

Junior Soldiers

Unit 13 : Lesson 2



I have a Purpose

PURPOSE: For the children to explore and understand that they have a purpose in life and that God has a thoughtfully and carefully designed plan FOR them.

‘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 2:10 (NLT)

Consider & Prepare

Read:

- Jeremiah 1:5
- Psalm 139:13-16

“Why am I here? Where is my life heading? What is my purpose? “I wonder if you have ever asked yourself these questions. Children face these questions too. The children may be surprised and helped to learn that God knew them before they were born, created them with intentionality and has plans for their future. In this lesson the children will explore these truths.

What you will need:

For ‘Connecting In’:

- Toothbrush
- Spoon
- Spatula
- Tongs
- Screwdriver
- Some butter and bread
- An apple
- Cold cooked spaghetti

For 'The Main Thing':

- Bible
- Play dough
- Paper
- Pencils

For 'Tying In':

- Butcher paper
- Markers and pencils

For 'Memory Verse'

- Write the highlighted words from the verse below on separate pieces of paper
"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 2:10 (NLT)**

For 'Home and Beyond':

- Print off the Home and Beyond card for each child.

Connecting In

Today we are going to talk about the word 'purpose'.

When I was in trouble as a kid, adults would sometimes ask: 'Did you do it on purpose?' Have you ever been asked that? What do you think an adult means when they say 'on purpose'?

Allow time for the children to respond

Another way of saying 'on purpose' might be 'deliberate', 'intentional', 'not by accident' or 'what I meant to do'.

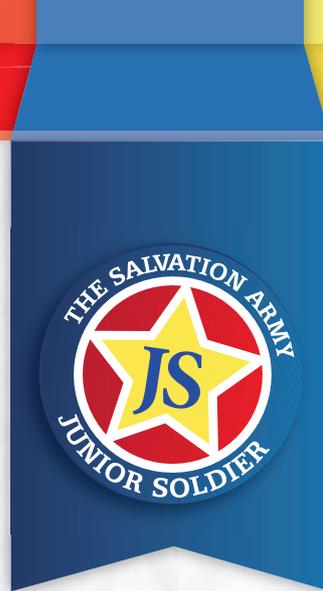
The Bible tells us that when God created you it was **on purpose**. It was:

- intentional
- deliberate
- not an accident
- what God meant to do

Listen to these words from Psalm 139:13-16 (NLT):

*You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body
and knit me together in my mother's womb.*

*Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex!
Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.*



*You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion,
as I was woven together in the dark of the womb.*

*You saw me before I was born.
Every day of my life was recorded in your book.
Every moment was laid out
before a single day had passed.*

Isn't it cool to think that God made you just as you are and put you on this earth **on purpose**?

Activity:

- Place the toothbrush and other items on a table
- Ask each child to pick an item
- Assign them a task to perform with that item (Give them a task that is not suited to the item. For example, ask a child to butter bread with a toothbrush or cut an apple with a screwdriver).
- Ask the children: "Why was the task difficult to do?"
- Explain (or expand on what the children have already told you) that these items were created for a specific **purpose**. They were made to do certain things. So were people!
- So God made each of us on **purpose** and **for a purpose**.

The Main Thing

I would like you to take your Bibles and break into five groups. *If you have a small group then use one or two of the Scriptures below.*

We are going to do a few activities within these groups.

Give each group one of the following passages of Scripture:

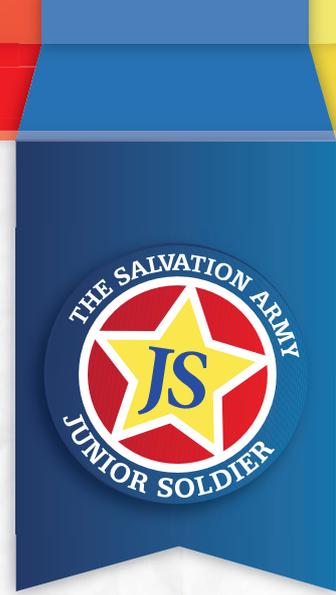
Cornelius: Acts 10:3-8, 30-36

Esther: Esther 4

Moses: Exodus 3

Samuel: 1 Samuel 3

Disciples: Matthew 4: 18-22



In each group do the following:

- Summarise the story. This may involve looking at the verses BEFORE the scripture given to you and a few AFTER the assigned scripture.
- What was the time in history? What was happening at that time?
- What did you notice about the main character?
- Did God call them? How?
- What was the **purpose** they were called for?
- Create a way to capture/retell the story. You can do this through play dough, a drawing, a poem – whatever you like.
- Share your findings with the group



It is true that God designed us each for a unique purpose. But God has an over-all plan for the salvation of the whole world (the big story) and we are each part of that.

Ask a volunteer from your group to read Ephesians 1:11-12 (The Message).

It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone. Ephesians 1:11-12 (The Message)

Tying In

God has designed you specifically how He wanted. You may not have really considered that or you think you don't have a lot to offer, yet God has given you skills and talents to use to grow His kingdom.

The thing is; you have to use these skills for the right tasks. Think back to the exercise we did at the beginning? Buttering bread with a toothbrush was never going to work properly. Matching up our talents to the needs and hurts we see in the world is the key to discovering what God wants for us. Then we can be used for God's glory.

Divide the children into groups of two or three.
Give each group a sheet of butchers paper and a marker.

On your paper:

- Write the things that you are good at doing
- Write the things you like to do
- Next to each one, write a way God could use those talents for the kingdom

Remember: You were made by God and for God's plan. You have a unique personality and skill set that God gave to YOU.

Memory Verse

"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 2:10 (NLT)



Write the memory verse on a whiteboard or large sheet of paper. Ask the children to read it together a couple of times. Clean the board/ take down the paper.

Choose 10 children and give them each one of the prepared cards. (If you have a small group lay the cards out on the floor.) Ask these children to stand in order and hold up the cards. Invite all of the children to say the verse again, using the cards to help. Take away one or two of the cards and say the verse again. Continue removing cards until the children can say the verse without assistance.

Prayer Activity

Place the sheets of paper used in the 'Tying In' activity on the floor. Ask the children to sit around their paper and place their hand on one of the talents that they wrote down. Invite the children to say the talent aloud. You might like to have them all do this at the same time to make it easier for those children who are not comfortable speaking in front of the group.

Let's pray:

"Dear God we thank you that you have a plan for not only the greater world, but for us and OUR immediate world. Thank you that our lives have meaning and purpose – that we have a purpose right NOW where we are; we can make a difference, we can have direction. We thank you that you have given us talents and skills to be used for you. Help us to find those skills and to know how to use them for your glory. Amen."

Home & Beyond

Print off the 'Home and Beyond' cards attached. The children might like to keep these in their journals or notebook where they could write or stick the challenges, reflect, answer questions or complete activities each week.

- This week use one of your talents for God.
- Speak to a family member or your Big Bud and ask them what they think their purpose in life is.

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