**Topic: Finding Your Purpose**

**Bible Passage: Psalm 139:13-16, Jeremiah 29:11, Esther 3 & 4**

**Activity: Puzzle Relay**

Divide preteens into small groups. Give each group a 50-piece jigsaw puzzle. Instruct preteen to work as a group to complete the puzzle. Give prizes to the group that finishes the puzzle first.

**After the activity, say:** How many pieces were in your jigsaw puzzle? Have you ever tried to put together a puzzle that is missing a piece? What if you finished putting the whole thing together, and then you discovered that there was an extra piece? That would be ridiculous, wouldn’t it? A puzzle clearly says on the outside how many pieces are in the box, and there is always that exact number of pieces. There has to be because every piece is necessary. There is a place for every piece. And each piece helps the next piece to fit into the puzzle. Every piece is important. Every piece has a purpose.

**You are wonderfully made by a God that has a purpose for you.**

Listen to the word King David wrote in Psalm 139:

13 For you created my inmost being;   
   you knit me together in my mother’s womb.   
14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;   
   your works are wonderful,   
   I know that full well.   
15 My frame was not hidden from you   
   when I was made in the secret place,   
   when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.   
16 Your eyes saw my unformed body;   
   all the days ordained for me were written in your book   
   before one of them came to be. (Psalm 139:13-16)

God created each of us in a wonderful way for a wonderful purpose. Even before you were born, God had a purpose for you. As King David said, “all the days” of our lives are known by God and they all go according to His plans.

It’s great to know that God has a plan for us and that He created us for a purpose, but what if we don’t know what that purpose is? Hugo and Isabelle knew that they were created for a reason, but they still didn’t know the reason! We all want to know the purpose God has for us. As we grow with God, we discover the gifts and talents that He has given us. As we discover our gifts, we also begin to see the plans and purpose that God has for us.

There will be times that we do not understand His plans. There may even be times when you feel like you don’t have much of a purpose. The truth is that God has created you for a purpose, and He has plans for you to fulfill that purpose. He sees the big picture, and He will help you to discover and fulfill your purpose.

There is a great example of this in the Old Testament by a lady named Esther. The Book of Esther records her story. Esther was a beautiful, young Jewish girl that had chosen to marry the King, King Xerxes. She didn’t understand why she was chosen, but she obeyed God and married the King. She did not tell the King that she was a Jew.

Later, an official of the King named Haman made a law to kill all of the Jewish people. This meant that all of Esther’s people would be killed, and possibly even her. Her uncle, Mordecai, was very worried about Haman’s plans. He pleaded with Esther to do something to help the Jewish people. After all, she as the Queen!

Queen Esther told Mordecai that if she approached the King without being summoned, she would be put to death. Mordecai continues to plead with her. In Esther 4:14, Mordecai says to Esther, “For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. ***And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”***

Queen Esther understood that God had called her to be Queen for this purpose. God wanted to use her to save the people of Israel. All the Jews would glorify God because He had saved them through Queen Esther. When Esther realized God was calling her to glorify Him by saving the Jews, she went to talk with the King. She could have been put to death for doing so, but she knew that she must obey God’s plan and purpose.

Esther 4:15-16 says, “ 15 Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: 16 “Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, ***I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.”***

When the King learned that Esther was a Jew and that she would have to die with her people, he immediately changed the law. He wrote a new law that protected the Jews! God used Esther to save the lives of His people. She was created for that purpose.

There are no extra pieces. Every one of you were created for a purpose. Every one of you was created in a wonderful way for a wonderful purpose. Let’s close with the words of the prophet Jeremiah. He said, “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declared the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’” (Jeremiah 29:11)

**Small Group Activity: “Who Am I?” Art Project**

Divide preteens into small groups. Give each preteen a copy of the handout “Who am I?” (Attached to end of lesson). Supply each small group with art supplies, such as art paper, watercolors, paint pens, markers, crayons, etc.

As a small group, read through Scriptures given on the “Who am I?” handout. Instruct each preteen to select one of the statements and Scriptures to be the theme for their artwork. Preteens may use the art supplies to create an image that represents the Scripture or their feelings about the Scripture. Allow time for them to share their art with the group if they would like to do so.

Close the activity by discussing how the way God has made us can help us discover His purpose for our lives.

Who Am I?

Matt 5:13 I am the salt of the earth.

Matt 5:14 I am the light of the world.

John 1:12 I am a child of God (part of His family). (See Rom 8:16)

John 15:1, 5 I am part of the true vine, a channel (branch) of His (Christ’s) life.

John 15:5 I am Christ’s friend.

John 15:16 I am chosen and appointed by Christ to bear His fruit.

Acts 1:8 I am a personal witness of Christ for Christ.

Rom 6:18 I am a slave of righteousness

Rom 6:22 I am enslaved to God.

Rom 8:14, 15 I am a son of God (God is spiritually my father.) (see Gal 3:26 and 4:6)

Rom 8:17 I am a joint-heir with Christ sharing His inheritance with Him.

I Cor 3:16 & 6:19 I am a temple (home) of God. His Spirit (His life) dwells in me.

I Cor 6:17 I am joined (united) to the Lord and am one spirit with Him.

I Cor 12:27 I am a member (part) of Christ’s body (see Eph 5:30).

II Cor 5:17 I am a new creation (new person)

II Cor 5:18, 19 I am reconciled to God, and *I* am a minister of reconciliation.

Gal 3:25, 28 I am a son of God and one in Christ.

Gal 4:6, 7 I am an heir of God since I am a son of God.

Eph 1:1 I am a saint (see I Cor 1:2, Phil 1:1 and Col 1:2).

Eph 2:10 I am God’s workmanship (handiwork) created (born anew) in Christ to do His work that He planned beforehand that I should do

Eph 2:19 I am a fellow citizen with the rest of God’s people in His family

Eph 3:1 & 4:1 I am a prisoner of Christ.

Eph 4:24 I am righteous and holy.

Phil 3:20 I am a citizen of heaven and seated in heaven right now (see Eph 2:5).

Col 3:3 I am hidden with Christ in God

Col 3:4 I am an expression of the life of Christ because He is my life.

Col 3:12 I am chosen of God, holy, and dearly loved.

I Thes 1:4 I am chosen and dearly loved by God.

I Thes 5:5 I am a son of light and not of darkness.

Heb 3:1 I am a holy brother, partaker of a heavenly calling.

Heb 3:14 I am a partaker of Christ - I share in His life.

I Pet 2:5 I am one of God’s living stones and am being built up (in Christ) as a spiritual house.

I Pet 2:9, 10 I am a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession to proclaim the excellencies of Him

I Pet 2:11 I am an alien and stranger to this world I temporarily live in

I Pet 5:8 I am an enemy of the devil

I John 3: 1,2 I am now a child of God. I will resemble Christ when He returns.

I John 5:18 I am born of God and the evil one (the devil) cannot touch me.

Psalm 23 & 100 I am a sheep of His pasture. Therefore, I have everything I need.

**I am not the great “I AM” (Ex 3:14, John 8:24, 28, 58)**

**“but by the grace of God, I am what I am ” (I Cor 15:10)**