



Purpose – Week 4

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Purpose

Lesson 4: Purpose - Living Out Your Purpose

Bible: Ephesians 1:11

Description: When you know you have a purpose, it changes the way you live. Once you realize your purpose, the things you view as important change. Really, knowing your purpose changes everything about your life!

Supplies:

- Puzzle pieces printed out on cardstock and cut out
- Several paper bags with “made by _____” written on them. Write names that students will be familiar with, whether they are names of other students who are regular attendees or names of leaders. *(Before the game, place these bags under random seats)*
- This video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JfeSgUo-5zA>

Game: Putting the Pieces Together

Before the game, print out two puzzles on cardstock and cut out the pieces. When you are setting up the game, set all the pieces out upside down, so that the students only see the blank cardstock, not whatever images are on the puzzle.

Split the group of students into two teams. Tell them that tonight, the game is a good, old fashioned puzzle. Don't tell them that the puzzle pieces are upside down.

Put on some music and give each team their puzzle. On the count of three, have each team begin to work together to complete the puzzle.

Eventually, someone will realize that all the pieces are upside down. Once that happens, that team will probably win soon after.

The first team to complete the puzzle wins!

Teach

During this series, we've learned that we do, in fact, have a purpose. We've learned that no one's life is an accident because God does not make accidents. We've learned that our purpose in life is to become more and more like Jesus, and through that, to become more of a servant.

So what now?

Well, learning these things isn't the end. In fact, it's only the beginning! Because once you realize you have a purpose, it changes how you live your life.

**“In Him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will.”
Ephesians 1:11**

How can that verse *not* change the way you live? Knowing that you have been chosen by God, knowing that He's in charge of your life and that He's going to work everything out for His purpose—now that's simply life-changing!

When you were playing that game, you were trying to put that puzzle together based on the pieces. You didn't have anything to go off of, and the only thing you could do was look at the shape.

Once you realized there was a picture on the other side, it changed the way you were putting it together, didn't it?

Of course it did! Once you knew the big picture, you knew how to had to move to win the game. You couldn't just keep putting the puzzle together the way you'd been doing, because that wouldn't make sense, would it?

That's how it is when you know your purpose. You don't just keep living life the way you've been living because knowing your purpose changes your life.

So, what about your life does it change?

Well, in short, the answer is **everything**. But let's dive a little deeper.

It changes your identity because you know *why* you were created.

Okay, some of you guys have something under your seat. I want you to look under your seat and return those things to the people they belong to as fast as you can. Ready? Go!

Let students run the bags around.

Good job guys!

Now, let me point something out. None of those bags had an owner's name on there. In fact, the only thing they said was "made by ____." So you identified the bag by the maker of the bag.

It's the same way with our identity!

"For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him." –Colossians 1:16

This verse certainly clears a lot up, doesn't it? It tells you who created you and why you were created.

That answers many questions in one simple way: You were created by God, and you were created for God.

So you don't have to struggle with your identity anymore. You don't have to wonder why you're here or what the point of your life is or what/who you should identify with. The answer is easy: Your identity is found in God! He created you, and you were created for Him. That's your identity!

It changes your heart because you know you don't have to worry about the future.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." –Jeremiah 29:11

I bet you've already spent a lot of time worrying about your life. We all worry—about school, about family, about friends, and about our future. But once you realize that your purpose is found in God, and that He has a plan for you, you don't have to worry anymore!

And oh boy, He sure has a plan for you! And not just any plan—it's a plan to prosper you and to give you hope and a future. Why do you need to worry when you know God's got everything planned out for you?

The answer is easy—you don't!

It changes your priorities, because you know this life is not forever.

"The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever." -1 John 2:17

Play this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JfeSgUo-5zA>

There are so many things in this world that beg for our attention. There are so many things we could waste our time on.

You could spend your time feeling left out, because you're not a part of the popular crowd at school. You could spend your time worrying about the way you look. You could spend your time trying to fit in with everyone else.

But you're not going to, are you?

Because you know what's really important. You know that our time here on earth is only a brief moment compared to the time we will spend in Heaven with Jesus.

So what if you're not a part of the popular crowd? So what if your appearance isn't what's in style right now? So what if you don't fit in?

You know it doesn't matter. None of those things need to be your priority, because you know that your purpose is found in God. Fulfilling your purpose and becoming more like God needs to be your priority—not any of those other things.

What really matters is that one day, you will be standing before Jesus, and you will spend eternity with Him.

It changes your actions, because you know you should be acting as a servant.

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.” -1 Peter 4:10

Once you realize that it's your purpose to become a servant, and that you were made to serve God and serve others, your actions change. Not only do your actions change, but your heart behind your actions changes.

When you learn that God has given you gifts to use to serve others, you start to look for opportunities to use those gifts. You begin to view every interaction with people as a chance to serve.

When you know you can serve God by serving others, you begin to *want* to serve others. Unlike the rest of the world, your actions begin to move from *selfish* to *selfless*.

It changes your attitude, because you know that everything you do should be done in love and obedience to God's commands.

“And this is love: that we walk in obedience to His commands. As you have heard

from the beginning, His command is that you walk in love.” -2 John 1:6

When you stop to think about all that God has done for you, it's a little bit overwhelming, isn't it? You didn't deserve any of it, but that didn't stop Him from doing it. None of us deserve His unconditional love, yet He freely gives it to us anyway.

The response to that has to be love—but how to you show love to a God that great?

The answer is simple—you show love by obeying His commands.

Once you know that following God's commands is love, it changes your attitude. No longer are you just doing the right thing because it's right, you're doing the right thing because you love God.

God's command is that we walk in love. At the end of the day, our purpose comes back down to love.

We were created out of love.

We were created to share that love.

We were created to love others.

We were created to love God.

It is only by loving God that we can fulfill our purpose. And when you start doing everything in love, it changes your attitude!

Small Group Questions

1. What's something that you've learned about your purpose that you didn't know before this series?
2. Do you agree that knowing your purpose changes your attitude? How do you think it will change your attitude?
3. Did you know that obeying God's command is showing love to Him? Does that change the way you look at His commands in the Bible?
4. Are you going to start using your talents to serve God? What about using them to serve others?
5. What are your main priorities right now? How does knowing what your purpose is change your priorities?
6. Does knowing that God has a plan for you make you realize that you need to worry less?
7. How does it make you feel to know that God chose you and that He is going to use you to complete His purpose?
8. Do you think you can trust in God's plan for you? Why or why not?
9. Does knowing your purpose change your identity? How so?
10. How does knowing that this life is not forever change the way that you live your daily life?

Teach - Closing

As you can see, knowing your purpose can truly change everything about your life. Isn't that exciting?

Now, think about the people you see on a daily basis. Would you say that their lives look like the ones we've talked about tonight? Would you describe them as people who know where their identity lies? As people who know that they don't have to worry about their future?

What about the people that you go to school with every single day? Are their priorities right, since they know that this life is only temporary? Do they have the hope and love of God?

Sadly, the answer a lot of you will give this question is no. You probably interact with people all the time who don't have the same confidence of knowing their purpose like you know yours.

Think about how it is to not know your purpose—you're frustrated, you're trying to do everything on your own, and you're on a desperate search to figure out why in the world you were even created. Knowing that people you know are taking that questioning journey without Jesus is sad to think about, isn't it?

But it's also an amazing opportunity.

You know all of those changes we talked about tonight? The changes that are going to happen in your life now that you know your purpose? Well, those are going to be pretty obvious changes. And people are going to notice them.

And when people notice those changes, it's an amazing opportunity for you to get to talk to them about *why* those changes are happening in your life. You'll get to tell others about how you know what your purpose is—you know who created you and why you were created. You know what you're supposed to do. And you'll get to introduce them to those same amazing changes.

Isn't that wonderful?

Just because this series is over doesn't mean your journey to live out your purpose is over. Really, it's just beginning. So keep going! Keep loving God with your whole heart. Keep trying your best to be more like Him. Keep using your talents to become a servant.

Keep fulfilling your purpose. It may be a hard journey, but it is extremely well worth it.