

# Church of God Sunday School

## WHAT IS MY PURPOSE IN LIFE?



### DAILY READINGS:

- ❑ **Monday:** You were carefully and thoughtfully created (Psalm 139:13; Jeremiah 1:5; Ephesians 2:10).
- ❑ **Tuesday:** God wants to have a special relationship with you (Exodus 33:11; James 2:23; John 15:15-16).
- ❑ **Wednesday:** Jesus told of a rich man who made his own plans for his future (Luke 12:16-21).
- ❑ **Thursday:** You were created to bring glory to God (Psalm 147:11; Colossians 1:16; Revelation 4:11).
- ❑ **Friday:** God has a general purpose for everyone (John 3:16-17; 2 Peter 3:9; 2 Corinthians 6:2).
- ❑ **Saturday:** Seek God's will for your individual purpose (Proverbs 3:1-6; Jeremiah 29:11-13).

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."* —Proverbs 3:5-6

### You Are God's Masterpiece

If you were to write the lesson title on a piece of paper, how would you go about answering this question? Would you consult a dictionary or perhaps look up information on the internet? Could these sources help you discover *your* purpose in life? If you have a purpose (and you do), who determined what that purpose is? If you were created for a special purpose (and you were), who created you? How can you find out what that purpose is and how are you to go about doing what you were created to do? All these questions can seem to be confusing. So, let us go to the beginning. In fact, we should start with the Book of Beginnings—Genesis. Verse 1 tells us who did the creating and thus who determined the purpose for everyone and everything—including you: "In the beginning God . . ."

Suppose you took some yarn and knitting needles and began to knit. You would be creating something. At first, only you would know what it should look like when you are finished. You might be knitting a blanket or a hat or a scarf; only you know the purpose of that creation. If people want to know what you are knitting, whom should they ask? Should they ask others who are nearby? Their best answer would only be a guess. To find out the truth, they would have to ask you, because you are the one who is doing the knitting (creating).

In Psalm 139:13 we read that God "did knit me together in my mother's womb" (Amplified Bible). Knitting takes time, effort, and thought. During Creation, God *spoke* things into existence, but when He created man, Genesis 2:7 tells us that God "*formed*" man. Just as a potter carefully works with clay to make a beautiful vessel, so God carefully, lovingly created you. You are not a mistake or an accident. Before God "formed you in the womb" (Jeremiah 1:5 Amplified Bible), God said He knew you. Ephesians 2:10 tells us that we are God's "workmanship" (handiwork or masterpiece).

### God Wants a Relationship With You

With all the careful planning and forming that went into making you, there must be a purpose to your life. Just as with the knitting project, to discover what your purpose is requires communicating with your Creator. He is the only One who fully knows why you are here and what you are supposed to do with your life.

While God was creating you, He must have thought about what you would look like, your personality, your abilities, and your talents. God had special plans for your life, "to give you an expected end" (Jeremiah 29:11). In other words, a future filled with hope. Perhaps God was thinking about the time when you would begin to realize who God is and that He wants a relationship with you. Can you imagine God's thoughts? He might have been thinking:

"I look forward to talking to him or her! We're going to have a beautiful friendship!"

God wants a relationship with you. Exodus 33:11 tells us of the special relationship God had with Moses: "And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend." God is not a "respector of persons" (Acts 10:34). He desires that same relationship with each one of His creations. When you have a close friendship with God, it brings glory to God.

### You Were Created for God

When determining their purpose and life goals, too many people have the same attitude as the rich man in Luke, Chapter 12. As he thought about his future, in essence, he said, "I am going to do this" and "I am going to do that."

Sadly, no consideration was given to what God wanted him to do. His plans were all centered around himself. This man did not realize it, but he would not live long enough to build greater barns or to "eat, drink, and be merry" (verse 19). When determining your purpose in life, you must acknowledge that you were created by God and for God (Colossians 1:16).

In Genesis 1:27 you can read that "God created man in his own image." Because you were created in God's image, your purpose in life cannot be fulfilled without God. You must look to Him for your answers. Why did God make you? First, you were created to give glory and praise to God and to please Him (Revelation 4:11). What does that mean and how is it accomplished? God is not pleased or glorified by a sinful life. A life of sin is described in Romans 3:23 as coming "short of the glory of God." When you acknowledge, confess, and forsake your sins, you enter into a right relationship with God. A life lived in obedience to God's commandments pleases God and brings glory to Him. In Exodus 19:5 God calls people who do this "a peculiar treasure" (or a valued possession).



### Do You Have More Than One Purpose in Life?

The wise man spoke of "a season, and a time to *every purpose* under the heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1). The plan of salvation (living in a right relationship with God) is God's purpose for every man and woman, boy and girl who has ever lived (2 Peter 3:9). This could be called a *general purpose*. When is the season or time for this purpose? Paul wrote that "*now* is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2). As soon as you understand that you are a sinner and you need a Savior, that is the time (or the season).

Once you become a Christian, you are part of God's family. Another way of describing it is that you become part of the spiritual "body of Christ" (1 Corinthians 12:27), or the Church of God. Just as your physical body has many parts (arms, legs, eyes, heart, etc.), the body of Christ has many parts (or "members"; 1 Corinthians 12:12) as well. Just as your physical body parts have different functions (or purposes), so the members in the body of Christ (the church) have different purposes. These could be called *individual purposes*.

There are no two people exactly alike. You have qualities and abilities that make you unique. God has a special purpose for your life now and in the future. How can you discover what that is? Proverbs 3:6 says, "In all thy ways acknowledge him [in other words, in everything you do, put God first], and he shall direct thy paths." God's plan for your future is not a big secret that He is keeping from you. He wants you to know what it is. He is just waiting for you to seek Him "with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13).

### Failing to Fulfill Your Purpose

When you spend your life focusing on what you think will make you happy, there will always be something missing. Solomon spent his life pursuing the things that he thought would make him happy, but in the end he said that "all is vanity" (Ecclesiastes 12:8). In other words, it is a waste of time to find life's purpose in things and people. Solomon had the best that life had to offer, but he came to realize it was all meaningless. Why? Because God's purpose is far greater than earthly relationships, achievements, wealth, or careers.



1. When determining your life's purpose, where is the best place to start? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What does Jeremiah 1:5 say about you before you were born? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What does Ephesians 2:10 call you? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Jeremiah 29:11 says that God has special plans for your life, "to give you an expected end." What does that mean? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What was special about the relationship God had with Moses? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What mistake did the rich man make (Luke, Chapter 12)? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What does Revelation 4:11 say about the reason you were created? \_\_\_\_\_

8. What is the *general purpose* for everyone? \_\_\_\_\_

9. When is the season or time for this purpose? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Why is becoming a Christian referred to as becoming part of the body of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

11. What is the difference between your *general purpose* and your *individual purpose*? \_\_\_\_\_

12. What is the best way to discover your *individual purpose*? \_\_\_\_\_

# Discovering Your Purpose

**C**onsider the stories of Moses and Esther. How did their upbringing prepare them for their purpose?

**A**ugustine said, "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee."

How do people with a restless heart act? Without God, how do people try to quiet a restless heart?

**O**ne of the 10 most searched for questions on the internet search engines is "What is the meaning of life?" Why or why not is the internet an appropriate place to search for life's meaning?

**C**onsider the following sources of information concerning finding your *individual purpose*: God, parents, Bible, teachers, pastor, and friends.

How could these sources help you? Could they hinder you? If so, how?

**C**harles Schulz once said, "I don't know the meaning of life. . . . To me it's a great mystery."

If you were asked what is the meaning of life, how would you answer?

**G**od has given you talents and abilities. How might your particular talents help with your *individual purpose*?

**W**hat does a life lived without a purpose in mind look like?

Scripture to consider: Proverbs 29:18.

# Things to Consider