

LIFE GROUP LESSON

Grow Up • Week of November 3

Stop for a moment, and look around at the different people God has placed in your path. Next, look up and envision God in heaven enthroned between the mighty cherubim (Ps 99:1). Finally, look down and see the world as heaven sees. Sometimes God may seem very distant, but today He is close. The writer of your life's story is God and God has a purpose for your life. In Christ, your *real* life is just beginning. Whatever your struggle today, you can be sure of this:

You are on God's heart right now, this very moment. And God wants to personally introduce you to His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Read Genesis 1:26-27

You have been on God's heart from the beginning. The Bible says God made you in His image, to be like Him. Finding your purpose is a gift from God and *living into* your purpose is your gift back to God and to the world around you. As an image-bearer, God wants you to 'reign' in the world around you. Not harsh or irresponsibly, nor indifferent or removed—but like Him: truthful, kind, generous, and involved. The Bible also says the way to please God is by faith:

"Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see" (Hebrews 11:1).

Read Hebrews 11:5-6

Imagine your life like a giant jigsaw puzzle. Once you trust in Christ, Heaven sees the optimum you aligned with God's love and purpose. Can you see the bigger picture of *you*?

1. Read the following Scriptures regarding God's call upon individuals for specific assignments and purpose. After reading each passage, reflect a few moments about your life. What is the Lord speaking to you? What stands out to you in each passage:

Jeremiah 1:4-9

Galatians 1:15-20

Psalm 139:13-18

With the image of a jigsaw puzzle—

What pieces of your life have already been put together (in the right place)

What pieces need to be rearranged?

What pieces still need to be placed?

Just because you may not know where some of the pieces go right now, does not mean you throw the pieces away. These unknown, misfit pieces have a place to make the puzzle beautiful and complete. God knows where the pieces go. Be patient and trust Him to reveal the right order. Remember, God has 'knit' *you* together and *you* are fearfully and wonderfully made. Also, the puzzle is not all about you. The bigger picture of *you*, your purpose, is also for others.

2. The over-arching picture of the Bible (God's Word) points to the Son. Is the S-O-N anywhere on the horizon of your life? The Plain Truth states: "Seeing God's big picture helps us to picture our purpose." God's big picture is the person of Jesus Christ. Read aloud **Isaiah 60:1-3** and insert your name where you see *Jerusalem*: "Arise _____"

Jesus explains His purpose to a man named, Nicodemus. Picture yourself in the middle of the night hearing these words of Jesus to you personally—

"For God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent His Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through Him" (John 3:16-17).

The purpose of God's Son coming to this earth was to save people. The writer of Hebrews says:

"And now in these final days, He has spoken to us through His Son, God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son He created the universe. The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and He sustains everything by the mighty power of His command. When He had cleansed us from our sins, He sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven" (Hebrews 1:2-3).

Christ left heaven and came to earth so you could know God personally, and so that you could begin to understand how generous God is. You do not have to pay for all your sins! God is generous and being generous (like God) is living for others, giving beyond what is expected, and loving difficult people more than they deserve. We should no longer be controlled by our sinful nature (1 Corinthians 3:1-3), but instead grow up. God wants us to bear *His* image with others.

3. In one word, write down how can you move *one step* closer to God's purpose for you. What one step will bring you closer to a life of selflessness?

"Here is what I am willing to put into practice this week" (Write it in the space below)—

How does giving generously make you feel more like God? Jesus was quoted to have said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Briefly share with your Life Group a specific time you were "more blessed to give than to receive."



Text: Genesis 1:26-31

PLAIN TRUTH:

Seeing God's _____ helps us
to _____ our purpose.

1. Recognize the _____.

2. The Bible tells us God's _____ is
_____.

3. We have _____ - Live it
_____ for others!

One Year Bible Reading

Nov. 3: Ezekiel 7:1-9:11, Hebrews 5:1-14, Psalm 105:1-15, Proverbs 26:28

Nov. 4: Ezekiel 10:1-11:25, Hebrews 6:1-20, Psalm 105:16-36, Proverbs 27:1-2

Nov. 5: Ezekiel 12:1-14:11, Hebrews 7:1-17, Psalm 105:37-45, Proverbs 27:3

Nov. 6: Ezekiel 14:12-16:41, Hebrews 7:18-28, Psalm 106:1-12, Proverbs 27:4-6

Nov. 7: Ezekiel 16:42-17:24, Hebrews 8:1-13, Psalm 106:13-31, Proverbs 27:7-9

Nov. 8: Ezekiel 18:1-19:14, Hebrews 9:1-10, Psalm 106:32-48, Proverbs 27:10

Nov. 9: Ezekiel 20:1-49, Hebrews 9:11-28, Psalm 107:1-43, Proverbs 27:11

November 2 & 3, 2019