

YOUR STORY GOD'S GLORY

PURSUING THE PURPOSE OF LIFE

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Your Story | God's Glory: Finding Purpose in Your Place

On a scale of 1-to-5, how certain are you that your life has real purpose? (Circle one)

1	2	3	4	5
I'm pretty sure life's an accident	Life means whatever ever you want it to be	There must be some reason for life, right?	I think I'm here for a reason	Yeah I know my life's purpose

Can you explain a bit about why you answered the way that you did?

INTRO: Your Story | God's Glory: Pursuing the Purpose of Life

Welcome to our new season of Story Groups based on our message series called "Your Story | God's Glory"! Starting this week, we're going to spend a month learning about the purpose of life according to the Bible. Whether you're someone who loves the Bible or you consider yourself a skeptic, or any combination of the two, I'm really glad you're here, and I'm looking forward to this month-long journey of learning more about life's purpose with my Story family!

Love, Pastor Eric

This week we'll learn about finding PURPOSE in your PLACE.

Colossians 1:15-16 *The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.*

What does this passage reveal about Jesus ("the Son"), especially regarding his power and place over all of creation?

YOUR STORY GOD'S GLORY

PURSUING THE PURPOSE OF LIFE

Paying special attention to the last phrase in this passage - *all things have been created through him and for him* - what can we learn about the purpose of all created things?

Based on this passage, how should we describe our *place* in the world, especially in relation to God?

Finding PURPOSE in your PLACE means embracing your life's mission:

You exist to _____, _____, and _____!

1. You exist to _____.

Romans 12:1-2 *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

What is worship?

What does the act of *surrender* have to do with worshiping God?

2. You exist to _____.

YOUR STORY GOD'S GLORY

PURSUING THE PURPOSE OF LIFE

Romans 12:3-8 *For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*

What is service?

Make a list of the different gifts the Apostle Paul listed in this passage along with a modern-day example of what it might look like to put each gift to use (example: "Teaching: serving with The Story's Student Ministries to teach young people about the Bible").

3. You exist to _____.

Romans 12:9-12 *Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.*

In the context of this passage, what is love?

What does how we treat each other say about how much we love God? (John 15:9-17 & 1 John 4:7-11)

Why might it be so important for us to learn how to love God and each other during our time on earth? (1 Corinthians 13:13)