

**Big Idea:** You were created on purpose, for a purpose.

**Primary Scripture:** Ephesians 2:8-10

**Supporting Scripture:** Isaiah 64:8

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### **CAPTURE (Why should students pay attention to and care about your message?)**

- Have you ever tried something you thought you'd be good at, but then you just *weren't*?
- The problem is that sometimes, things are just more difficult than we think they're going to be.
- In those moments, it's easy to start questioning yourself.
- Some of you might be feeling that way right now.
- You look around at other people, and it seems like they've got it figured out, like they know their purpose. They know what they're good at. They know where they're going.
- And then you look at yourself and you're just not sure.
- Maybe you feel average. Like you're not great at anything particular. Like you're just... here.
- Or maybe you do have gifts. Maybe you are really good at something. But you have no idea what you're supposed to do with it.
  - Cool... I'm good at basketball. But so what? What's the point?
- We're in the third week of our series called **Done**.
  - We're looking at what Jesus has already accomplished. Not what we need to do but what He's already done.
  - This week we're talking about **purpose**.
    - **Having purpose and knowing your purpose are two different things.**
- What if your purpose is already there but you just haven't realized it yet?

### **SCRIPTURE (What does God's Word say?)**

- About 2,000 years ago, the Apostle Paul wrote a letter to a group of new Christians who were most likely wrestling with the same thing.

***<sup>8</sup> God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. <sup>9</sup> Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. <sup>10</sup> For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. (Ephesians 2:8-10 – NLT)***

- That word *masterpiece* in the original Greek is the word is *poiema*.
  - It's where we get our word *poem* from.
  - It means a work of art. Something crafted with incredible care and purpose.
- God is calling *you* His poem. *You* are His work of art.
- When an artist creates a masterpiece, it doesn't *just happen*. There's thought behind it. Care. Attention. They pour themselves into it.
  - That's exactly what Paul's words are saying about you.
  - You are God's *poem*. His *work of art*. His *masterpiece*.
- But why does it feel like so many of us walk around feeling like we're more of a *rough draft*?

## **INSIGHTS (What might this Scripture mean?)**

### **1. Masterpieces don't make themselves.**

- Paintings don't paint themselves, sculptures don't sculpt themselves, and you didn't make yourself either.
- You didn't choose your personality, your wiring, your gifts. Someone else did. God did.

***<sup>8</sup> And yet, O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, and you are the potter. We all are formed by your hand. (Isaiah 64:8 – NLT)***

- Imagine a lump of clay saying, "I'm not enough. I'm weird. I'll never become anything of value."
- The potter would just keep working. Because the clay isn't the one deciding what the potter is making. It's the other way around.
  - It's the same with you.
- Those labels don't get the final word. God does.
- Regardless of the labels you've been carrying... you are already the masterpiece God intended you to be.

### **2. Your purpose isn't hidden... it's being revealed.**

- The truth is, God has already wired each of you with specific gifts, interests, and passions.
- God didn't give you those gifts randomly. He gave them to you so you could use them **for Him**.
- I heard a story about a student who went on a mission trip to Costa Rica with his high school youth group.
- He was quiet, kind of shy, and struggled with confidence. And just like some of us, deep down, he felt like he didn't have much to offer.
- One day... the team went to serve with a local group at a small skateboard park. Their only job was to teach kids how to skateboard and to let them know that they were always welcome to visit the local church with their families.
- No one expected it, but this student **came alive**.
- He was probably the best skateboarder the small skate park had ever seen. He was doing tricks that nobody else could do.
- But he was also teaching kids... coaching them... bonding with them... and telling them about why Jesus was such an important part of his life.
- Plain and simple, he never thought that his talent could be used by God to make a difference in the lives of others.
- What's amazing, though, is that he didn't discover a new gift that day. He discovered that a gift he **already had** was part of God's purpose for him all along.
- And just like He did for that high school student skateboarding in Costa Rica, God has also been preparing you to do good works.
- Maybe you already know what those good works are, but if not, it's also possible that He's just waiting for the perfect moment to reveal your purpose.

### 3. God gives *ordinary* people *extraordinary* purpose.

- Who does God usually choose to do extraordinary things?
  - If you flip through the Bible, you'd expect it to be the ones who have it all together, but that's not what you find.
    - Moses most likely had a speech impediment.
    - David was only a little kid when he fought Goliath.

- Gideon was scared, even though he was supposed to lead an army.
- Jesus' disciples were fishermen and tax collectors, not religious leaders.
  - They were all just ordinary people that God chose to use in extraordinary ways.
- God isn't promising to make *you* extraordinary. He's promising to give you extraordinary *purpose*.

### **ACTION (How could we live this out?)**

#### **1. Ask someone to tell you what they see.**

- Find someone who knows you well that you can trust to be both honest and kind. Someone like a parent, a coach, a teacher, a leader, or a friend.
  - Ask them: "What do you think I'm good at? What gifts do you see in me?"
  - Then really listen to what they have to say.
- Consider asking more than just one person, because each person you ask might see something that somebody else might miss. You'll get a fuller picture by asking more people.
- Don't just ask someone who's going to instantly tell you that you're awesome at everything.
- These conversations might help you discover gifts you didn't know you had, strengths you've been overlooking, or potential God has already given you that you just haven't noticed yet.
- Write down what they say. Compare notes. Keep a list.
- You might be surprised what patterns start to emerge.

#### **2. Try serving in a new way.**

- This week, the challenge is to serve others in a way that you haven't before.
- Try something new. Step into something you've never done. And then pay attention to how it feels.
- Ask yourself questions like...
  - Did the time fly by, or did it drag?
  - Did you feel energized or drained afterward?

- Did you walk away thinking, “I could definitely do that again,” or was it more like, “Please never make me do that again”?
- Remember, you're not failing if something doesn't fit. You're learning. You're narrowing it down. You're one step closer to understanding the good works that God wired you for.
- Your purpose isn't something you have to create from scratch. It's already there. Sometimes you just have to do a little work to find it.