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Have you ever seen a fish get taken out of water and placed on the ground?

It immediately starts to violently contort its body, squirm, wriggle and jump wildly—all in an effort to somehow find water again.

Of course, the fish would probably not know what water is, but it would recognize it as "home," the place where they could live with freedom—free from discomfort and death.



Humans behave similarly.

We can feel restless and unsure of what we should be doing with our lives—struggling to understand our place in the world.

When we are not sure what we were born for, what role we play in the larger story of the world, or wonder whether our lives matter at all...

At those times, we are like fish out of water.

We are floundering, grasping, reaching

for a place where we will not feel so dislocated, aimless wanting assurance that our lives have value.



In the following pages...

You're going to meet the God who made you for a purpose.

You'll read about **why** He made you, what **place** you have in the world, and how much He **values** you.

The truth is: you were made intentionally, with love, and for a purpose.

There is a place in the world that **only you** can occupy!



Purpose

The Bible tells us that God made us **on** purpose and **for** a purpose.

You were not an accident and you don't need to make your own meaning in your life.

If you want to know what your purpose in life is, don't look within yourself or at the culture. **Instead**, **look to the One who made you**. Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground."

GENESIS 1:26



NOTE: tap on the Bible references to read the verses in context using the NewLife app or online at <u>www.newlife.bible</u>

knew you before I formed you in our mother's womb. **JEREMIAH 1:5**

But I have spared you for a purpose—to show you my power and to spread my fame throughout the earth. EXODUS 9:16

You can make many plans, but the LORD's purpose will prevail. PROVERBS 19:21

"If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it." **MATTHEW 16:25**

Significance

You may be tempted to think that only the people with big, important jobs live significant lives.

But that just isn't true.

The Bible tells us every person in the world has a vital, meaningful role to play. It tells us that no matter what our power or status is in the world, we each play a part that is significant to God and to the unfolding drama of history.

God made you for something, and he is making you into something significant through every decision you make and every step you take. Today. Right now.

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray,

I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me."

JEREMIAH 29:11-13

And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns. <u>PHILIPPIANS 1:6</u>

God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.



Value

Have you ever been to a thrift store and seen some old knickknack that has clearly been on the shelf for months, or maybe years?

The price has been reduced and yet no one is interested in it. No one values it enough to take it home.

The world can make us feel like this. Whether it is a relationship break-up, losing our jobs or being left out of social gatherings

with people we thought were our friends—we can feel like that old knick-knack: worthless.

But there's good news: God doesn't think you're worthless.

In fact, if worth is measured by how much someone would pay for something, then God thinks you are worth His own life.

The Bible tells us that God loves us simply because He loves us. He doesn't think you are valuable because you are good looking or successful.

He thinks you're valuable because you are His.

He made you and loves you! He knows your deepest secrets and wildest dreams. He knows how judgmental and vindictive you can be, but He still loves you!

You can believe this: you are so valued by God that He gave up everything just to have you with Him forever.

God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

<u>GENESIS 1:27</u>

¹³ You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.

¹⁵ You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb.

¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be

numbered! ¹⁸ I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand!

PSALM 139:13-18

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. <u>EPHESIANS 2:10</u>

"Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are?"

MATTHEW 6:26

But even before I was born, **God**

chose me and called me by his marvelous grace. GALATIANS 1:15

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