

**Welcome to The Planet: What On Earth Am I Here For?**  
**Ready for Blastoff?!**  
**Pastor Jeremy D Spence**

Tonight we are starting a new six week series, 40 Days, all around the theme *Welcome to the Planet: What on Earth Am I Here For?* The purpose for tonight is to serve as an introduction and to get you pumped up, excited and ready to blast off on this journey for the next 40 days, in fact at the end of the lesson you will have the opportunity to share with me exactly what type of commitment you plan on making in regards to our study together.

In order to find our purpose we first must understand, what I believe to be a basic truth about life. It is this: there is a God. It is as simple as that. For our next 40 days together we will be looking at our purpose for being here on earth. We are not answering the question: What happens to me on earth, but instead we are asking the “why” behind everything. The “what” can be answered only after knowing the “why” of the issue. Bertrand Russell agrees with the statement I just made about God and you can read that on your handout: “Unless you assume a God, the question of Life’s purpose is meaningless.” You see, if there isn’t a God than what we do with our life and the why behind it all doesn’t mean anything. In fact if there isn’t a God than we have no purpose other than what we can come up with. This is exactly what our culture and the world we live in tries to tell us each day. “Live for yourself,” look out for number 1, just do it if it feels right, and so on.

However, the Bible teaches a different set of logic and because of that we need to examine what it says about our purpose. The first thing the Bible teaches that there is a God and he created the earth. Since God created the earth we come to our first truth; therefore there must be purpose behind his creation. All that God created as a purpose and we must look to the Creator in order to find that purpose. The problem is that we a lot of times don’t believe that for ourselves. Instead, we end up trying to understand God like the characters from this scene of Pixar’s *Toy Story*.  
**(Show clip 0:36:30 to 0:38:30)**

We like the aliens sometimes look at God as the Claw and feel that only certain people have been picked or chosen to have a purpose. The mistake is that we are nothing like the aliens in the game/movie, but instead we all have a purpose. Look with me at Jeremiah 29.11, read it with me. “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.” Now turn to your number and say “You have a purpose in life.” You see God didn’t create just some of us to have purpose but instead all of us. God did not waste anything in bringing you into this world. You have a purpose. Now because of this fact we can respond in two ways: I must either pursue the purpose or ignore it. That’s our only two options. A little later you will commit on a scale of these two choices what your plans are for the next 40 days.

Briefly now we will go through the five aspect of Why we are on this planet. I have structured them simply “God’s plan” and from there we will go to “Our Response” to that plan.

1. You and I were planned for God’s pleasure.

We were created to God’s pleasure not because he needed to make us but because he wanted to. He created you in order to love you, that is the whole story of the Bible. The Bible is in essence God’s love story/letter to us. Look at the next verse: “*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Mark 12:30*” Basically Christ when he stated this truths said all that we are to do is Love God. Everything else is secondary to this truth. Because of this Our Response is “Honor God with Your Life.” By loving God with all that we are we are honoring him. When we honor or cherish something we normally try to take great care of it, we don’t leave it out where something could happen to it but go the extreme mile to make sure it is safe. The things we honor can be seen through the things that receive the most amount of our time, money, effort, and life. God says he wants it all, and it wants you all the time. In the church we call this worship. But worship is something that extends out beyond Wed. and Sundays and happens 24/7 365. We need to worship God like Waffle House serves people, all the time.

2. Our second purpose is found in the fact God formed us for His family. Romans 12.5 puts it very nicely as you can see on your handout: *...so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. Romans 12:5*” This is the topic we will dive into in 2 weeks. In doing so we will discover why we need each other and how that is accomplished or worked out in our daily lives. We also will look at some of the “one another” passages of the Bible. The fact remains though: We as humans are relational people. We love to be around others and cannot for a long period of time exist in isolation, our bodies just don’t like it. This brings me to our response: We need to Connect with Other Christians. This fact is part of the reason that drives why and what we do during Lifeline on Wednesday nights. It is probably the main reason why we have decided to start small group for the next 6 weeks on Sunday nights. These groups will meet at my house for the junior high, and Lona Davidson’s house for the senior high at 5:30pm each week. At these groups you will discuss a little more what we are talking now and get connected with other Christians. Here you will experience what the Bible calls “fellowship.” I hope and pray you will start fulfilling this purpose for your life by joining the small groups.

3. Our third reason and plan for our life is this: We were created to become like Jesus. Can anyone quote for me Philippians 2.5. Now let’s read it together from the screen, “*Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. Philippians 2:5.*” As Christians or when you accept Christ into your life that is the end of the journey but instead it is the beginning. What this point brings out is that we will go through everythingn to some extent that Christ went through. Some people have stated that when you become a Christian all your troubles go away. That is the farthest thing from the truth and from what the Bible teaches. If anything the Bible at times seem to teach that in

fact because of being a Christian you can expect more problems and issues to arise. Look at it this way, if life is like a wavelength it is like this, but as a Christian it just at times makes the waves that much bigger. The great thing about being a Christian is we know how it ends and our hope lies in the One who created everything and wrote all the days of the world.

So what is our response to this part of God's plan for our life. We must Grow on our own. This means that you can't get everything you need for life by just coming to church on Wednesday and Sundays, from coming to Lifeline and Sunday School, you must do something on your own. That is why for these next 40 days you are asked to make as your devotional/quiet times the reading of the book *The Purpose Driven Life* if you do not have a copy of this book please see me afterward or go upstairs and pick one up. They are located in the gym or by the sanctuary doors. This is also why we have our own blog on the website that gives you a devo every day. You can find the devos by following the link on our main page and then clicking on the "grub" link once you get to our blog. On a side note: A lot of Christians either choose to be good at "fellowshipping" and connecting with other Christians or growing on their own but God says we need a balance of both to be a mature and well balanced Christian. You can't just pick one but you need both.

3. The third aspect to God's plan for us is: We are shaped for serving God. Read with me from your handout or from the screen 1 Peter 4:10: *Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others. 1 Peter 4:10.* Now turn to your neighbor and say "Your gifted" Now turn back to your neighbor and say "I'm gifted." Now this doesn't mean we all ride the special bus but it does mean we were shaped to serve within the Church. You and I have the responsibility to serve with the gifts God has given us. 1 Corinthians teaches that we all have a gift that is useful for the church and necessary for the church in order for it to run. That is one reason we did ministry teams for a little bit, it was to help you find out where you could serve. Always be looking for opportunities to use what God gave you for the benefit of the church. It doesn't matter how old you are, you are needed to help First Baptist become the church God wants it to be. That is why the youth leaders and I have committed to finding and linking you with ministries in the church we feel you would be good at.

So our response for this part of the plan is: For you to discover how you're gifted. As I stated we each are gifted in an area that is to be used for the Church. When we talk about this part of our adventure we will use the acronym SHAPE to understand what may be our area to serve. The letters stand for Spritual Gifts, Heart for something, Abilities, Personality, and experiences all play a part in deciding where you should serve. However, we are all commanded to serve, as a Christian service is not an option it is an expectation.

The final week of our study together we will talk about the final part of God's plan and purpose for our life: We were made for a mission. This is the only part of our purpose that cannot be accomplished in heaven. All the other four parts of our purpose can be done and will be done in heaven. In fact you can look at the other four parts as practice

for heaven. With this part of our purpose there isn't any practice time, instead we are actively in the game now and get the trophy in heaven. Our trophy is all the people that will be there because of us.

Therefore our response should be to Reach out to others. Who will be in heaven because of you? We should all make it our goal to share with our friends what God has done for us and invite them to come and meet the person that changed your life the most. The most effective way I believe to win someone to Christ is by telling your story, you know tell them how **you** came to Christ. No one can argue with something that has happened to you. This will happen when you have developed a friendship with those around you. There are people that only you can reach, therefore we all need to be doing our task. You could also look at things like this; we are on a search and rescue mission in the world. Colossians 4.5 states "*Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Colossians 4:5.*" There are people lost in this world and God wants us to be the ones to find them so he can save. Important point: We don't save anyone only God does.

So what now you may ask? Well here are a couple potential next steps that you can take.

1. "*Wow...that's a lot stuff...I'm not sure...I'm checking this God-thing out.*"

Your 5 week challenge: **Research** the truth. Do everything you can to find out about God. Read books, go online, talk to people. But don't just sit there and expect to understand. You need to do something.

2. "*I'd call myself a Christian...but I don't really live like it.*" If this is you Your 5 week challenge: **return** to the truth. Come back to Christ and allow him to change your life again. Christ is ready to have you back if you will allow yourself to come back to him. Pray with someone, jump into this study with both feet, do whatever it will take to get that relationship on track.

3. "*I'm not just a 'Christian'...I'm a follower of Christ.*"

Your 5 week challenge: **revolutionize** your life with the truth. Don't be happy with where you are at. Go the next step, keep digger deeper, don't go another day with the same knowledge you have now. Make yourself grow more and allow God to change you some more. God is never finished molding us and changing us until we reach heaven.

I want to show you a short one minute clip from *What a Girl Wants* that shows what I am talking about. This all movie is about a girl that thinks she knows what she wants in life and actually go across the world to her father and tries to become royalty. Listen in as she gets some advice from a friend.

**(Show clip 1:13:00 to 1:16:00)**

Guys God has made us to stand out from this world by creating us with a purpose. Quit wasting your life and commit to allowing God to change you and commit to learning these next 5 weeks, 40 Days, to knowing your purpose. Right now I am passing around some index cards and I want you to put your name on it. You see on the screen the following words:

- A: YES**
- B: NO CAN'T**
- C: NOT SURE**
- D: DON'T CARE**

Indicate to me which commitment you feel you can make to this group for the next 5 weeks. I am only going to use this to get an idea of how many people are serious about knowing “Why on earth they are Here?” and will not show anyone else.

I want to leave you with one last thought and statement. “Before you can truly know ‘why on earth you are here,’ you first must know the One who put you here.” Explain the lights, and how they work and how that is like us. If tonight you are here and have not meet the CREator of this world and the person who gives you life purpose I want to extend you the opportunity right now. Heads bowed eyes closed routine. Lead in a couple decision type questions and then close in prayer.

Before you leave this room pick up a light.

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*“Unless you assume a God, the question of life’s purpose is meaningless.”*

Bertrand Russell, atheist

**God created the earth**

therefore...

**there must be \_\_\_\_\_ behind his creation**

therefore...

**there’s purpose for my life**

therefore...

**I must either \_\_\_\_\_ the purpose or \_\_\_\_\_ it**

*For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10*

**IF YOU CHOOSE TO PURSUE GOD’S PURPOSES FOR YOUR LIFE...here’s what will be taught the next 5 weeks...**

**God’s plan...**

**Our response...**

1. You were planned for God’s Pleasure

Honor God with \_\_\_\_\_

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Mark 12:30*

2. You were formed for God’s Family

Connect with \_\_\_\_\_

*...so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. Romans 12:5*

3. You were created to become like Jesus

Grow on \_\_\_\_\_

*Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. Philippians 2:5*

4. You were shaped for serving God

Discover how \_\_\_\_\_

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others. 1 Peter 4:10*

5. You were made for a mission

Reach out \_\_\_\_\_

*Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Colossians 4:5*

**A POTENTIAL NEXT STEP...**

*“Wow...that’s a lot stuff...I’m not sure...I’m checking this God-thing out.”*

Your 5 week challenge: \_\_\_\_\_ the truth

*“I’d call myself a Christian...but I don’t really live like it.”*

Your 5 week challenge: \_\_\_\_\_ to the truth

*“I’m not just a ‘Christian’ ...I’m a follower of Christ.”*

Your 5 week challenge: \_\_\_\_\_  
your life with the truth

*“Before you can truly know ‘why on earth you are here,’ you first must know the One who put you here.”*