

What's My Purpose?

Genesis 1:26-31; Jeremiah 29:11

The Big Idea: God made us for Himself—to love and to be loved.

Read the passage

Story Summary for Children:

In the beginning, there was nothing but God—there was no sun, no moon, or earth—until God created them. God created the heavens and the earth and everything in them. On the first day, God created light and the heavens. On the second day, God created the sky and the sea. On the third day, God made the dry land and plants. Then on the fourth day, God filled the heavens with the sun, moon and stars. On the fifth day, God filled the sea and the sky with fish and birds. On the last day, the sixth day, God filled the land with all the animals and with humans. God made the first man and woman—Adam and Eve. After every day, God saw what He created and decided it was good. But after creating people, God declared that it was very good.

Family Lesson Discussion Questions:

1. Who created everything we see? (God)
2. How many days did it take for God to create the world? (six)
3. What were the names of the first people? (Adam and Eve)

Family Lesson Discussion Questions: (we are driving at the idea that God made us with a purpose and that we are only truly happy when we are fulfilling that purpose)

1. Why do you think God made the world?
2. Why do you think God made people? (to love and to be loved)
3. When are you most happy?
4. How can you love others? How can you experience God's love?

Memory Verse: *"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."* Jeremiah 29:11

Parents: Focus on two ideas: 1) That God made everything including us, and 2) That He made us to love (with a desire to love and impact others) and to be loved (to desire love from others).

Parent Application: We want our children to learn that God is the Creator of all things, but more importantly, we want them to understand that we need to fulfill the purpose for which God made us. Ask your children to tell you when they are most happy and think for yourself about when you are most happy. Is it when you are either involved in loving someone well or someone else is loving you well? Explain to them that this is no coincidence—God created us this way. Make sure they understand that the way to find happiness is not in toys or games, but in living the way God created us to live.

A Look Ahead: Next week the Big Idea will be, "God created us to enjoy Him forever, but the choice is ours." Ask your family, "Do you want green beans or ice cream for dessert?" (you can use any choice for this—just give them a desirable choice and an undesirable choice)