



Lesson 2

Why Am I Alive?

Tips for Family Discipleship

- Adapt this content to meet the needs of your family
- Focus on Jesus
- Be a guide, not a general
- Feed your own growth
- Share personal stories/testimonies
- Pray with your child and for your child

Families of younger children might choose to work together on a project that encompasses the three points in today's lesson. Pick a Bible story to read together (know God), then have your child share (helping others know God) what he/she has learned by either drawing a picture to give away or by acting out the story in a video to send to someone (loving others).

Introduction

Everyone has a "worldview," a perspective or outlook by which one interprets life. As a parent, it is important to help shape how your child "sees" the world. It is common to ask, "Why do I exist?" and "What is my purpose?" For those that don't know the Lord, this question can be discouraging. As a believer, one can be comforted knowing that God made us, loves us, and has a purpose and plan for us. As you lead your child through this lesson (and in your daily struggles and victories), remember to always point your child to Jesus.

SUPPLIES NEEDED: Two bowls, one spoon, one fork, water

ACTIVITY: Put water in one bowl. Give your child a fork and ask him/her to transfer the water from one bowl to the other. When that doesn't work, let your child use the spoon to successfully transfer the water.

DISCUSS: Having the right tool for the job makes a big difference. The spoon and the fork were created for different purposes. Our purpose is to glorify God by knowing Him, loving others, and telling others about Him. When we try to make our lives about something other than God, we run into problems.

PRAY: Father God, You are the One who gives purpose to our lives. Help us to use our time to learn about You, think about You, love others, and tell them about Jesus.



To follow Jesus well, we have to think about the question, "Why am I alive?" To live our Christian life to the fullest, we have to realize that we have been created by God for a purpose.

When we study Scripture, we find that our purpose can be divided into three parts. Fill out the blanks on the activity sheet as we go through each point.

Point #1 - To know God

God is the reason for our existence. All that we are, and everything we do, is to revolve around the knowledge of Him (point to your head).

(There is a motion to accompany each of today's points. Although you might feel silly doing the motions, try them anyway. They will help your family remember this lesson.)

OPEN YOUR BIBLE

READ Genesis 1:26.

Have your child find the word "image."

According to the Bible, humans are designed to be like God. Does that mean we look like God or that God looks like us? No, but there are other ways we are like God. One of the ways we are made in the image of God is that we are created for relationship. God wants us to know Him. We know Him best when we follow His Son, Jesus.

Jesus came to earth to live as a substitute for us. Our sin requires death, so Jesus died in our place. He could do that because He was fully man and fully God. Though Jesus, each of us has the opportunity to overcome sin and fulfill God's purpose for our lives – to know God!



Look in a mirror while standing beside your child. Do you have any physical similarities? What about similarities in personality? Athleticism? Artistic ability? Remind your child that he/she was made in God's image, which means he/she wasn't made to look like God, but was made for a relationship with Him.

How is your personal relationship with the Lord? To know God is more than knowing about God; He desires an intimate relationship with you, which is why He sent His Son, Jesus. Spend some time discussing what this means. For more resources on how to discuss salvation with your children, go to tabernaclebaptist.org/kids.

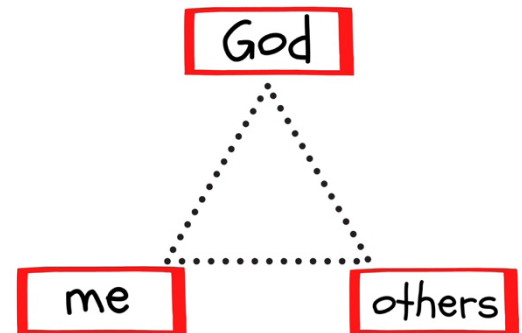
Stuff to Talk About

Point #2 - To Love Others

To live our Christian life to the fullest, we have to realize that we have been created by God for a purpose. Our purpose can be broken down into three parts. Not only do we need to know God (point to your head), we also need to love others (point to your heart).

As previously discussed, we are made to be relational beings. We need a healthy relationship with God and healthy relationships with others. Have your child trace the triangle on the back of his/her Activity Sheet. In the three boxes, write the words, "me" (or write his/her name), "God," and "others."

If we want to live a life full of purpose and fulfillment, we must learn to live in a triangle of healthy relationship, knowing God, and loving other people.



Have your child use his/her body to make the letters, "J.O.Y."

J – extend arms and bend one leg

O – circle arms over head

Y – extend arms straight above head

"J" is for "Jesus," who should come first in our lives, "O" is for "others, then "Y" for "yourself." We can use these letters to help us remember how to prioritize our time and attention, which ultimately brings us joy.



Point #3 - To Help Others Know God

Our purpose in life does not end with knowing God (point your head) and loving others (point to your heart). There is something more God wants us to do.

God wants us to reflect His “image” to others. What does that mean? How we act (hold out your hands) can help other people know God. And don’t forget - part of how we act is also what we say! When we show love, patience, kindness, and self-control toward others, we are shining the light of Christ in a dark world. We are helping others to know God.

Whether we want to or not, we represent God to those who don’t know Him. When others look at how we act (our walk and our talk), they should see light, not darkness. They should see the light of Jesus in us. (Since they are concrete thinkers, younger kids may need some help understanding this concept.)

**OPEN YOUR
BIBLE**

READ Matthew 5:16.

Have your child find the word “image.”

Stuff to Talk About

Why does it matter how you act and what you say? Does your attitude help others know God? Parents, share a time when your actions or words either helped or hurt your witness for Christ.

Encourage your child to share what he/she knows about Jesus with others (grandparents, neighbors, friends). Even if your child hasn’t made the decision to follow Christ, it is still important to have frequent faith discussions. By using daily situations to initiate faith-based conversations, you will shape your child’s worldview and will help your child understand his/her need to follow Jesus.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Follow Me Challenges

PERSONAL: Last week we began creating a list of five people we know who need the love of Jesus (our “My 5 List”). This week, Identify 2 to 3 people in your marketplace or places of recreation/hobbies to add to your “My 5 List.”

PUBLIC: Participate in, invite folks to, and/or donate for a TBC Backyard Egg Hunt. More information can be found at tabernaclebaptist.org/events.

PRAYER: Pray for...

- people on your “My 5 List.”
- TBC Backyard Egg Hunts.