

PURPOSE

A Got Questions Ministries Mini Bible Study



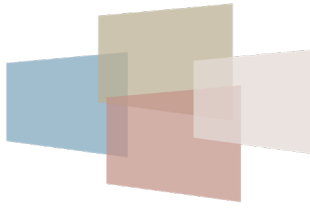


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How to Use This Mini Bible Study

Welcome to the Got Questions Ministries Bible Study! We're so glad you're here!

In these studies you will find content questions to grow your understanding, Bible search questions to dig deeper, and heartfelt questions to spark reflection and discussion. Whether you are a new or seasoned believer, using these Bible studies for personal study or as a small group/Sunday School resource, we hope you will increase in your understanding of what it means to be a follower of Christ and that you will seek Him more passionately.

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.
– Jeremiah 29:13

These Bible studies are tools to help you grow in your knowledge of the topics at hand. However, knowing about God is not the same as actually knowing Him. God invites each of us to know Him personally and to

Throughout this study, there will be information to read and questions to answer. Next to the questions will be icons. Here is your key to understanding them:



Content Qs



Engage Qs



Bible Look Up Qs



Reflection Qs

have eternal life through Him.

If we place our faith in Him, trusting in His death on the cross to pay for our sins, we will be forgiven and receive the promise of eternal life in heaven.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life..
– John 3:16

If you have not yet trusted in Him for salvation or are unsure if you are saved, please visit: www.gotquestions.org/eternal-life.html.

May God richly bless you as you seek to study His Word and grow in your walk with Him (Joshua 1:8)!





Lesson 1:

PURPOSE DAY ONE

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:3-4

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

1 John 4:9



What is the definition and meaning of purpose?



What does it look like to live life with purpose? What does not living life with purpose look like?



List out the purposes found in these verses. What do they reveal about God's ultimate purpose for all people?



What do the verses on page 4 reveal about God’s heart in His ultimate purpose for all people?

From www.bibleref.com/1-John/4/1-John-4-9.html

John shares the reason Jesus was sent: “so that we might live through him.” Jesus came to give us life. This includes eternal life (John 3:16) and an abundant, “abiding” life now. In John 10:10 Jesus taught, “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” A person experiences life at its fullest only by believing in Jesus and living for Him.



How does believing in Jesus and living for Him change the purpose of a person’s life?



How has recognizing the ultimate purpose of life shaped the rest of what you do, how you live, and your other purposes?



As you look back on God's ultimate purpose for each person, how have you responded to it?

If you believe in Him, praise Him that He has saved you and that you are living with purpose!

***If you have not yet trusted in Christ's death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins, you are not yet living in God's ultimate purpose for you. We encourage you to read the following article and respond to the truth presented there:
www.gotquestions.org/eternal-life.html***



Lesson 2: **PURPOSE DAY TWO**

*Now all has been heard;
here is the conclusion of the matter:
Fear God and keep his commandments,
for this is the duty of all mankind.
For God will bring every deed into judgment,*

*including every hidden thing,
whether it is good or evil.*

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14



What does this passage add to your understanding about our ultimate purpose in life?



What does it mean to fear God and to keep His commandments according to the following verses?

Deuteronomy 10:12:

Proverbs 1:7:

2 Corinthians 7:1:

1 John 5:1-5:



What questions or difficulties arise in your heart and mind as you reflect on the purpose of life being summed up by fearing God and keeping His commandments?



In what ways does knowing that God cares about every action impact how we live life?

From www.gotquestions.org/why-did-God-create-me.html

God created us for a purpose, but that purpose will look different for every person because we are each unique. To be created in the image of God means that we were created to be mirrors of God’s glory—one-of-a-kind mirrors that reflect the diverse aspects of His nature. A mirror serves no other purpose than to reflect something else. When a mirror is covered with mud, it cannot completely fulfill its purpose; likewise, when we are covered in sin and turned away from God, we are not living out the purpose for which we were created. But when we respond to God’s offer of salvation and allow His Holy Spirit to clean us up, we turn toward our Creator, and His glory is reflected in our lives. It is not our light or beauty the world needs to see, but His (John 8:12; 9:5).



Looking at your life now, what unique purposes do you see in your life: Where has God placed you? Where are you involved? Who are the people in your life? What things are you passionate about? What things burden you? What giftings do you have? What would you say you live for?



As you reflect on your unique purposes, remember that our ultimate purpose is to know and be saved by Christ and to live in a way that helps others know and grow in Christ. It's that simple. Everything else we do comes out of this ultimate purpose. How does this ultimate purpose reveal itself in your life pursuits? Whether you are flipping burgers, working an executive level job, taking care of children, living in the middle of nowhere, etc. you can live out God's purposes. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal how areas of your life can better reflect your ultimate purpose.



Lesson 3: PURPOSE DAY THREE

This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: “Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” Yes, this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: “Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them,” declares the LORD.

This is what the LORD says: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,” declares the LORD, “and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,” declares the LORD, “and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.”

Jeremiah 29:4-14



Read the passage above. Jeremiah 29:11 is often taken out of context and made to say a lot of things. In light of the entire passage, what do we learn about God’s purposes as seen through His interactions with Israel?



What commands and assurances did God give Israel while they were in exile?



How would these commands and assurances have given them specific purpose and hope?



What specific commands and assurances from Scripture have given you purpose and hope?



Hebrews 13:8 tells us that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. From this passage, what do we learn about the character of God that gives us hope?



God and His purposes for you anchor, sustain, and give you direction through all your circumstances. Where in your life are your circumstances clouding your ultimate and unique purposes?



This passage tells us that God wants you to find Him as you seek Him with your whole heart. Spend some time seeking Him specifically regarding His purposes for you. Praise Him for His unchanging character in giving you purpose and sustaining you as you live with both your ultimate and unique purposes.



Lesson 4:

PURPOSE DAY FOUR

*Take delight in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.*

Psalm 37:4

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.*

Proverbs 3:5-6



Read the verses above. What do these verses reveal that apply to living with purpose?

In context with the surrounding verses (Psalm 37:3, 5), this clearly refers to those whose desires are in harmony with those of God. A person who “delights in the Lord” has righteous desires. He will not desire anything that springs from selfish desires. No one can expect God to give something contrary to God’s will, or the Lord’s glory. So far as our wills are attuned to the will of God (John 14:15), our requests will be granted (John 14:14; Matthew 6:33). This idea is expressed often in the Psalms (Psalm 21:2; 145:19).



What does it mean that God will give you the desires of your heart? What does it not mean?



What does it look like to trust in the Lord and to submit to Him as opposed to leaning on your own understanding?



When have you experienced submitting your ways to God? What was the result?



When we take delight in the Lord, God promises to give us the desires of our heart and to make our paths straight. Write out some dreams and desires you have for yourself for the next year, five years, and lifetime. Submit and surrender them to the Lord and praise Him for the way He will work in and through you in these unique purposes.



Lesson 5: PURPOSE DAY FIVE

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10



Read the verses above. According to these verses, for what are we supposed to use our unique purposes and giftings?

God calls us His workmanship or His artwork, from the Greek word poiēma. We are something crafted, with skill and a purpose, by God, for His purposes. Specifically, we are “created in Christ Jesus for good works.” Good works do not give us salvation, but they are absolutely meant to be the result of salvation.

Interestingly, God prepared what He wanted us to do for Him long ago. He has already planned what He wants us to do with our lives. We do not need to copy what someone else has done or is doing. He has a unique plan for each of us to serve Him in this world. This includes certain spiritual gifts and the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives to lead us in service to Him.



How can we, as God’s handiwork, discover our unique purposes in life?



Why does God give each of us unique purposes?



Looking at your unique giftings and purposes, how are you living with purpose to help others know and grow in Christ?



How can we encourage others to live with their unique purposes so others can know and grow in Christ?



Remember, our unique purposes are lived out of our ultimate purpose.

Write out a statement you can use to remember your ultimate purpose. Your unique purposes and circumstances can change, but your ultimate purpose does not! You might apply or describe this ultimate purpose in different ways throughout your life, but the truth behind it stays the same!



Lesson 6:

PURPOSE DAY SIX

*He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.*

Micah 6:8

*So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all
for the glory of God.*

1 Corinthians 10:31

*It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you
should avoid sexual immorality*

1 Thessalonians 4:3

*Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for
you in Christ Jesus.*

1 Thessalonians 5:18

*For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence
the ignorant talk of foolish people.*

1 Peter 2:15

*And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his
commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his
command is that you walk in love.*

2 John 1:6



Read the verses above. What do they reveal about God's will for us?



People often want specifics (their unique purposes) to be revealed regarding God's will (such as where to work, who to marry, etc.), but how do these verses encourage you to live out God's will regardless of what the specifics are?



How do these aspects of God's will give us purpose?



Which of these aspects of God's will challenge you? How do they encourage and motivate you to live with purpose?



Looking at the verses above, pick one or two that you will take to heart this week. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to equip you to live out this purpose for His glory and the good of others.

After a week has passed, reflect on the impact it had on you and on others as you focused on living out this specific purpose or two.



Lesson 7:

PURPOSE DAY SEVEN

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20



Read the passage above. What does it reveal about living with purpose?



According to these verses, what specifically does God call us to do as we seek to help people know and grow in Him?



How are you living with purpose in each of these aspects of the Great Commission as seen in Matthew 28:18-20?



What assurances from this passage are personally meaningful to you as you live with purpose?



God calls us to live with ultimate and unique purposes. He also equips us to live with purpose. He gives us specifics to help us live with purpose. His Spirit lives within us (John 14:17; Ephesians 1:13-14; Titus 3:5). He is with us (Matthew 28:20).

As you reflect on the character of God and the promises He has given us in the passages we have studied, praise Him for the ways He equips you to live out the good plans He has for your life. Trust in Him, and He will make your paths straight!



WRAP UP

Now that you have studied seven lessons on purpose, take some time to reflect on what you've learned and how you will put what you've learned into practice.



How has your understanding of purpose changed or expanded as a result of what you've learned through this study? What are 2-3 truths you learned about purpose that are most meaningful to you?



What will you change in your life as a result of this study?



Who in your life would you like to see grow in their understanding of purpose? Commit to praying for them. What will you share with them about what you have learned?