

# Purpose\_01

## Script References

### Introduction

Eli: Hey, guys. I'm Eli-

Alexis: And I'm Alexis-

Eli: Ever wonder things like "Why am I here?" or "What's my purpose?" Well, the Bible actually has a lot to say about that. I'll go ahead and sum it all up for you: God created us to worship him by living out our calling as his images in creation.

Alexis: To get even more Christianese with it: We were created to glorify God. But I'll let you in on something awesome: God's glory is our good. In other words, when God's creation flourishes and functions the way God intends, he's glorified.

Eli: So, in this session on purpose, we're going to be talking about God's intended function for the creatures he made in his image- us- and how, when we worship him rightly, all of creation thrives.

### Humanity's Glorious Purpose

Alexis: Let's get into it. In Psalm 8, David is reflecting on the glorious purpose God gave to humanity. Listen to what he says:

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?

You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
Psalm 8:1,3-9

**Eli:** David is totally awestruck as he thinks about humanity's special place in the universe. In such a huge, wonderful world, who are we that God would even notice us? And yet he does so much more than notice – he crowns us with glory and honor- he entrusts us with the care of the rest of his creatures.

**Alexis:** This is what it means to be made in God's image – God created us to be his representatives on earth, ruling over it in a way that would lead to flourishing life for all.

*Pause the video right here and spend a few minutes praying the words of Psalm 8 back to God. Join David in being awestruck by the enormous value God places on humans, including yourself.*

## **Cultivating Creation**

**Eli:** Now, some people think that for humans to “rule over” the earth means we can do whatever we want to it- we can exploit it for our own pleasure and profit.

**Alexis:** But the Bible makes it clear that's not the kind of “ruling” God created us for. Genesis 2 casts a vision of the kind of rulers we're supposed to be: There we see God create people out of the soil, place them in a Garden, and tell them to take care of it. The first human beings were gardeners.

**Eli:** Think about what gardeners do. They take a wild, untamed piece of land, and they tame it. They cultivate it, so it'll bear fruit and be beautiful.

**Alexis:** This was our purpose. We were to use the creativity God gave us to cultivate creation.

**Eli:** And in a lot of ways, we've done it. Just think about the cities we've built, the technology that allows us to grow food for billions of people, the medicines we've developed. God created us with the capacity to create amazing work.

**Alexis:** And yet, obviously, things aren't right in the world. Instead of the flourishing life God intended, we see death and destruction all around us.

**Eli:** Our agricultural systems destroy ecosystems and pollute communities. Basic medicines are so expensive, most people can't access them. And the cities we build are shaped by injustice.

**Alexis:** Our God-given capacity for creativity has been warped by sin into an equally great capacity for destruction.

*Pause the video right here and reflect on how you see this play out in your own life. How do you use your creativity for both good and bad? In your community, how do you see human creativity causing flourishing? How do you see it causing destruction?*

**Eli:** God created us to worship him by living out our calling as his images in creation.

Our fall into sin led us to fail in that vocation, and the result is as Paul describes it in Romans 8- a creation in bondage to decay and groaning under the weight of our sin.

**Alexis:** But in Christ, we're new creations, and we're being restored to our calling as God's image.

That means as you become who God created you to be, you'll begin to do the good works God created you to do.

You'll begin to use your God-given skills to contribute to the flourishing of creation- and that glorifies God.

**Eli:** In the next couple videos, we'll unpack some important points about how you can begin to walk in your unique purpose.

**Alexis:** See you then!