



**As we continue our series, “The Abundant Life,” we are seeking to live lives of significance. This week we discuss the value of having a life mission statement, which will help keep our life centered on what really matters.**

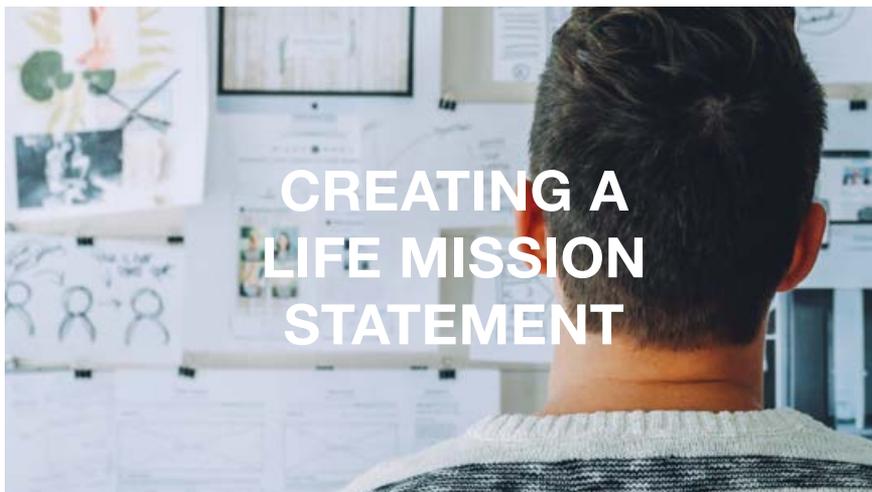
1. Remember what you wanted to be when you grew up. How did your childhood goals change as you became an adult? Why did they change?
2. It’s a tough question, but one that we all should ask ourselves: What is the purpose of my life?

### **Read Proverbs 9:10**

3. D.L. Moody said, “Our greatest fear should not be failure, but of succeeding at things that don’t matter.” Jesse emphasized that we should desire to live with eternal significance. How can the Word of God guide us in living with eternal significance?
4. God not only saves us from sin, but He gives us a purpose that will bring Him glory and provide us with joy. Our life mission isn’t so much about what we do as much as it is about who we are becoming as we follow Jesus. How can you focus on who you want to be, not just on what you do?

### **Read Philippians 2:3-4 and 1 Peter 4:10**

5. Jesse asked, “What will you invest your life in besides yourself?” Reflecting on these passages, how would you answer that question?
6. Have you taken the time yet to work on your life mission statement? There is a guide available starting on the next page. If you haven’t worked on it yet, set aside some time this next week to do so. If you are willing, plan to share your statement with the group next week.



The process of creating a life mission statement is a spiritual experience that can have a significant, long lasting effect on your life. We want to encourage you to enter into this exercise with an open heart and mind.

- **Please keep in mind that this is not a perfect process.** Although a life mission statement should guide you throughout the seasons of your life, you have to allow it to be a process in which you truly discover who God has made you to be through ongoing study of the Bible, prayer, the leading of the Holy Spirit and the input of trusted members of the body of Christ. Your statement may be refined as you continue to learn more about yourself and God's design for you as a person.
- **A large portion of your life mission statement will be determined by your God given SHAPE.** The SHAPE class is designed to help you discover your: Spiritual gifts, Heart (passions), Abilities, Personality and Experiences. If you have not taken this class or have not gone through a process similar to SHAPE, you may have difficulty creating a life mission statement. River City offers the SHAPE class a few times each year and we strongly encourage everyone in our church family to take it. The next SHAPE class is scheduled to start on Sunday, September 17 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 204.

## STEP 1

### WHO DO YOU WANT TO BE?

Choose a noun, something that you can be for a lifetime regardless of your station in life. In some rare circumstances the answer to this question might change, but generally you should select a noun that you are willing to give you direction amid any circumstances or relationships.

*Examples: friend, leader, motivator, mentor, disciple-maker, thinker, reformer, philosopher, shepherd, etc.*

## STEP 2

### HOW CAN YOU BECOME THIS?

What verbs best describe your primary, significant activities in life (keeping your SHAPE in mind)?

*Examples: inspire, love, serve, lead, listen, write, speak, teach, model, guide, etc.*

## STEP 3

### WHO DO YOU WANT TO IMPACT WITH YOUR SHAPE?

Considering your SHAPE, what types of people are you most likely to influence? Try to identify people groups rather than specific individuals.

*Examples: family, friends, students, parents, children, neighbors, co-workers, foreigners, marginalized, men, women, athletes, business people, etc.*

## STEP 4

### WHY DO YOU WANT TO LIVE THIS KIND OF LIFE?

Describe your motivation in an end-product kind of statement. Take into account your passions.

*Examples: Make disciples, witness for Christ, empower others, create freedom, provide hope, challenge complacency, etc.*

## STEP 5

### PUT THE IDEAS TOGETHER.

*Example:*

*For Step 1: A healer of past hurts*

*For Step 2: lead, counsel, listen, love, guide*

*For Step 3: damaged people*

*For Step 4: to set people free from their past hurts live in Christ's freedom.*

## STEP 6

### WRITE A LIFE MISSION STATEMENT.

*Example:*

*I am called to pursue godliness so that I can help heal people's hurts from their past by listening, loving, guiding and counseling damaged people to be set free to live in Christ's freedom.*

## STEP 7

### REMIND YOURSELF REGULARLY OF YOUR LIFE MISSION STATEMENT.

Ideas:

- Commit the statement to memory.
- Print your statement on a card and put it in your Bible, place it on your fridge or cubicle or mirror, or keep it on the dashboard of your car.
- Share your statement with a spouse, mentor, accountability partner, fellow growth group member, friend or family member.
- Add a reminder on your calendar every couple of months so that you take some time to reflect on your progress.

**If at any point you need help or clarification in this process, please email us at [info@rivercitychristian.org](mailto:info@rivercitychristian.org).**

**MESSAGE NOTES**

**WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME?**

**God has a life mission for every one of us.**

**Questions to help you discover your life mission:**

- What will be the center of my life?
  
- Have I defined who I want to be, not just what I want to do?
  
- What will I invest my life in besides me?

**WHAT IS GOD ASKING ME TO DO?**