

Our Purpose: Session 1

1. Everything starts with God!

The Lord has made everything for his own purpose.

PROVERBS 16:4 (GW)

Everything, absolutely everything . . . got started in him and finds its purpose in him.

COLOSSIANS 1:16 (THE MESSAGE)

For everything comes from God alone. Everything lives by his power, and everything is for his glory. To him be glory evermore.

ROMANS 11:36 (TLB)

2. God is love.

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God . . . Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

1 JOHN 4:7–8 (NIV)

3. God wanted a family to demonstrate his love.

When I think of the wisdom and scope of his plan, I fall down on my knees and pray to the Father of all the great family of God—some of them already in heaven and some down here on earth.

EPHESIANS 3:14–15 (TLB)

4. God's family is the church!

God's family is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

1 TIMOTHY 3:15 (GW)

5. God's family will last forever, outlasting everything else in creation.

[God] has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end.

ECCLESIASTES 3:11 (NLT)

[We have] the hope of life forever, which God promised to us before time began. And God cannot lie.

TITUS 1:2 (NCV)

6. Although God created us last, he thought of us first. He planned the universe for his family.

I am your Creator. You were in my care even before you were born.

ISAIAH 44:2 (CEV)

He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession.

JAMES 1:18 (NLT)

7. God didn't reveal his plan until he sent Jesus.

And God gave me the work of telling all people about the plan for his secret, which has been hidden in him since the beginning of time. He is the One who created everything. His purpose was that through the church all the rulers and powers in the heavenly world will now know God's wisdom, which has so many forms. This agrees with the purpose God had since the beginning of time, and he carried out his plan through Christ Jesus our Lord.

EPHESIANS 3:9–11 (NCV)

8. Jesus makes the whole plan possible.

It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for . . . part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.

Ephesians 1:11–12 (THE MESSAGE)

[Jesus] died for us so that . . . we can live with him forever.

1 Thessalonians 5:10 (NLT)

This is the plan: At the right time [God] will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth.

Ephesians 1:10 (NLT)

9. The time is getting closer.

All creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. The creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay.

Romans 8:19, 21 (NLT)

No mere man has ever seen, heard, or even imagined what wonderful things God has ready for those who love the Lord.

1 Corinthians 2:9 (TLB)

10. In the meantime, we can practice for eternity.

We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed.

Titus 2:12–13 (NLT)