Week 2: Made for God

Overview: This week, we will tackle one of the most common questions humans ask: "What's my purpose in life?" Through Ephesians, students will discover that their purpose isn't something they have to create on their own, it has already been prepared by God. We were created in Christ Jesus for good works, prepared beforehand for us to walk in (Ephesians 2:10). We don't work for our salvation but have received salvation through Jesus. Because we have been saved by grace, we are free to live the purposeful life God has prepared for us.

Key Scripture: Ephesians 2:1-10

Supporting Scripture: 1st Corinthians 10:31

Content

Key Take Away: When we see God rightly, we can see our purpose and our work rightly.

Key Points

- Purpose starts with God (Ephesians 2:1-5)
    - We were made by God (reintroduce last week's truth)
        - Our purpose begins with our creator
        - We don't have to invent our purpose for ourselves
    - We were made alive by God
        - We were dead in our transgressions…
            - Who were you before Christ? Chasing approval, image, performance, relationships, etc.
            - But God, rich in mercy…He rescues us and made us new!
        - Our purpose flows from the salvation and new life he has given us
- We were made for Good Works (Ephesians 2:6-10)
    - We are saved by Grace, not by works
        - We cannot earn our salvation
        - When we have the right view of our work, we can embrace that we don't work for our salvation; we work from it.
            - Our worth is not determined by what we accomplish, rather by the one who has purchased us.
    - We are created for good works
        - We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus
            - This is an IDENTITY claim before a MISSION claim

            - Purpose isn't a to do list…it's who you are.
        - God has already prepared good works for us to walk in
        - Good works don't make you God's workmanship; being God's workmanship produces good work.
- Everything can be done for Gods glory (1st Corinthians 10:31)
    - Purpose isn't limited to Christian "things"
        - School, sports, work, friendships, hobbies and our futures all matter to God
    - Our purpose is ultimately God's glory
        - The question isn't simply "what do I want to do?"
            - You don't need to invent a purpose; you get to walk in one God already prepared.
            - The question should be reversed to "how can I glorify God with what he has given me?"

Gospel Application: Jesus has already accomplished what we could never accomplish for ourselves, so we don't have to prove our worth through what we do. We rest in what Christ has done for us and live from the grace we have received. Our purpose is to take the life God has given us and use it all for His glory.

Key Question: Am I living for my own purposes, or for the Glory of God?

Application

Activity Suggestions

- (This could be used for any message) Play "sword drills" as an introduction to some of the Scripture in the message. Divide the room into two teams. Make sure students get in groups of 2-3 where they have a Bible. Have a leader call out verses and whoever stands up first to share gets points.
- Ask students to write down where one step they can take to be faithful to God's work **right now.** This could act as a catalyst for students to get involved in their school bible clubs or to start one.

Community Group Questions

- Recap: **You are made alive by God.** What does this mean for you?
- Can you think of a moment when you felt like your worth was determined by what you did or accomplished? (Leaders, point your small group to recognize the importance of how our worth is instead determined by **God's work**)

- Why do you think it's sometimes hard to live for God's glory outside of our "church walls"?
- What's one "ordinary" part of your life right now (a class, a team, a friendship, a job) that you've never thought of as an act of worship? What would it look like for you to do that "for the glory of God" this week?
- In this week, what is one step you can take to do everything to God's glory?