

LIFE HAS A PURPOSE

STORY: CREATION

BIG TRUTH: LIFE HAS A PURPOSE

Isaiah 46:8-13, 14:24-27; Psalm 33:10-11; Proverbs 16:9, 19:21, 21:1, 21:30; Daniel 4:34-37; Ephesians 1:11-14

BIBLE VERSE: PSALM 138:8

"The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands."

BIG IDEAS

- God has a purpose for your life.
- Even when life doesn't make sense, God is still at work for your good and His glory.
- God's purpose for your life is bigger than your life.

BIBLE STORY: MARK 5:1-20

Jesus healed the man with an unclean spirit for a reason that was beyond just healing him. God has a purpose for our lives and He works His purpose out for our good and His glory.

STORY: CREATION

God created everything. Everything we see, hear, feel, taste, and that exists was created by Him. Not only did He create everything, but He created everything perfectly, including humanity. He created mankind in His very image and likeness to reflect His worth. All of creation was made just like He wanted and designed it to be. To His delight, God looked at everything He made and declared that it was good. All creation exists for God, is good, and was created to bring Him glory.

BIG AIMS

**KNOW**

Every child should know that:

- Life comes from God

**DO**

Every child should:

- Find joy in the life that God has given them

**FEEL**

Every child should feel:

- Responsible to use the life that God has given them for His glory

**WANT**

Every child should want:

- To submit their lives to God's plans

FAMILY DEVOTION: EVERYTHING FROM NOTHING

When the world began, God needed nothing to create it. His Word is powerful. All things obey His Word. When He spoke, things began to exist; life began to form and has continued forming under His command. Man must use materials to create. God needs nothing.

STORY: CREATION
LIFE HAS A PURPOSE**BIBLE VERSE: PSALM 138:8**

"The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands."

God has a purpose for each of us.

- God is involved in each of our lives.
- He interacts with us in a personal and intimate way.
- He sees us as the unique individuals that He has created.
- He creates us with a purpose and He works to fulfill that purpose in us.
- We each have a purpose given to us by God.
- Our lives are meaningful and important because God created us with meaning and purpose.

God cares for us and loves us steadfastly.

- When God created us, He loved us.
- His love for us is eternal. His love does not change or stop.
- He cares for us because He has given us purpose.
- He remains faithful to us no matter how we respond to Him.
- He is purposeful in the way He loves us and interacts with us.
- He works on our behalf to help us bring Him glory.

God works out His purpose for our lives.

- God creates us with a purpose.
- He guides us to live out our purpose.
- He works out His purpose in our lives in a loving and caring way. He does not leave us to achieve our purpose alone.
- He faithfully continues to work in our lives to make us more like Him.
- He remains steadfast and faithful throughout our lives.

BIBLE STORY: MARK 5:1-20

Jesus Heals The Man With An Unclean Spirit

Opening Illustration:

Bring in several plastic cups and straws for each child. Allow the children to take turns racing each other as they blow a cup across a table with a straw. After each child has had an opportunity to race, lead them in a discussion about how God is our Creator, controls all things, and gives all things.

- How did you control what the cup did? (Each child controlled the cup by blowing through a straw.)
- Did the cup move on its own or when you blew on it? (It moved only when it was blown on.)
- You each controlled your cups with the straw just like God controls all of creation with His power.
- God is our Creator. He created everything and He controls everything.

BIG IDEA: GOD HAS A PURPOSE FOR YOUR LIFE.¹**God plans our lives and numbers our days.**

- God is actively involved in our lives.
- He does not create us and then leave us to fend for ourselves.
- He knows us better than we know ourselves because He created us.
- He numbers our days because He controls all things.
- He determines the beginning and ending of every life.
- He knows the number of our days.



Bring in a fireman's hat, police officer's badge, nurse's hat, stethoscope, or other items that easily identify a profession or job. Have the children take turns choosing one of the items and describing the purpose. Talk with them about the different purposes that each profession has. Remind them that God has a purpose for each of us.

God creates each of us with a purpose.

- Life is so incredibly valuable because God gives it value.
- He cares for each person He creates.
- Each person is created in His image and He places a high value on them.
- He gives each person a purpose. He creates people to bring Him glory through the unique purpose He has for each of them.

God fulfills His purpose for our lives.

- God works in us to fulfill His purpose for our lives.
- God is perfect and holy and deserves to receive glory from everyone.
- He creates us to bring Him glory and He works in us to help us glorify Him by fulfilling His purpose for us.
- God helps us by teaching and guiding us through His Word and through others.
- He is at work in our lives always.

Who gives us a purpose? (God creates us with a purpose, and He works in our lives to fulfill that purpose.)

1. Psalms 57:2: God works in our lives to fulfill His purpose for us.

BIG IDEA: EVEN WHEN LIFE DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, GOD IS STILL AT WORK FOR YOUR GOOD AND HIS GLORY.²

God holds all things in His hands.

- God is the ruler of all things. He controls everything.
- Not only does God control everything, He understands all things perfectly.
- There is no circumstance that we ever face that God does not already know is going to happen or that He doesn't understand.
- He understood the plight of the man with the unclean spirit. He understood it better than the man himself understood it.
- God was in control even though the man was being controlled by the unclean spirit.
- God never loses control. Even when it seems that bad things are happening or that things are out of control, God is always in control.

God works even our trials and struggles out for our good and His glory.

- God is never surprised by anything. He already knows the future.
- Not only does He know the future, He controls it.
- Even when we experience difficulties or we face great tragedy, God is not out of control.
- God uses everything for His glory and He works out all things for our good according to His purpose.
- He knows better than we do what is best for us.
- His understanding and wisdom far surpass ours. Even when we may not understand our circumstances, we can trust that He knows completely what is best for us.
- Even though the man with the unclean spirit wanted to be with Jesus, God knew what was better for the man.
- He knew it was better for the man to tell others and to show others the great power of God to save people.



Share with the children a time when God worked through a difficult time in your own life to bring glory to Himself and for your good. If possible, share stories of how the church has grown when under attack. An example is the church in Cuba. See <http://www.missionfrontiers.org/issue/article/a-church-planting-movement-in-cuba> for information about the growth of the church in Cuba. Remind the children that God is always at work, even when it doesn't make sense or seems confusing.

How can God work all things out for our good and His glory? (He controls everything and He has greater wisdom and understanding than we do.)

2. Romans 8:28: God works all things out for our good and His glory. He is always in control and knows what is best for His children.

STORY: CREATION
LIFE HAS A PURPOSE**BIG IDEA: GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOUR LIFE IS BIGGER THAN YOUR LIFE.³****Our lives are very valuable to God.**

- God created us because He wanted to. He was not lacking in anything or in need of companions. He chose to create us because He wanted to.
- God purposefully created us in His image. He intentionally placed a high value on our lives.
- He is the beginning of all things and things have value or meaning because He gives them value and meaning.
- He considers the lives of mankind very valuable. They are so valuable to Him that He willingly sacrificed His Son to save the world.
- We are all bought with a price. God paid the highest price for our lives even though we rejected and rebelled against Him.



Bring in a bag of balloons. Give the children a balloon and ask them to blow up their balloon as big as they can. While they are blowing up their balloons, blow up two balloons. Make one much bigger than the other. Tie them and then show them to the children. Tell the children that the smaller balloon is like our lives and the bigger one is like God's purpose for our lives. Remind them that His purpose is bigger than our lives. His ways are greater and better.

God made us for Himself and He saves us for Himself.

- God sent His Son to pay our sin debt so that we could be reconciled to Him.
- He created us for Himself. When we sinned, we were separated from Him.
- He didn't send Jesus to die for us just so we wouldn't have to spend eternity in hell.
- He ransomed us from our sin for Himself.
- Our lives have great purpose because God gives them purpose.

God's plans are bigger than what we can imagine.

- God is the beginning of all things. This means that all things come from Him.
- He is the wisest, smartest, most understanding of all beings.
- His plans are far better than anything we could ever plan for ourselves.
- His plan for our lives goes beyond us. He loves us and has a purpose for us, but our lives are not about us and our own happiness.
- Our lives are about God and living for Him.
- His purpose for our lives is about Him and bringing Himself glory.
- When we do this, we live full lives because we are living out our created purpose.

How is God's purpose bigger than our lives? (He is the wisest of all beings. He created us for His glory.)

3. 1 Corinthians 6:20: We are bought with a price and we are bought for God's purposes.

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HOOKS

**A Godly Purpose**

Bring in a kitchen timer and verses about God's purpose for our lives written on index cards. Set a timer and have the children grab a card and try to find the verse before the timer ends. Use the following verses or others that you find: Jeremiah 29:11, John 15:16, Matthew 28:19, Ecclesiastes 12:13, Jeremiah 1:5, Psalm 139:13-16, and Micah 6:8. After the children find all the verses, lead them in a discussion about God's purpose for our lives.



- God creates us with a purpose.
- Our purpose is to bring Him glory.
- He gives each of us a purpose and He works in us to fulfill that purpose.
- Because He created us, we have great value.
- Our lives have purpose and meaning because God gives them purpose and meaning.

**I SPY A Purpose**

Write down different professions and jobs on large pieces of paper. Hang these around the room. Play a game of I Spy where the children look for the different professions or jobs you've hung up. Once they are found, talk with them about how they each serve a purpose just like our lives have a purpose.



- Each of these jobs are important and have a specific purpose.
- We each have a purpose too.
- God gives us a purpose and He gives our lives meaning.
- He created us and knows exactly what is best for us.