



ENTER God's presence

Psalm 100

A psalm. For giving grateful praise.

- ¹ Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
- ² Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.
- ³ Know that the Lord is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his[a];
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
- ⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.
- ⁵ For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Pray: Heavenly Father, you made us, and we belong to you. You have given us life and breath, and our purpose is found in knowing you, loving you, and bringing you praise. As we open your Word together, clear our minds of distractions, open our hearts to your truth, and guide our conversation so that we see more clearly the life you have called us to live in Christ Jesus. In whose name we pray. Amen.



SHARE life together

1. **What are your highs and lows since you last met?**
2. **When have you experienced being 'in the zone' – that feeling of doing what you feel like you were just born to do.**
3. **What have you heard others say about you in the past? How did their words affect you?**

This week we begin a new sermon series and therefore, a new LifeGroup guide series called "Since you asked...". Over the next six weeks, we'll be looking at some of the most frequently Googled questions about life, faith, and God, and seeing what God's Word might have to say in response to those questions. The main purpose of this is not to provide you with a slick argument that you can use to answer your friends when they

Week beginning:
Monday 8th September 2025

Worship series:
Since you asked...
#1 Does Life Have A Purpose?



VERSE for the week

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

1 Peter 2:9

(Full Text – 1 Peter 2:4-10)



REMEMBER this week

Our purpose is to live the reality of who God says we are.

ask you difficult questions, although that may sometimes be a bonus side effect. What we really hope is that as we wrestle with the actual questions people are asking, it might also address some of the unasked questions and secret doubts that many Christians have themselves but are often too afraid to ask.

So this week we ask, 'does life have a purpose?' It seems that today there are two main philosophies outside of Christianity, that want to provide an answer to that question. On the one hand there is the secular scientific theory proposed by the famous atheist and biologist, Richard Dawkins in his book 'The Selfish Gene', who suggests that the only purpose in life is the passing on of our genetic code to the next generation. The alternative is the increasingly popular humanist philosophy that tells us that the meaning or purpose of life is to discover your 'authentic self' and to be the 'real' you. In both cases purpose is wrapped up in our identity. If, as Richard Dawkins suggests, we are in fact just a random collection of genetic material trying to ensure its survival by duplicating itself into the next generation then his argument makes sense. If it is true that our identity is something that we can discover and define for ourselves then we have problems when other people try to define or identify themselves, or us, in ways that conflict with our own definitions.

It is true that our purpose is deeply connected to our identity, but it has to be the right identity. Where better to go for an accurate definition of our identity and purpose than to the one who created us. So, let's read **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14** and **1 Peter 2:4-10** [HERE](#) or in your own Bible.

4. **Try to summarise the main idea of these passages.**
5. **What verse/concept/teaching in these readings caught your attention and what was challenging/confronting/comforting about them for you?**
6. **'The Teacher' who writes the book of Ecclesiastes has spent the rest of the book trying to find purpose in all sorts of things, wisdom and knowledge, hard work, fame and wealth, frivolity and excessive living, you name it, and he's tried it. These verses are his conclusion after all his searching. Why do you think he lists "fear God" and "keep his commands" as life's purpose?**
7. **In 1 Peter 2:9-10, Peter describes God's people with several titles. What do these titles (chosen people, royal priesthood, holy nation, God's special possession) tell us about God's purpose for his people?**



Both Ecclesiastes and 1 Peter 2:4-10 point us to the same truth: life's ultimate purpose is not found in ourselves but in God – revering Him, living by His Word and proclaiming his greatness. Think about standing in front of an abstract sculpture in a gallery. You might admire it, question it, or even be puzzled by it. You can guess at its meaning and intended purpose, but the only one who truly knows its purpose is the sculptor who created and shaped it. In the same way, we can search for meaning in many places – and sometimes we may even discover part of the truth – but only our Creator can reveal the true and full purpose he has in mind for his creation and his creatures.

8. **If many people today look for purpose in success, relationships, or personal fulfilment, how do the Bible's answers in Ecclesiastes and 1 Peter offer a different perspective?**
9. **Peter describes believers as being built together into a spiritual house. What difference might it make in our world if people understood their purpose as something shared in community, rather than pursued individually?**
10. **Both passages highlight that our purpose is received from God rather than invented by ourselves. How might that truth bring clarity or freedom in the midst of the confusion people often feel about meaning and identity today?**



LIVE purposefully

MAKE IT REAL:

We've considered how God, as our Creator, is the one who defines our true purpose, and how Scripture gives us a clearer vision of that purpose in Christ. Just as an abstract sculpture can puzzle us unless we ask the artist, and clay cannot tell the potter how to shape it, we can trust that God knows exactly how to shape our lives for his glory and our good. The next step is to bring this truth closer to home—what it means for the way we live, the choices we make, and the hope we carry in our daily lives.

11. **If our purpose is to glorify God and proclaim his greatness, what might that look like in the ordinary rhythms of your week (work, home, relationships)?**
12. **Peter describes believers as a “chosen people” and a “royal priesthood”. How might embracing that identity shape the way you approach the opportunities and challenges you face?**
13. **When life feels confusing or lacking direction, how could remembering that our Creator defines our purpose help to steady and guide you in those times?**

Plan your weekly devotions or [download the Church Central app](#) for the daily **LifeWay Devotions**



PRAY intentionally

- **Praise the Father**, for the purpose and dignity he has given to each of us by making us in His image and giving us the divine purpose of making Him known through all the world.
- **Thank Jesus** for demonstrating the power of a life lived in the purpose which God has ordained.
- **Ask the Holy Spirit** to grow you in confidence in the plans and purposes God has for your life.
- Pray for all of LifeWay as we continue to grow into God's plans and purpose for us as his people as we live his love, share his hope with all, and grow in grace together.



BLESS one another

You might like to address one person in your group and make the sign of the cross on their forehead or on the palm of their hand as you say...

[Name], You are God's treasured possession. Amen.