

Purpose

AUDIO RESOURCES

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- ▲ **Born to Reproduce** – *Dawson Trotman*
- ▲ **Spiritual Vision** – *Andrew Stroud*
- ▲ **Vision** – *Walt Henrichsen*
- ▲ **Many Aspire, Few Attain** – *Walt Henrichsen*

"The Lord has made everything for its own purpose" Proverbs 16.4 (NASB)

"...the Lord, who created the heavens, who is God, who formed the earth and made it, who has established it, who did not create it in vain" Isaiah 45.18 (NKJV)

GOD DID NOT CREATE US FOR...

Many believe that God created us because he needed something from us or because we add significance to him in some way. What do the following passages say about this?

Acts 17.24-25

Job 35.6-7

GOD DID CREATE US FOR...

Isaiah 43.7

Ephesians 1.11-12

GOD SENT JESUS AND OFFERED FORGIVENESS BECAUSE...

Many believe that Jesus lived and died so that people could go to heaven. What do the following passages say about why God sent Jesus and why God offers forgiveness?

1Peter 3.18

2Corinthians 5.15

1John 2.12

John 3.16

Titus 2.14

John 17.1-3

THINK ABOUT IT

What is my main takeaway from this study? How does God want me to apply this?

- ▲ When receiving a gift it is important to know the giver's motivations—
"Does he expect anything in return?" "Will he be disappointed if I re-gift it next year?" **What would you say are God's motivations in offering forgiveness (1John 2.12; 2Cor 5.15) and how could this change the way you relate to God?**
- ▲ 1Peter 3.18 says that Jesus came to "bring us to God"—to know him closely. **How closely do you feel you are relating to God? What could you do to grow closer to him?**
- ▲ 2Corinthians 5.15 says that a purpose of Jesus death was that people should no longer live for themselves but for Jesus. As you meditate on this truth ask yourself, **"Is there any area of my life in which I am pursuing my own goals and interests rather than those of Jesus?"**

MAKE IT REAL

Follow Jesus now—no hesitations, no holding back!

- ▲ **EXAMINE YOURSELF** and ask God to show you if there is any area of your life in which you are living yourself and not for Jesus (2Corinthians 5.15). Repent of this and make him and **make him Lord of your life!**
- ▲ **SHARE** a story or passage from this section with 2 people this week
- ▲ **INVITE** someone to join our discussion next week

COMMIT TO MEMORY

Memorize and meditate on the verse below throughout this week (or your own favorite verse from this study)

2Corinthians 5.15

NASB

And he died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf

OPTION FOR SELF-DIRECTED STUDY

Below is a more extensive list of references for a self-directed study on this topic

GOD HAS A PURPOSE FOR MANKIND

*Proverbs 16.4

*Isaiah 45.18

DOES GOD NEED US?

Job 22.2-3

Psalms 50.10-13

Isaiah 66.1-2

Job 41.11

Proverbs 8.36

Jeremiah 7.19

*Job 35.6-7

Isaiah 40.12-29

*Acts 17.24-25

GOD'S MOTIVATIONS AND PURPOSE FOR CREATING US, SENDING JESUS, AND OFFERING FORGIVENESS

Psalm 25.11

Romans 5.8

Ephesians 2.10

Psalm 79.9

Romans 6.13

1Thessalonians 5.10

*Isaiah 43.7

Romans 11.36

*Titus 2.14

Isaiah 43.21

1Corinthians 6.20

*1John 2.12

Isaiah 48.11

1Corinthians 10.31

1John 4.9-10

Ezekiel 20.44

*2Corinthians 5.15

1Peter 2.9

Luke 1.74

Galatians 2.19

*1Peter 3.18

*John 3.16

*Ephesians 1.11-12

*John 17.1-3

Ephesians 2.4-7

**References with an asterisk are also included in the guided study*

*“Let us make man in our image’...
‘Be fruitful and multiply’”* Genesis 1.26-28

*“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or
the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to
fulfill them”* Matthew 5.17 (NASB)

GOD'S ORIGINAL INTENT FOR MANKIND

In Part 1 we observed God's motivations for creating mankind. In this study we will observe God's specific purpose for mankind. What did God say his original intent was for man in the passage below?

Genesis 1.26-28

DID GOD CHANGE HIS MIND?

Many believe that as a result of man's sinning against God (see the fall of Adam and Eve in Genesis 3) God changed his plan concerning mankind. What do the following passages say about how God's purpose for man has changed over time?

Ephesians 3.11

2Timothy 1.9

JESUS DID NOT CHANGE THE GAME PLAN

Jesus clearly stated that he did not come to change God's original plan for mankind (Mat 5.17) but rather to fulfill it. How do the passages below show that Jesus was following God's original plan from Genesis 1.26-28?

Colossians 1.15

Romans 8.29

"Let us make man in our own image, according to our likeness..." Gen 1.26

John 13.15 & Luke 6.40

John 15.8 & John 15.16

"God blessed them; and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it..." Gen 1.28

Matthew 28.18-20

JESUS CARRIED OUT THE GAME PLAN

In the following passages observe how God's original intent for mankind from Genesis 1.26-28 began to be accomplished through Jesus' first disciples.

John 15.15

John 17.6

"Let us make man in our own image, according to our likeness..." Gen 1.26

Acts 4.13

Acts 17.6

Acts 19.10

"God blessed them; and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it..." Gen 1.28

Colossians 1.3-6

THINK ABOUT IT

What is my main takeaway from this study? How does God want me to apply this?

- ▲ In order to become like Jesus, “the Image of the invisible God,” the disciples entered a very close relationship with him, spending thousands of hours together over the course of three years. **Consider the depth of your own relationship with Jesus—the degree of time and intensity that you spend in his teachings; in camaraderie with other followers of Jesus; praying for, serving, and sharing truth with people around you.**
- ▲ Everyone enters relationships with expectations of how things will turn out. Jesus entered a relationship with his disciples expecting that they would bear fruit in the lives of others and make more disciples of him after his departure (John 15.16). **How clearly do you feel that you know Jesus’ expectations for your relationship with him? What kind of relationship do you think a person can have with Jesus if he does not strive to fulfill these expectations?**

MAKE IT REAL

Follow Jesus now—no hesitations, no holding back!

- ▲ **START READING** one chapter of from Jesus’ life every day (in the Bible that’s *Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John*). Look for what Jesus expects of his followers. Look for ways to become like him.
- ▲ **SHARE** a story or passage from this section with 3 people this week
- ▲ **INVITE** someone to join our discussion next week

COMMIT TO MEMORY

Memorize and meditate on the verse below throughout this week (or your own favorite verse from this study)

Luke 6.40

ESV

“A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher”

OPTION FOR SELF-DIRECTED STUDY

Below is a more extensive list of references for a self-directed study on this topic

GOD'S UNCHANGING PURPOSE

Number 23.19	*Romans 8.29	*Ephesians 3.11
*Matthew 5.17	Ephesians 1.4	*2Timothy 1.9

GOD'S ORIGINAL INTENT FOR MANKIND

*Genesis 1.26-28	Genesis 9.1	Genesis 17.1-2
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JESUS : "LET US MAKE MAN IN OUR IMAGE"

Matthew 10.24-25	*John 13.15	2Corinthians 4.4
Matthew 28.20	John 15.12	*Colossians 1.15
*Luke 6.40	*Romans 8.29	Hebrews 1.3

BECOMING LIKE JESUS : JESUS RELATIONSHIPS WITH HIS DISCIPLES

Mark 1.17	John 1.38-39	*John 15.15
Mark 3.14	John 3.22	John 15.27
Mark 4.33-34	John 5.14-15	*John 17.6
Luke 22.28	John 12.26	*Acts 4.13

JESUS : "BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY"

Genesis 12.1-3	Matthew 25.14-29	*Acts 19.10
Genesis 15.5	*Matthew 28.18-20	Romans 7.4
Genesis 18.19	*John 15.8,16	*Colossians 1.3-6
Matthew 13.31-33	*Acts 17.6	

**References with an asterisk are also included in the guided study*

"For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" 2Peter 1.8 (NASB)

"Therefore...let us press on to maturity"
Hebrews 6.1 (NASB)

BARRIERS TO GOD'S PURPOSE

ROCKS AND THORNS

What are the barriers to fruitfulness and maturity that Jesus lists in this parable?

Mark 4.14-20

From the scripture excerpt below, how does the depth of a person's relationship to Jesus relate to his fruitfulness? How does one develop closeness with Jesus?

John 15.1-12

Another barrier to fruitfulness is immaturity. According to the excerpt below, what are some characteristics of spiritual maturity? What causes maturity?

Hebrews 5.12-14

THINK ABOUT IT

What is my main takeaway from this study? How does God want me to apply this?

- ▲ From the passages that you read in this section, **are fruitfulness and maturity regarded as exceptional or are they regarded as something that should naturally happen to all followers?**
- ▲ According to Jesus some of the barriers to fruitfulness and maturity are “the cares of the world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desire for other things” (Mark 4.18). Evaluate your own life. **Are there “other things” that take priority over your relationship with God?**
- ▲ What do you think the writer in Hebrews 5.12-14 means by “milk” and “solid food”? **What will it mean for you to transition from “milk” to “solid food”?**

MAKE IT REAL

Follow Jesus now—no hesitations, no holding back!

- ▲ **FIND A MATURE DISCIPLE** of Jesus whose life has clearly been fruitful (there are people that he has discipled and influenced who are following Jesus and multiplying). Ask him (or her) to share his story. Find out what things he gave his life to that caused him to mature and be fruitful.
- ▲ **SHARE** a story or passage from this section with 3 people this week
- ▲ **INVITE** someone to join our discussion next week

COMMIT TO MEMORY

Memorize and meditate on the verse below throughout this week (or your own favorite verse from this study)

John 15.16

ESV

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you”

OPTION FOR SELF-DIRECTED STUDY

Below is a more extensive list of references for a self-directed study on this topic

KEYS AND BARRIERS TO MATURITY AND FRUITFULNESS

Matthew 6.33	1Corinthians 3.2	1John 2.14
Matthew 7.24-27	*Hebrews 5.11-6.1	1John 3.24
*Mark 4.14-20	1Peter 2.2	1John 4.12
*John 15.1-16	2Peter 1.3-10	

**References with an asterisk are also included in the guided study*

Below is the full text for the Bible passages referenced in this study. Text is taken from the English Standard Version (ESV) unless otherwise noted.

PROVERBS 16.4 The Lord has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble

ISAIAH 45.18 Thus says the Lord, who created the heavens, who is God, who formed the earth and made it, who has established it, who did not create it in vain... (NKJV)

ACTS 17.24-25 “The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.”

JOB 35.6-7 “If you have sinned, what do you accomplish against him? And if your transgressions are multiplied, what do you do to him? If you are righteous, what do you give to him? Or what does he receive from your hand?”

ISAIAH 43.7 everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

EPHESIANS 1.11-12 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

1 PETER 3.18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit

2 CORINTHIANS 5.15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

1 JOHN 2.12 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name’s sake.

JOHN 3.16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

TITUS 2.14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

JOHN 17.1-3 When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

MATTHEW 5.17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”

GENESIS 1.26-28 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

EPHESIANS 3.11 This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord

2 TIMOTHY 1.9 who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,

COLOSSIANS 1.15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

ROMANS 8.29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestines to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren

JOHN 13.15 "For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you."

LUKE 6.40 "A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher."

JOHN 15.8 "By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

JOHN 15.16 "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you."

MATTHEW 28.18-20 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

JOHN 15.15 "I no longer call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you."

JOHN 17.6 "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word."

ACTS 4.13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

ACTS 17.6 And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also"

ACTS 19.10 This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

COLOSSIANS 1.3-6 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing--as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth

2 PETER 1.8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

HEBREWS 6.1 Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God

MARK 4.14-20 "The sower sows the word. And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown. when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. And these are the ones sown on rocky ground. the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold."

JOHN 15.1-16 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you."

HEBREWS 5.12-24 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.