

WEEK 3

GOD IS KING OVER EVERYTHING GOD HAS GIVEN US PURPOSE ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

THE FOUR KEYS . . .

KEY VERSE

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28

KEY IDEAS

1. God's purpose is always good.
2. God's purpose is always fulfilled.
3. God's purpose is for His glory.

KEY PASSAGE

Genesis 2:15-25
Supporting: Matthew 3:1-12, Luke 1:5-17 (John the Baptist)

KEY PRINCIPLES



EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW . . .

that all creation is given a purpose by God and His purpose is always good.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD FEEL . . .

thankful that God did not create us randomly but with great care and purpose. We can fulfill that purpose by following Him.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO . . .

find their purpose in life by looking to God who is the One who gives purpose to all things.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD WANT . . .

to worship God who gives purpose to all He creates.

INTRODUCTION

God created the earth and everything in it for His great purpose. God's purpose is always for the good of His creation and for His glory. That means that God has a plan for each of His children. God's plan will always be fulfilled because He is in control of all things. God's plan for Adam was to fulfill His purpose by serving God (Adam had a job to name all the animals and tend the garden), being in relationship (first to God and then to Eve) and to worship (Adam praised God for creating Eve). In the same way, God had a purpose for John the Baptist even before He was born. God's plan was for John to prophecy and tell the people of Israel that the Messiah was coming! John called the people to repent of their sins and look to the One who was coming who could save them. God's plan for John was fulfilled because His plans are always fulfilled. God gives us the same purpose: to serve God, be in relationship with God and others, and worship God for all He has done.

OPENING ILLUSTRATION

Provide each child with a blank piece of paper and crayons/colored pencils. Ask the children to draw a map to their house. Help them include any instructions or landmarks on the map that would best help a person find their house. Once they've finished, explain that when they made their map, they probably did so with the purpose of making it simple for someone to find their house. There may even be multiple ways of getting to their house, but they probably drew the simplest, quickest, and best way. Maybe the other ways would've had obstacles to overcome (more traffic, etc.). In the same way, God knows the best way for us to fulfill the purpose He has for us. If we try to go our own way, we end up getting lost.

KEY IDEAS

Read Genesis 2:15-25 and use the supporting passages to help discuss the life of John the Baptist using the following ideas.

- God's purpose is always good.
 - How can we know that God's purpose is always good? God is the standard of all that is good. (Ps. 145:9, Mark 10:18, Rom. 8:28)
 - What is God's purpose? God's purpose is that we should believe in Him, walk with Him, and obey His good commands. (John 6:40, Micah 6:8, Rom. 12:2, Matt. 6:33)
- God's purpose is always fulfilled. (Prov. 19:21)
 - Why does it matter that God's purpose is always fulfilled? God desires that all people should come to know Him by repenting of their sin. God's purpose is to reveal Himself and His glory to all people so that they might see Him and have the opportunity to believe and be saved, though not all will choose Him. (2 Peter 3:9)
- God's purpose is for His glory.
 - What is God's glory? God's glory is the presentation of His perfection and holiness to all people. He is glorified when people recognize that He is holy and worthy of all praise. (Ps. 19:1)
 - How is God glorified in His purpose? His purpose is to reveal to all people His great love for them through the sacrifice of His son Jesus and the opportunity for salvation from sin. He is glorified when we recognize all that He has done for us and praise Him for it.

Activity

Hand the children a screwdriver and a piece of paper. Tell the children that their task is to write a sentence on the paper using only the screwdriver. When they can't, say "why doesn't that work?" Explain that the screwdriver was made with a specific purpose and that wasn't for writing sentences. Next, bring in a box that has been screwed shut. Assist them in opening the box if they need help. (You have already put some candy in the box prior to this demonstration). Explain that the screwdriver has an intended purpose and when it was used for its purpose, there was blessing in it. In the same way, when we let God use us for His purpose, there is blessing.

Prayer

Thank God that His purposes are always good and that His purposes for His children are always good. Ask God to help us trust in His purpose and learn more about His purpose for our lives so that we may follow where He leads.

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

ACTIVITY

Memorize the key verse Romans 8:28.

Review the lesson and the story of John the Baptist. Discuss how God had a unique purpose for Him to prepare the way for the Messiah (Jesus) to come. Share with your child a time from your life when God guided you and fulfilled His purpose in you. Explain that God's ultimate will for each of us is the same (to love Him, to love others, and to keep His commands), but He has created us uniquely with different gifts and skills and placed us where we are for a purpose that allows us to be used by Him in different ways that bring Him glory. Just like He used John the Baptist in a unique way, He will use each of us in a unique way when we follow Him and keep His commands.

DISCUSSION

- **What was God's purpose for Adam and Eve? What was His purpose for John the Baptist?**
God commanded Adam to tend and keep the garden and to name all the animals. He gave Adam a job with purpose. Next, God gave Adam Eve so that he could have a partner and helpmate. This glorified God because it showed God's desire for relationship. Then Adam worshipped God, bringing glory to God for what He had provided. Likewise, God gave John the Baptist a job with great purpose. His job was to proclaim that coming of Jesus so that the world would know He had come to save people from their sins.
- **How was God glorified by His purposes in each of these stories?**
God was glorified in His purpose for Adam and Eve because His instructions to them revealed His great care for His creation. God was glorified in His purpose for John the Baptist because it revealed to people that He had a plan for their salvation and that Jesus was coming soon.
- **What are some ways that you can bring God glory in your life now? What skills and abilities has He given you that you can use for His glory?**

PRAYER

Thank God that His purposes are always good. Ask God to help you understand His purposes better and to help you bring Him glory through His purpose for you.