**Live on Your Own**

**Day 1: What’s My Role?**

Review the video for this session.

**Engage**

Read [John 1:19–34](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn1.19-34).

**Consider**

John the Baptist was a prophet who announced the coming of Jesus. He was called by God to get the people ready for the arrival of Jesus, the Messiah. While the religious leaders questioned his ministry, John was confident and embraced his ministry role. We all have a role in ministry if we are a follower of Jesus. Discovering that role is our first step, followed by embracing it.

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| **QUESTION**How would you describe John’s role or purpose to someone? |

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| **QUESTION**Why was it important for John to declare what Jesus came to accomplish? |

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| **QUESTION**What can John’s attitude teach us about our own role in Jesus’ mission? |

**Reflect**

It’s important for us to be confident about what Jesus can accomplish through us. Our confidence in Him can encourage us to obey regardless of how others may respond. We need to recognize that our role is part of Jesus’ mission and not ours. Ours is only to follow and do our best with the role He gives us.

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| **QUESTION**How have you pointed people to Jesus? |

**Activate**

This would be a good week to have a conversation with someone who is not yet a Christian. Choose a friend or someone you have a relationship with. Ask them a couple of questions about their faith and why they haven’t made that decision. Make sure you are kind and not argumentative. Simply approach them seeking to better understand their viewpoint.

**Pray**

Jesus, I believe You are the Savior who takes away the sins of the world. I am convinced You can accomplish changing anyone’s life. I desire to be like John the Baptist, pointing people to You. Help me to be a strong witness for You. Amen.

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**Day 2: Pay the Price**

**Engage**

Read [2 Corinthians 11:22–29](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Co11.22-29).

**Consider**

The apostle Paul shared some of the difficulties he endured because of his role in Jesus’ mission. He did this because there were some who questioned whether he was a real apostle or a false one. In other words, did his life show that he had fully embraced Jesus and his mission of being sent or not?

Paul shared his challenges with the group to show he was all in. The things he encountered sound brutal. Could you imagine experiencing even a fraction of what he went through? There is a great lesson to learn from Paul’s experience. Embracing God’s role means being willing to pay a price.

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| **QUESTION**Do you think Paul struggled in his relationship with Jesus or his role during tough times? Why or why not? |

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| **QUESTION**What challenges that Paul endured would have been the most difficult for you? Why? |

**Reflect**

You may never experience the distress Paul faced. Nevertheless, embracing your role in Jesus’ mission means being willing to endure some challenging moments. You must be willing to pay the price that can come with a life of obedience. This may mean being rejected by others, being talked about, not being invited to a gathering, or even experiencing pain like Paul did. Remember, Jesus suffered, and as His followers, we may suffer as well. This is one reason some people stop following Jesus. They don’t want to face the cost that comes with a life of obedience.

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| **Question**At this point, are you willing to endure suffering to fulfill the role Jesus has for you? Why or why not? |

**Activate**

Talk with your youth pastor or senior pastor and ask them to share a couple of challenging moments they have experienced as they embraced Jesus’ mission. Learn from their experiences. Then have them pray that you will follow Jesus faithfully regardless of the trials you may face.

**Pray**

Jesus, You are worth it. Whatever I have to endure, I am willing to because I love You. I am committed to Your plan. Give me the strength and spiritual toughness to stand strong in difficult moments. Amen.

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**Day 3: Working for the Lord**

**Engage**

Read [Galatians 6:4–9](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ga6.4-9).

**Consider**

We can’t always control the results, but we can control our effort. A key in embracing our role in Jesus’ mission is to have the right mindset and focus. It’s also important to understand that at times no one will be there to cheer you on or celebrate what you’ve done. Much of our role will have little to no fanfare. Instead, we should learn to find satisfaction in doing a good job.

Good work results in good outcomes. This is as true of a summer job as it is of our service of God. Still, the good results may not come immediately. Delayed reward has kept plenty of people from following God’s role for them. So, rather than get overly focused on outcomes, focus on never giving up on doing good.

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| **Question**How do you imagine doing good work at a job could please the Lord? |

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| **Question**How would you explain the phrase, “you harvest what you plant”? |

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| **Question**Why do you think some people give up on God’s role for their life? |

**Reflect**

Our everyday efforts are important to Jesus. This doesn’t only apply when we’re doing work that is focused on Jesus’ mission. Serving Jesus is not just about doing spiritual things, like witnessing, praying, or going to church. Embracing His mission is also about how we live out good in our world. Our quality of work matters, regardless of where we work. How we handle our schoolwork and chores reveals a lot about whether or not Jesus is truly the Lord of our life.

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| **Question**What is one area of your life where you need to do better work? How will you go about this? |

**Activate**

Give a good effort in everything you do. This is a big one. Commit to doing your best in school, activities, sports, work, and at home. Sharing Jesus with the world is more than just through words. The way we live can point others to Him as well. This week, try to be aware of how your efforts may reflect on Jesus as one of His followers.

**Pray**

Jesus, You are the Master of my life wherever I am. You have earned my best effort. I am committed to doing good in all areas of my life. Please help me in these efforts. Amen.

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**Day 4: One Body, Many Parts**

**Engage**

Read [1 Corinthians 12:12–27](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.1Co12.12-27).

**Consider**

There are valuable things to learn in these verses about embracing your role in Jesus’ mission. When Paul speaks of the Body, he’s using the physical body as a picture of the spiritual Body, or Church, that we’re a part of. You’re a part of this Body! These verses communicate just how important you are.

There may be times when you feel as though you aren’t as gifted or talented as someone else. You may think you have little to contribute. But you have an important part to play, regardless of how much it’s noticed. Each person has a role, and each one is important to the whole. Regardless of who you are or where you come from, you are vital to Jesus’ mission.

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| **Question**Why is it important to understand that you are one part of a bigger Body? |

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| **Question**Why is it important to never underestimate your role or the role of others in Jesus’ mission? |

**Reflect**

Others need you, and you need them. Others depend on you to embrace your role. Likewise, you are dependent upon others to embrace their role. Some may believe that they have nothing to contribute in life or to Jesus’ mission. Now that you’ve learned that isn’t true, encouraging them very well may be part of your role.

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| **Question**What role or gifts do you believe you can bring to the body of Christ? |

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| **Question**What might fully embracing your role in Jesus’ mission look like? |

**Activate**

Talk with your youth pastor or a church leader who knows you about what gifts they see in you. Ask them to help you see how your role can make a difference in the lives of others. Ask them for ideas on how you can begin to focus more on your purpose as you serve.

**Pray**

Father, I know I am only one part of Your body, but I believe every part is important. Help me by Your Spirit to fulfill my role. I want to be a blessing to my church and other believers. I want to be dependable and available. Help all Your followers to see their role in Your Church and make a greater impact. Amen.

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**Day 5: Be Prepared**

**Engage**

Read [2 Timothy 4:1–5](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Ti4.1-5).

**Consider**

One important part of embracing your role is making the effort to prepare ahead of time for what’s next. Sometimes this means working faithfully even when no one is watching or challenging you to do so. Other times a parent or mentor may challenge you because they see something in you that you don’t yet see. The more preparation you do now, the more possibilities you will have in the future to serve Jesus.

In this passage, Paul instructed his son in the faith, Timothy, to always be prepared to preach the word. Being ready takes doing the necessary work ahead of time so that no matter what happens you are ready. Even though you may never preach a sermon, your role in God’s plans is also important. Like Timothy, you should also do your part to be prepared for whatever your role leads you to do.

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| **Question**What are some of the instructions Paul told Timothy in these verses? |

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| **Question**What is important about each of these instructions? |

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| **Question**What do you think Paul meant when he told Timothy to be prepared whether the time is favorable or not? |

**Reflect**

If being prepared in all situations is important, then we need to consider what steps we must take to be prepared. Embracing our role in Jesus’ mission requires us to start preparing now. As a student, this is a great time to begin preparation. Take time to read the Bible, pray, and listen for God’s instructions. Doing so will open more doors in the days ahead. You may not know all Jesus has for you now, but you can begin preparing your life for it.

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| **Question**What is one step you can take to begin preparing for the mission Jesus has for you? |

**Activate**

Take that first step.

**Pray**

Jesus, help me prepare for Your mission. Help me to keep a clear mind in every situation. Help me to not be afraid of facing difficulties for Your mission. Teach me how to share Your good news effectively with my words and my life. Amen.