

# OUR PURPOSE AS IMAGE BEARERS IS THE GLORY OF GOD

YEAR: KNEEL / FOCUS: I AM AN IMAGE BEARER  
SERIES: GOD IS THE IMAGE — I AM THE IMAGE BEARER

## BIG TRUTH: OUR PURPOSE AS IMAGE BEARERS IS THE GLORY OF GOD

Psalm 115:1; Isaiah 43:7, 21; Revelation 4:11; Colossians 3:23-24; Hebrews 13:15; 1 Chronicles 16:29; Psalm 100:3-4

## BIBLE VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 10:31

*“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”*

## BIG IDEAS

- God’s glory is the chief end of man.
- Every moment is an opportunity for worship.
- God’s glory is the purpose of the church and is magnified in community.

## BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-11:1

### KNEEL - I AM AN IMAGE BEARER

The Kneel Year is an exploration of what it means to worship God with our all (Luke 10:26-28). Worship is not something that is limited to a service once a week, but instead occurs every day, in all of life. We are unceasing worshipers. Worship never stops, it only changes directions. In order to worship God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind, we must embrace our identity as image bearers. It is out of that identity that we can begin to live for God’s glory in all of life (Colossians 3:17).

## SERIES AIMS



### Every student should know that...

- They were created in God’s image and likeness for the purpose of worship.
- Value, purpose, significance, and worth are found in and flow from God alone.



### Every student should feel...

- Awe that God created them in His own image.
- Loved by their heavenly Father who knows them better than they know themselves and still pursues them.



### Every student should strive to...

- Understand and embrace who God created them to be.
- Talk about gender and identity as a gift from the Lord for His purposes and His glory.
- Memorize the Bible verse each week.



### Every student should want...

- To have a deeper relationship with the God who made them in His image.
- To pursue a lifestyle of worship that centers on the true Savior and rejects false saviors.

## GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week’s Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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171 Promise Land Dr. Gray, TN 37615

# OUR PURPOSE AS IMAGE BEARERS IS THE GLORY OF GOD

## BIBLE VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 10:31

*“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”*

### A believer's mindset should be God's glory.

*“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do...”*

- We are created with one purpose and that is to glorify God in every way. This means that our minds should focus on how we can glorify God in every aspect of our lives. Paul speaks to this in his letter to the Corinthians when he tells them to do everything, even eating and drinking, for the glory of God.
- While it may seem like these mundane ordinary things, like eating and drinking, aren't ways to glorify God, the point that Paul is making is that every part of our being should be on God and His glory. So even as we do something simple like sit down to dinner with our friends, we should ensure that we are glorifying God.

### Believers can and should glorify God in their lives.

*“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”*

- God does not ask anything of His people that He does not equip them to do. This means that God's people can glorify Him in every situation and circumstance of their lives. Even the ones that seem impossible to bring God glory, a believer can glorify God.
- Not only can believers glorify God, they should. Our created purpose is to seek God's glory and the way we do that is by glorifying Him in every aspect of our lives. God is our Creator and the reason for our existence. We find true joy and fulfillment in seeking His glory in every way.

### Believers should pursue God's glory.

*“...do all to the glory of God.”*

- All the earth exists for God. He is the Creator of all things and all things exist for Him. This means that everything continues to exist for the glory of God. God is a perfect and holy God and He alone is deserving of all honor and glory. He created life and the world, so it follows that He deserves glory from it.
- All people are created for His glory, but believers especially should seek His glory. God saves His people and reconciles them to Himself that He might receive glory in all the earth. A believer should seek to glorify God in every part of his or her life.

# OUR PURPOSE AS IMAGE BEARERS IS THE GLORY OF GOD

## BIG IDEA #1: GOD'S GLORY IS THE CHIEF END OF MAN.<sup>1</sup>

### [ THIS ]

Man's purpose in life is not to live for himself or to seek a good life here on earth. This earth is temporal and will not last forever. Man's purpose is to live for God. We were created for God and should seek to know Him and glorify Him in every way. There is no higher purpose in a person's life than to live for God. 1 Corinthians 10:26 reminds us that all of the earth is God's and all we do should be done for Him. Paul further emphasizes this truth in 1 Corinthians 10:31 when he tells the Corinthians believers to seek God's glory in everything they do. There isn't anything else we could do in this life that would be greater or serve a higher purpose than to live for God. We find contentment and joy in living for God. This means that in every part of our daily lives, we seek to behave, think, act, and work in a way that honors God for who He is and what He has done in our lives and the world. We give up our own ideas of what our lives should be and dedicate them to God's purposes and plans.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**Read Isaiah 43:6-7. Knowing that you are created for God's glory, how can you begin each day with your focus on God's glory?**

Psalm 100:1-3 declares praise for who God is. When we remind ourselves every day of who God is and what He has done in our lives, our focus will be on Him. We can live every day for His glory as we remind ourselves of the great God we serve. Psalm 95:6-7 also show us how we can glorify God by intentionally living for Him and praising Him in our daily lives.

### [ THIS ]

We can easily mistake living for God's glory as something that we do on Sunday. We can think of church related events and service opportunities as our time of living for God and seeking His glory and live the rest of our time for ourselves. It's so easy to divide our lives into categories, separating church from school, family, and work. The reality though is living for God involves all of our time and resources. It requires our life. Jesus said that those who wanted to follow Him should die to themselves and follow Him.<sup>2</sup> Our entire lives should be dedicated to God and living for His glory because it's why we're created. In 1 Corinthians 10:31, Paul teaches this truth when he says that everything we do should be done for God's glory. Living for God is more than a Sunday thing. It's our lives lived fully for God because He is the one true God and Savior of the world.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**Into what categories have you separated your life? How can you live for God's glory with your entire life?**

We can easily place our different activities and even friendships into categories, separating them in our minds. God calls us to live our whole lives for Him, not just parts. 1 Chronicles 16:23 talks about glorifying God in all the earth and Psalm 29:1-2 teaches us to ascribe to God the glory He is due.

**Are there parts of your life you secretly want to live for yourself? How can you submit these areas to God?**

James 4:4 teaches us that we should not be friends with the world, which means we should be in the world, but not act like the world. Colossians 2:8 reminds us that we should die to our own sense of understanding and wisdom and rely upon God's wisdom.

1. Psalm 100:1-3: God alone deserves man's glory. Man's purpose is to glorify God in every way.

2. Luke 9:23: Jesus commanded people to deny themselves and follow Him.

# OUR PURPOSE AS IMAGE BEARERS IS THE GLORY OF GOD

## BIG IDEA #2: EVERY MOMENT IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR WORSHIP.<sup>3</sup>

### [ THIS ]

We are created to worship and God should be the only focus of our worship. This means every moment of our lives is an opportunity to worship God with our lives. In 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1, Paul teaches the importance of living every moment of our lives for God's purposes. Not only are we created to worship God, we are redeemed by Christ to glorify God in every way. Though it may feel like there are insignificant moments in our lives, there really are none. God cares about every moment of our lives and knows the exact moment our lives on earth will end. We are tempted to live for "big moments" in our lives, like mission trips, but He has redeemed us to live each of our moments for Him, even the everyday, seemingly insignificant moments. It is the everyday moments that build the habits and lifestyle of worship.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**What are some warning signs that you might be taking the life God has given you for granted instead of living for His glory?**

Psalm 139:16 reminds us that our days on earth are numbered and they all pass quickly. Psalm 39:4-6 speaks to the importance of using our days well for the glory of God. We can easily take our lives for granted and waste time as we spend our lives seeking our own idea of happiness. We can only talk about God and spiritual things at church, wasting all the other time in our lives that we have to live for God.

**In what areas of your life could you worship God, but do not?**

Psalm 113:3 speaks to praising God from the rising of the morning sun to the setting of it in the evening. This implies that there is no part of our lives that can't be offered in worship to God. Hebrews 13:15 speaks of offering a sacrifice of praise continually as we remember His good works towards us, especially salvation.

### [ THIS ]

Worshiping God is more than a Sunday morning service at church. We can often think that worship is just the time before the sermon on Sunday mornings, but it is much more than that. Worship is setting our mind's attention and heart's affection on Christ. We set our mind on Christ by reminding ourselves of all God has done for us. When we remember each day what God has done in saving us, we will praise Him. We can do this in every part of our lives, not just Sunday mornings. Sitting in our rooms alone or hanging out with friends, we can worship God. As we meditate on God in these situations, as we think of who He is and praise Him for all He has done, we are worshiping in every area of our lives. Every moment of our lives is an opportunity to worship God.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**What obstacles distract you from focusing your mind and heart on Christ?**

Proverbs 5:1 warns to pay attention to God's wisdom, which is found in His Word. When we fail to study our Bible and seek to know God, our focus will move from glorifying Him to serving ourselves. Worry and anxiety can also distract us from worshiping God, but Matthew 6:34 reminds us that God cares so intentionally and diligently for us that we do not need to worry.

3. Colossians 3:23-24: We are called to give our entire lives for God and to live for His glory and to worship Him always.

# OUR PURPOSE AS IMAGE BEARERS IS THE GLORY OF GOD

## BIG IDEA #3: GOD'S GLORY IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH AND IS MAGNIFIED IN COMMUNITY.<sup>4</sup>

### [ THIS ]

In 1 Peter 2:9-12, we see that the purpose of the church is to glorify God in every way. God joins His people together by His Spirit that they might bring Him glory in all the world. In 1 Corinthians 10, Paul addresses the church at Corinth as individuals and as a group. God's people individually make up the church, but work as a group to function as Christ's body. Just as a believer's individual purpose is to glorify God, the church's goal and purpose is to seek God's glory in all they do. Every local body of believers, or church has the same purpose---the glory of God. God is intentional in joining His people together as one body to fulfill His purpose in the world.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**Read 1 Peter 2:9-12. In what ways can you seek God's glory through your church?**

In these verses, Peter teaches believers that the church is a chosen group of people set aside to proclaim God's glories in the world. As we join with our local body of believers, we can seek God's glory together. In these verses, as well as, the rest of the New Testament, we see that God is redeeming people for His glory, not just individuals. As people walk from darkness to light, they become God's people and are called to glorify God together as His people. The early church did just this by sacrificing for one another, sharing the gospel, and living life together as we see in Acts 2:42-47.

### [ THIS ]

As the church lives in community, they glorify God by the way that they live with one another. The church glorifies God only to the degree that its people seek God's glory in their personal lives. When they do, they come together as a group to glorify God and to make His name famous in the world. The world can see God at work when a group of people connect only by their love for and pursuit of God's glory love one another, serve one another, and sacrifice for one another in the name of Jesus Christ. This type of community makes God's name famous in all the world. It shows the world that God is at work in the hearts and lives of people.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**What are some practical ways you can help others live for God's glory this week?**

1 Thessalonians 5:11 shows us that God's people are gathered together to edify, or build up one another. What this means is that the church should encourage one another to live for God individually and collectively. Romans 14:19 also teaches us that the church comes together for the glory of God. When the church edifies one another and builds one another up, God is glorified.

**What are some obstacles that stand in the way of your church or student ministry collectively living for God's glory?**

In 2 Timothy 4:3, Paul mentions a problem that can occur in churches when people seek to stir up divisions and controversy. This can serve as an obstacle to glorifying God as a body. 1 Corinthians 3:3 also speaks of a problem that can draw people away from glorifying God. When the people no longer listen to sound teaching, they will not seek to glorify God, but themselves.

4. Acts 2:42-47: When God's people live in community to glorify Him, He is glorified in all the world.