

# Fulfilling Your Purpose

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Reread the passage from Saint Ignatius of Loyola's *Spiritual Exercises* at the top of page 129 of the Student Text, giving close attention to the first three sentences.

The good things of this world can help us praise, reverence, and serve God in order to save our souls. For each of the categories below, follow the prompts given.

## *Nature*

**Name a place or thing in nature that helps you better recognize and fulfill your purpose.**

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**How does that place or thing help you praise, reverence, or serve God?**

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## *People*

**Name someone who helps you better recognize and fulfill your purpose.**

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**How does that person help you praise, reverence, or serve God?**

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## *Entertainment*

**Name or describe a favorite music album, piece of visual art, or movie that helps you better recognize and fulfill your purpose.**

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**How does that form of entertainment help you to praise, reverence, or serve God?**

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# A Missionary Nature

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Saint Francis Xavier is one of the great missionary saints in the history of the Church. He willingly risked great dangers to take the Gospel to India and thus bring to the ends of the earth the greatest gift: Jesus. As baptized Christians, all of us share in the missionary nature of the Church. The Church, in turn, receives her missionary nature from God, “who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim 2:4). By our Baptism, we have received the great gift of the Blessed Trinity dwelling within us. We should desire to share that gift with others so we may one day all rejoice together in Heaven with God.

But how are we to evangelize and share the Good News of Jesus with others? God might call some of us to journey to distant lands and preach the Gospel there, but he requires all of us to share the Gospel with everyone we encounter daily. That demands patience, prudence, charity, and knowledge. First and foremost, we must rely on the Holy Spirit to guide us.

There are two ways for you to share the Gospel: by your words and by your deeds. Your actions are, by far, the strongest way to preach. Those around you should be able to look at your life and see that you take seriously the commands of God and the teachings of the Gospel and the Church. You also might be asked to explain why you live the way you do or might find yourself in a situation where you need to share the Gospel with your words. Do not shy away from those situations but rather embrace them as a chance to share your love for Jesus more openly.

Below are several scenarios. For each one, write out how you could testify to the truth of the Gospel by your response.

**You are talking with a new friend at a weeklong summer camp. She asks you to explain what Christianity is about and why you believe in Jesus Christ. What do you say?**

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**You are at a restaurant with friends. You quietly pray before the meal, making the Sign of the Cross. A friend asks, “Why do you always have to be so weird and do that?” What do you say?**

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**It is Sunday morning and your family is preparing to leave for Mass. Your mom sends you to help your younger brother get ready. He whines to you that he doesn't want to go because Mass is boring and there's no point to it. What do you say to him?**

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