

# GOD HAS A PLAN FOR US

## STORY: CREATION

### BIG TRUTH: GOD HAS A PLAN FOR US

Psalm 139:13-16; Proverbs 16:9; Romans 8:28-30; Philippians 1:6

### 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

- You are not an accident.
- God created you in His image.
- God's love for you proves His commitment to your good for His glory.
- God will fulfill His purposes for your life.
- You need God today.

### BIBLE STORY: LUKE 1:5-17; MATTHEW 3:1-12

God has a plan and a purpose for each person. He had a plan and purpose for John the Baptist. He revealed His plan to John's father, Zechariah. God's plan for John was fulfilled as John the Baptist prepared the way for God's own Son, Jesus.

### 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



#### Every child should know that:

- God created them with purpose for a purpose



#### Every child should:

- Live in a way that is honoring to the Lord



#### Every child should feel:

- Awe at the intentionality of God in giving purpose to our lives



#### Every child should want:

- To learn more about God's purposes for their lives

### FAMILY DEVOTION: IMAGE BEARERS

God created mankind in a different way than He created everything else. With man, God fashioned him with His hands from the dust of the ground and breathed life into his lungs. Man is created in God's image to be a reflection of Him to all the world. We are all image bearers and thus have great value to God.



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**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."*

**Though we face trouble and obstacles, God will care for us.**

- God has a plan for His people. His plan will always happen because He controls all things.
- Even when we are facing an obstacle, we can rest in the truth that God will take care of us.
- God is always trustworthy and we can always count on Him to watch out for us.
- God promises to care for His people. His promises are true and trustworthy.

**God holds our lives in His hand and controls all things.**

- No one is as powerful as God.
- No one has control of all things like God does.
- He created the world and He is the one who controls it.
- God isn't absent from our lives. He holds our lives in His hand and watches over us.
- He is personally involved in our lives and works everything for His glory and our good.

**God will fulfill His plan for our lives.**

- God has a plan for each of His children.
- His plan is for our good and His glory.
- Even when we sin and it seems that His plan has been diverted or stopped, it has not.
- God is more powerful than any trouble or mistake that we can encounter or make.
- His plan will be fulfilled because He controls all things.

**BIBLE STORY: LUKE 1:5-17; MATTHEW 3:1-12**

*God's Plan For John The Baptist*

**Opening Illustration:**

Ask the children to create an illustrated map showing the way to their house. Help the children label the map and include the necessary directions to help a person find their house. Once they finish, allow them to share their maps and then remind them that God is the Creator of families. He has a purpose and plan for each of us.

**BIG IDEA: YOU ARE NOT AN ACCIDENT.<sup>1</sup>**

What does the word 'accident' mean? (It means something that wasn't planned.)

**Everything God does has purpose.**

- God does not act randomly. When He created the world, He did not do so randomly, without a plan.
- God has a plan and purpose for everything He does and all that He creates.
- Everything He created on the earth and in the heavens serves a purpose.
- Every person God creates has a purpose.



Help the children come up with a list of common accidents, such as spilling milk, two cars hitting one another, etc. Talk with the children about how no person is an accident because God is the giver of life. He makes no mistakes and has no accidents.

**There are no accidents with God.**

- God is always in control. He never makes a mistake or loses control.
- Even when it seems that the world is out of control, He is in control.
- No person is an accident. Every person is created in God's image and for His glory.
- God has always had a purpose and plan for mankind and each person plays a part in His plan.
- No matter how sinfully a person acts, they are not an accident.
- God does what He intends to do and He does so with a purpose.

**Every life is given by God.**

- We know that every person is created with a purpose because God is the giver of all life.
- God created man for a purpose and that is to glorify Him.
- Because God is the Creator, each person has a created purpose.
- This means that no one is born accidentally or as a mistake.
- Each life is a gift from God no matter the circumstances of their birth.

How do we know no one is an accident? (God is the Creator and giver of all life and He does everything with a purpose.)

1. Ecclesiastes 12:13: The main purpose of life is to obey God and serve Him.

**BIG IDEA: GOD CREATED YOU IN HIM IMAGE.<sup>2</sup>**

What is an image of something? (An image is a reflection of something.)

**God is the Creator.**

- There is no other giver of life besides God.
- All life comes from Him and is made by Him.
- He is life. Without God, there is no life.
- He created everything and He fashioned man with His own hands.
- God gives life to everything. He breathes life into man and sustains all life.
- He gave life to the first man and woman and He continues to give life to every person born after them.



Bring in a mirror. Have each child look at themselves in the mirror and describe what they see. Remind them that even though we each look different, we are all made in God's likeness, or image.

**Man is made in God's likeness.**

- God created Adam and Eve and He made them in His image.
- To be made in God's image doesn't mean that He made people to be Him.
- It means that people are made in God's likeness.
- God is one. There are no others, yet He imprinted His image, or likeness onto mankind.
- Each person bears God's image and likeness. We each are a reflection of God.
- Even those who do not follow God still bear His image.

How is each person made? (Each person is made in God's image or likeness.)

Does being made in God's image mean a person is God? (No, it means a person reflects God.)

2. Genesis 5:2: Each person is made in God's image and is a reflection of His likeness.

## BIG IDEA: GOD'S LOVE FOR YOU PROVES HIS COMMITMENT TO YOUR GOOD FOR HIS GLORY.<sup>3</sup>

### God's love is steadfast.

- God does not change. He does not stop loving us. His love is eternal.
- God's steadfastness shows us His desire for His purpose for our lives to be fulfilled.
- He does not grow weary of us or change His mind about us.
- He continues to love us no matter what.
- God showed love towards Zechariah when He revealed His plan for Zechariah to have a son.



Have the children read Ecclesiastes 12:13. Ask them to discuss what they think the verse is saying and then remind them that man's purpose is to glorify God. Talk with them about ways that we can bring God glory.

### God desires only good for us and only does good for us.

- God's love is everlasting. No matter how we act towards God, He remains faithful to us.
- God has a purpose and plan for us and He desires only good for us.
- Even when it seems that bad things are happening to us, God uses these difficulties for our good.
- God remains steadfast to us even during our darkest times.
- He loves us always and works for our good and for His glory.

### God's love shows His commitment to us.

- God loves us and is committed to His plan for our lives.
- He doesn't make mistakes and even when we sin and turn away from Him for a time, He remains the same towards us.
- His plan for our lives will happen because of His commitment to us.
- He created each of us for His glory and He helps us fulfill this plan for our lives by His good work in our lives.

*How does God show His commitment to us? (He shows His commitment to us through His faithful fulfillment of His plan for our lives.)*

3. Luke 1:5-17: God shows His commitment to us through His faithful fulfillment of His plan for our lives. He was faithful to Zechariah through the birth of his son, John the Baptist.

**BIG IDEA: GOD WILL FULFILL HIS PURPOSES FOR YOUR LIFE.<sup>4</sup>****God's plan is best.**

- It's easy for us to confuse our plan for our life with God's plan.
- When we confuse our plan for God's plan, we may experience disappointment.
- Before we are even born, God has a plan for our lives.
- His plan is always for our good and for His glory.
- When we bring Him glory with our lives, our lives fulfill the greater purpose of serving Him and others, instead of just serving ourselves.
- God's plan for our lives is the best plan because He is all-knowing and His understanding is greater than ours.



Read Matthew 3:1-12 with the children. Ask them to make a list of the interesting things they read about John the Baptist. Next, talk with them about how John was born for a specific purpose for God. Ask the children to identify how John fulfilled the purpose that God created Him for. Remind them that God always fulfills His purpose for our lives.

**God's plan will always happen.**

- Because God is all-powerful He controls all things.
- Because He controls all things, His plans will always happen.
- What God desires to happen will always happen. His will is always accomplished because He is God.
- Our plans for our lives don't always happen. Often what we plan to happen goes awry or we face some obstacle.
- What God wants for our lives always happens.

**God's will for our lives will not be stopped.**

- Even our sinfulness cannot stop God's plan for our lives.
- God planned from the beginning to create a world and a people to be His people.
- Even though man sinned, God still made a way for people to know Him and be in a relationship with Him.
- The same is true for our individual lives. Whatever God has planned for us will happen because He is in charge.

*How is God able to fulfill His purpose for our lives? (He is in control of everything and nothing can stop His plans.)*

4. Exodus 9:16: God raised Pharaoh up for God's plan and purpose. God has a plan and purpose for every person and it will be accomplished.

**BIG IDEA: YOU NEED GOD TODAY.<sup>5</sup>****We are created for a purpose.**

- Each person is created for a purpose. We are each created for God's glory.
- When Adam and Eve sinned, they got off track and stopped living out the reason they were created.
- God made a way for each person to know Him again and to fulfill His purpose for their lives.
- There is no person who isn't in need of God's way to know Him.
- We all need to know God and to have Him guide our lives.



Play a game of 'Simon Says', but replace Simon with 'John'. After you play several times, remind the children that we are all in need of God to direct our steps and guide our lives. We all need His salvation.

**God's plans for our lives are more important than our own plans.**

- We can try to plan our own lives and fulfill our own purposes, but they will always fall short of God's plans.
- They fall short because we fall short of God's glory.
- We are all born sinners. Our sinfulness keeps us from fulfilling our created purpose unless we repent and believe in Jesus.
- When we repent and believe in Jesus, we can begin fulfilling God's purpose for our lives.
- His ways are always better than our ways.

*Why do we need God? (We are all sinners and in need of God to save us and direct our steps.)*

5. Proverbs 16:9: *We can have plans in our hearts, but God directs our steps.*

## HOOKS

**Wilderness Scavenger Hunt**

Play a Wilderness Scavenger Hunt with the children. Before class, place several items that represent John the Baptist, such as cloth that looks like camel hair or a picture of camel hair, locusts, a jar of honey, etc. Ask the children to find the different items. When they finish, lead them in a discussion about how John the Baptist was created for a purpose and he fulfilled God's purpose.



- God created John for a specific purpose to prepare people's hearts for Jesus.
- John fulfilled God's purpose for his life by preaching that Jesus was coming one day and people needed to repent.
- God has created us with a purpose too.
- His purpose for our lives will be fulfilled because God always fulfills His purpose.

**Purposeful Lives**

Give each child a small index card and a marker. Ask the children to make a list of several things that he or she would like to be or do when he or she grows up. Ask the children to share their lists. Next, talk with the children about what they think God's purpose is for their life. Lead them in a discussion about how God created us to bring Him glory and to enjoy Him. Remind them that God's purposes are always fulfilled.

- God made each person to bring Him glory.
- We're created in God's image, which reflects His glory to the world.
- Even though we may have plans for our own lives, God's plan for our life is better.