PURPOSEFUL LIFE” – Dan 1:8

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### STUDY I

#### Introduction:

Youth period is the most important period in one's life. That period can either be invested usefully or wasted aimlessly, carelessly and foolishly. The importance of this period can be bought out clearly through the five letters in the word “YOUTH”.

First ‘Y’ – the **questioning period – seeking answers for some important questions. We need God, who is the ‘guide of my youth’ (Jer. 3:4). He alone can answer every question and supply satisfying and lasting solutions.** Secondly the letter ‘O’, which speaks of a period of ‘**opportunities**’. There were people, who at the end of their life either lamented like Saul “I have played the fool” (1Sam.26:21) or proclaimed like Paul “I have fought a good fight” (2 Tim.4:7) because the way they misused or used their opportunities in their youth hood.

Thirdly, ‘U’, the period with a sense of ‘**urgency**’. For the youth it is now or never. They do not hesitate. There is an urgent need for living for God and labouring for God in the world today. Many political leaders and terrorist groups used teenagers in the past to accomplish their selfish exploits, misusing the sense of urgency and heroism in the youths. Fourthly, ‘T’ signifies the longing in the youths to know the ‘**truth**’- the reality and meaning of this life and the life hereafter. The youth are fed up of living on false substitutes. Their heart is longing for lasting and true things which can give them real satisfaction and fulfillment in life. Lastly, ‘H’ stands for ‘**holiness**’. In a perverse, corrupted and sinful world, every youth is longing to live a clean life. The usual cry of every youth's heart has been “O wretched man that I am who can deliver me? (Rom 7:24).

The theme “purposeful life” is well suited for the youth of these modern days to meet their needs. This is taken from a book of the Holy Bible named after a man who started his life as a youth facing all odds. Daniel was from the royal, kingly and chosen tribe of Judah. When he was a teenager, around sixteen years old, faced great tragedies and disappointments in life. In front of his eyes, the holy temple of God was desecrated and destroyed; the priests and the noblemen slain and along with others he was taken as slave by the enemies to a far away land, Babylon. In this hopeless situation, his faith, allegiance and love to God remained intact. He could turn the tragedy into triumph because of his purposeful life. He was the chief ruler and the greatest influence for God under four regimes in his life time in the alien land!

Whatever may be our circumstances, our loving and almighty God has great purpose for every one of us (Is. 55:9). For this great purpose of God to be accomplished in our lives, we must have purpose in our heart like Daniel (Dan 1:8). We must know first what is meant by the word ‘heart’. It is the Hebrew word ‘leh’ which is ‘the centre or seat of decision making’ or ‘will’. Making right decisions with determination and carrying them out with dedication can alone help us to live a purposeful life. Daniel mentions this in many important areas in his book - We shall attempt by the grace of God to see a few of them:

#### 1. Sanctification: (Dan 1:8)

“Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself” (Dan 1:8). Man's greatest need

is sanctification or holiness, Man is a sinner by birth and behaviour (Ps 51:5, Jer. 13:23). Sin is the root cause for all man's problems. The greatest of these is separation from the loving God.

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To enjoy the friendship and fellowship of God man needs forgiveness of his sins and freedom from his sinful bondages. To provide these two, Jesus Christ had to go to the cruel cross and shed his sinless blood (Is 53:5, Eph 1:7). To obtain these, there should be three right responses, (1) conviction (2) confession (3) conversion. To explain this we can see a real incident recorded in Luke 23:30-43. (1) Conviction of one's own sinfulness and God's provision through Lord Jesus Christ (v 41). (2) Confession to the Lord Jesus Christ of one's true sinful condition and the need of forgiveness and cleansing (v42). Conversion's seven important ingredients such as assurance (v43). Thus we become accepted in the beloved (Eph 1:6) and justified before God (Rom 5:1). We thereby enjoy fellowship with God.

## STUDY II

### Sanctification (Contd.)

A powerful life is an outcome of determination and decision out of the heart. The first area in Daniel's purposeful life is a life of sanctification. As a coin has two sides, sanctification too has two sides. One is positional and the other is practical. The positional sanctification is our new standing before God when by simple faith we receive what He has provided freely by His grace at the time of conversion or salvation. The practical sanctification is working out what has been worked in us (Phil 2:12). There are three kinds of heart mentioned in the Scripture. One is the heart of **natural man** (1Cor 2:14) - **The heart which has not experienced the forgiveness and freedom from sin. The other two are the hearts of the spiritual man** (1Cor.2:15) **and the carnal man** (1Cor3:1). **A spiritual man lives a sanctified or separated life. But a carnal man lives a life not separated. This separation is from the world – worldly people, practices, pastimes, popularity and profit** (2cor 6:14, 1Pet 1:18, 2Pet. 2:22, Mar 15:15, Mat. 6:24). **Even doubtful matters to be avoided** (1Thes 5:22)!

### 2. Scripture: (Dan 9:2)

Separated life and Scripture go together (Ps 1:1, 2, 1Pet 2:1, 2, Lev 11:3). Is Scripture relevant and reliable? (1) Biblical account of creation – Radiometric dating, Population, protons in helium (2) IBM computers' discovery and other discoveries. How to be profited? (i) Read (Deu. 17:19) (ii) Meditate (Ps. 1:2, Josh 1:8), (iii) Memorize (Ps.119:11), (iv) Share (Dt. 6:7, (v) Study (2 Tim 2:15) Ezr. 7:10), Acts 17:11) (vi) Obey (Jam 1:22) (vii) Carry (Ezr. 7:14)

## STUDY III

### 3. Supplication: (Dan 6:10)

Prayer less life is a life of sin (1Sam 12:23). Prayer is powerful (Jer. 33:3). Prayer is essential for God to work (Ezk. 36:37). Prayer is difficult because satan opposes prayer. (Dan 10:13) Different aspects of prayer : i) praise & prayer ii) God's word and prayer iii) confession and prayer iv) Faith and prayer v) Hindrances for prayer vi) praying through and vii) praying with others.

### 4. Sanctuary: (Dan 2:17, 18)

Sanctuary centered Life – Kinds of churches – Ingredients of the local church – Involvement in the local church.

#### STUDY IV

##### 5. Soul winning: (Dan 12:3)

The importance of soul winning – Dan 12:13, Prov.11:30, 1Thes 2:19, Icor.9:16, Ezk. 3:18  
ABCDEFGH of soul winning: **A-Availability** (Is 6:8), **B-Burden** for souls (Ps 126:5) **C-Christ**  
centered counsel (Acts 8:35). **D –Depend** on the Holy Spirit (Jn. 6:8) **E – Entreat** to decide  
immediately (2Cor 6:2), **F- Faithfulness** in season and out of season (Tim.4:2, Eccl. 11:1, 4, 6)  
**G- God’s word** (Eccl. 8:4, Heb. 4:12)

#### STUDY V

##### 6. Stability: (Dan 10:11)

To seek, know and do God’s perfect will is a life of stability (1Jn. 2:17), success (Jn 21:6) and  
safety (1Sam. 30:8). The two kinds of will – practical and revealed will of God. The various  
aspects of finding the practical will in big and small matters.

#### STUDY VI

##### 7. Suffering: (Dan 6:16, 17)

1. Sufferings work for us and never against us (Gen. 42:36, Rom. 8:28). Disappointments  
are God’s appointments.
2. Enemies mean enlargement, persecution means promotion (Ps. 66:12)
3. Opposition means opportunity (1Cor. 16:9, Ps. 110:2)
4. Handicaps and weakness are God’s gift for greater usefulness (1Cor.12:7)
5. Afflictions provide fruitfulness (Gen. 41:52)
6. Sufferings can bring greater blessings (Job 42:12).
7. Trials transform us into Christ likeness. (Job 23:10, 1Pet. 1:7)

#### 4.11.10 Group Discussion

##### Questions

1. Why is the youth period important in one’s life?
2. What is the greatest purpose of God in one’ life?
3. How to lead a life of sanctification?

#### 5.11.10 Group Discussion

##### Questions

1. How can the Word of God help me to live a purposeful life?
2. What should be my involvement in the local church?
3. When should I start winning souls and how?