

3 WHAT'S LIFE ALL ABOUT?

IN THIS LESSON YOU WILL STUDY THE FOLLOWING:

- *Why Were You Born?*
 - *How Are You Like God?*
 - *How Are You Not Like God?*
 - *What Kind of Person Do You Want to Be?*
 - *How Can You Know You Are a Child of God?*
-

WHY WERE YOU BORN?

YOU NEED TO KNOW

What would you think of a person who tried to use a straw hat as a cooking pot or a glass bottle as a hammer? What would you think of a person who used up all his life before finding out its purpose?

Until we put our lives to the use they were made for, we are like the hat on the fire or the bottle used as a hammer. We go through life without finding satisfaction and fulfillment.

God has a purpose and plan for your life. He has a work for you to do on earth and has prepared a wonderful home for you in heaven. You were born to fit into God's plan.

YOU WERE BORN TO BE GOD'S CHILD

You have learned that you were created for God's pleasure, to be His child, enjoy His love, and love Him in return. Whatever else you do, if you do not have this fellowship with God, you have missed the main purpose of life.

We were born to be God's children and to grow in His likeness.

Psalm 16:11. "You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures."

YOU WERE BORN TO GROW IN GOD'S LIKENESS

For you, a child of God, life on earth is like a school to prepare you for eternity. Your experiences are lessons to equip you for the part you will have in God's kingdom. The problems and struggles you experience now are designed to teach you patience, faith, and obedience. They will help you to mature spiritually, so you will be more like your heavenly Father. Let God make you the dependable person He can use both now and in the future.

2 Timothy 2:12. "If we endure, we will also reign with him."

YOU WERE BORN TO WORK WITH GOD

You were born when you were, where you were, and how you were so that you could be a blessing to your family, your community, your country, and the world. God wants you to be His partner and work with Him. He will help you lead others to Jesus Christ and to a better life in Him.

***God wants you to
be His partner and
work with Him.***

Ephesians 2:10. "We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

TO HELP YOU LEARN

- God has given me life so that I can: be His _____, grow in His _____, and _____ with Him as His partner.

Ask yourself:

- Does my life really please God?
- Do I accept suffering and struggles as opportunities to develop patience and character?
- Am I doing what I can to help others?
- Do I live as though death were the end of everything, or am I using my life now as a preparation for eternity?
- Do I enjoy fellowship with God?
- Have I started to follow God's plan in my home and community?

HOW ARE YOU LIKE GOD?

GOD GAVE YOU A SPIRIT MADE IN HIS LIKENESS

God made Adam's body out of dust, giving it an earthly nature like that of other earthly creatures. You have inherited that earthly nature. Adam's inner life, his spirit, came from the breath of God. Adam's spirit was like God. Your spirit, too, is like God in many ways.

Memorize This

Genesis 1:26; 2:7. "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness.' ... The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being."

GOD'S IMAGE IN YOU IS SHOWN IN MANY WAYS

This special spirit makes you different from the animals. We call it the image of God in human beings.

You can see the image of God in yourself through:

- Your moral nature: sense of right and wrong.
- Your aesthetic nature: love of beauty.
- Your intellectual nature: desire to know the truth, ability to reason, power of speech, and communication.
- Your spiritual nature: desire to worship and ability to have fellowship with God.
- Your creative nature: desire to improve your surroundings. Humans build skyscrapers, channel rivers, harness electricity, and invent machines to work for them. They create beauty in music, art, architecture, poetry, song, and motion.

***All of these
abilities show
that you have the
image of God in
you.***

These things come from God's nature and make humans very different from the animals. This attention that God has given to each person shows that He has a special purpose for each person's life.

TO HELP YOU LEARN

- The spirit that God placed in people is a reflection of His _____ and makes us different from _____
- We see traces of the image of God in people in their enjoyment of beauty, or aesthetic nature; ability to reason, or _____ nature; inventions, or _____ nature; sense of right or wrong, or _____ nature; search for God, or _____ nature.

You can see how these abilities make you very different from the rest of God's creation. Think of something you did that is an example of each God-given ability. You have many ideas and powers that no other creature has. A monkey cannot write a book; a lion cannot fly a jet. Thank God for each part of your nature that causes you to be like Him.

HOW ARE YOU NOT LIKE GOD?

YOU HAVE A PHYSICAL BODY

God is an infinite, eternal, all-powerful Spirit. He is not limited by time or space. He will never die. Your spirit lives in a body which has very limited strength, can only be in one place at a time, and will die some day. However, it is a wonderful gift from God to you. Because of your body, you can work for God in ways that would be impossible if you were just a spirit. You should take good care of your body because it is a home for your spirit and a temple for God to use.

1 Corinthians 6:19–20. "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? Therefore honor God with your body."

Your body is neither good nor bad. It is a tool for you to use.

Some people blame their bodies for the bad things they do. They punish their bodies to try to make themselves good. Your body is neither good nor bad. It is like a tool that you use. You decide what to do, and your body does it. You can use your body for either good or evil, for Satan or for God. God uses His Spirit for only good.

Romans 12:1. "Offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God."

Be sure to control your body. It is a good servant but a poor master. If you allow its physical needs to rule your life, you will have trouble. You can even become a slave to habits that will destroy your health and make you do sinful things that are evil and displeasing to God. When you neglect the needs of your spiritual nature and live only to satisfy the desires of your body, you become less and less like God.

SIN HAS RUINED YOUR NATURE

Sin has blurred the image of God in you. People get worse and worse as they try to rule their own lives and ignore God’s purpose for them.

Galatians 5:19–21. “The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

When you do things that are wrong and live only to satisfy the desires of your body, this shows that the image of God in you is ruined.

YOU CANNOT PLEASE GOD BY YOUR OWN EFFORTS

God has a good purpose for you. But unless He helps you, you will not be able to follow it. No matter how hard you try, you will never be strong enough to do what pleases Him all the time. He must change you.

Romans 7:18–20. “I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.”

In order to please God, You must allow Him to change your nature and to restore His image in you.

YOU MUST BE RENEWED AND CHANGED INWARDLY

You cannot change yourself by going on religious pilgrimages or trying to be good. You need God to help you. If you let Him, He will send His Holy Spirit to restore His nature in you. Only then will you be able to please Him.

TO HELP YOU LEARN

- Our body is a wonderful _____ from God.
- We become less and less like God if we let our _____ rule over us.
- Can you please God by your own efforts?

WHAT KIND OF PERSON DO YOU WANT TO BE?

A piece of clay can be either an ugly lump or fine porcelain. The outcome depends on the owner's desires and the potter's skill.

Human nature left to itself goes from bad to worse. It becomes a filthy wallow of hateful thoughts and wicked actions. However, in the hands of God, the Master Potter, your life can become an example of beauty and usefulness.

Romans 12:2. "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

TO HELP YOU LEARN

- Do you want God to renew you and change you inwardly? _____. In your own words, ask Him to do it.
- If you are already a follower of Jesus, maybe you want to get rid of what you know displeases Him and become more like God. If so, tell Him about it and ask His help.

HOW CAN YOU KNOW YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD?

The minute you accept Jesus Christ as your Savior, God accepts you as His child. He makes you aware of this in three ways:

- Through His Word, which says you are a child of God.
- Through the inward assurance of the witness of the Holy Spirit
- Through the change in your life

Romans 12:1. "Offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God."

1 John 5:10-12. "Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart....

God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life."

Romans 8:16. "The Spirit himself himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."

1 John 3:14. "We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers."

God shows you that His image has been restored in you through His Word, through the witness of His Holy Spirit, and through the changes in you.

TO HELP YOU LEARN

- Have you accepted Jesus as your Savior? _____
- Do you know that you are a child of God? _____
- Believe what God's Word says about it and thank Him now for having made you His child.

CONGRATULATIONS.

- You have completed Lesson 3.
- Turn to the Lesson Review Questions at the end of this book.
- Answer the questions for Lesson 3.
- Then continue with your study of Lesson 4.

May God richly bless you!