



SYSTEM RESET: WEEK 4

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SYSTEM RESET

WEEK 4: Repurpose

Bible: Galatians 2:20; Matthew 22:37; Ephesians 2:10; 1 Timothy 4:12; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Bottom Line: God has a purpose for your life!

SUPPLIES

- Two large containers (buckets, ice chests, etc.) per 10 Junior High Students
- For each group of 10 preteens, fill one large container with water and leave the other one empty
- One plastic cup per student
- Optional - towels for clean up
- Blindfolds
- Rope or yarn
- Duct tape

OPENING GAME: FILL IT UP

GAME PREP

For each group of ten students, fill one large container of water and place it near each group's starting line.

Place the team's empty container on the other side of the playing area (about 15-30 feet away).

HOW TO PLAY THE GAME

Divide your teams into groups of ten.

Groups line up relay style near the large container filled with water.

Give each player an empty plastic cup.

The goal is for team members, one at a time, to empty the large container of water and fill the empty container with water.

Players do this by placing a plastic cup in their mouths, dipping it in the container of water, bringing the cup to the empty container of water and dumping the water in it.

Throughout the process, the cup stays in their mouths at all times.

The players' hands stay behind their backs and cannot be used for support.

Compete to see which team can complete the task first or have all teams complete the task with no winning team being recognized.

After the game, say: The goal of the game was to fill the empty container with water.

Today, we're talking about how our lives are empty without a relationship with Jesus.

But once we decide to follow Jesus, He fills up our lives with meaning and purpose.

TEACH

Say: Last week, you discovered that your feeling of importance could only be met through a relationship with Jesus.

We looked at all of the things that people try to get their feeling of importance from.

Ask: Who can name some examples?

Allow a few responses from students.

All of those things leave you empty on the inside when you try to get your feeling of importance from them.

You discovered last week that only a relationship with Jesus gives you a feeling of importance that lasts.

Today, we're going to take that concept a step further.

As new creations, God fills up your life with purpose and meaning.

What exactly does that mean?

Let's take a look at duct tape to help us understand this concept.

Although duct tape has many uses, it has one main purpose.

Ask: What do you think is the main purpose of duct tape?

Allow a few responses from students.

The main purpose of duct tape is to make stuff stick together.

Duct tape is special because it is super sticky, which means it makes stuff stick together really well.

Now, duct tape does have many uses.

But, the main purpose of duct tape is to stick stuff together.

Like duct tape, human beings have a main purpose in life.

God designed all human beings to share one main purpose.

We'll take a look at what that is in a moment.

Also, like duct tape, each of us have a specific purpose for our lives.

Like the many uses of duct tape, God designed us all different and unique.

He has a specific purpose for you to accomplish while here on earth.

A purpose that is special and unique for you.

We'll take a look at what that is in a moment as well.

First, let's look at God's main purpose for all human beings.

Read Matthew 22:37.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment.

And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Ask: What is this verse saying?

Allow a few responses from students.

Jesus is summing up what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

He is saying our main purpose in life is to love God and love others.

Another verse in the Bible puts it this way.

Read Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ask: What is this verse saying?

Allow a few responses from students.

The main idea here is that God designed us as His masterpiece (God's workmanship).

He created us to do good stuff in the world by loving others around us.

Here is an easy way to remember God's main purpose for our lives.

J esus
O thers
Y ourself

For you to be filled with joy, you need to put Jesus first, others second and yourself last.

That's God's purpose for every human being on planet earth.

God also has a specific purpose for your life.

This purpose is unique to you and is God's plan for your life.

Who in here has a weird or odd talent and wants to show it to the rest of us?

Maybe you are double jointed in a finger, can stand on your head or do something else unusual.

Pick a few volunteers and allow them to display their weird talent.

Great job everyone!

Dismiss volunteers back to their seats.

God specifically gave each of these volunteers this unique talent.

God also gives each of you a specific purpose in life.

Here are some famous Bible characters and their specific purposes:

- David was called to be a King.
- Mary was called to be the mother of Jesus.
- Paul was called to start a whole bunch of churches and write most of the New Testament.
- John the Baptist was called to prepare the way for Jesus.
- Jesus was called to die for us so we can be forever friends with God.

Let's take a look at a young person in the Bible, named Timothy.

In the book of 1 Timothy, Paul writes to Timothy many words of encouragement because he was developing Timothy to take over the church in Ephesus.

That was God's specific purpose for Timothy.

The problem was that Timothy was young, so Paul writes these words to him.

Read 1 Timothy 4:12.

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

Paul was saying to not let anyone think less of him because he was young.

Instead, be a good example of what it means to follow Jesus by living out God's specific purpose—being the leader of the church at Ephesus.

Those words are also for you.

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young.

God has a specific purpose for your life!

Here is a true story:

There was a 4th grade girl who heard a missionary speak about their experience living in Pakistan for many years.

As the missionary told stories about all the things God had done in Pakistan, the 4th grade girl new that she was somehow called to go to the Middle East (even though she later learned that Pakistan isn't even part of the Middle East).

She didn't tell anyone what God had put in her heart, and she didn't even think about it much.

But, deep in her heart she had a love for the Middle East that she couldn't explain.

Around 6 years later when the girl was 15 years old, God gave her a crazy opportunity to go tell people in a Middle Eastern country about Jesus for a month over the summer.

She couldn't afford the trip and didn't know if her parents would allow her to go. However, she trusted that God would provide a way - And He did!

There is much more to this girl's story, but the short version is that God took her all over the world to love people and tell them about Jesus.

When she was 23 years old, God made a way for her to move to the Middle East for a few years and travel all over it to share about Jesus' love.

God even gave her a husband who is from the Middle East, and she now has an extended family in that part of the world!

That little girl is now 28 years old. S

he now has a heart to reach students and is a mom to two girls.

Her name is Jami Khayer.

Jami was called to be a missionary at a young age.

That was God's specific purpose for her.

God has a specific purpose for you too!

One last thing about God's specific purpose for your life—it's more than just one thing.

Jami's purpose was to be a missionary.

But it was also to be a mom to her kids and wife to her husband.

God may change Jami's calling as a missionary to something different 5 years from now.

The key is to listen to what God has for you right now.

Follow God's main purpose of loving Him and loving others.

Over time, He will show you the specific purpose He has for you.

He will speak to you through the Bible, the Holy Spirit and other people in your life.

Here's today's bottom line – God has a purpose for your life!

Close in prayer.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Name one unusual use of duct tape not mentioned in the beginning of the teaching.
2. What are some ways you can love God right now?
3. How can you show love towards others this week?

To whom do you specifically feel you need to show love towards this week?

4. Do you have any idea what specific purpose God has for you?

Be careful not to be pushy here. Simply allow those who want to share to do so. If you get no one to talk here, that is okay. It's a big question.

Be prepared to share your own specific purpose God has given you.

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Break up the small group into groups of three.

Each group of three will have to work together to move from one side of the room to the other.

The catch is that each student can only use one body part (eyes, legs or arms).

One student is the eyes (the other two are blindfolded), one student is the legs (tie their legs together with rope or yarn), and the other is the arms (tie arms together with rope or yarn).

Allow time for each group to complete the task.

When completed, congratulate everyone.

Say: Even though God has a main purpose for everyone and a specific purpose for each of you, He wants us all to work together.

Like in the activity we just played.

The idea was to work together towards a goal, each of us having a specific purpose.

Now, as you discovered in the activity, it isn't always easy to work together.

But with God's help, we can learn to be in sync with each other.

The Bible has a picture of us when it comes to our purpose of working together with other Christians.

*Have a student read **1 Corinthians 12:12-27**.*

The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ.

Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.

Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part.

If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body.

And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body?

If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything?

But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. How strange a body would be if it had only one part!

Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you."

In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary.

And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen, while the more honorable parts do not require this special care.

So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity.

This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other.

If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad. All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.

Discuss these questions:

- What stuck out to you the most in 1 Corinthians 12:12-27?
- How are we like a body, each being a specific part of the body?
- What special talents and abilities do you have that could be used for loving others or pointing them to Jesus?