

This simple object lesson can be used in combination with a lesson or lessons from the Bible to teach children why we are here. (Ages 4-17)

Theme: God has a purpose for our lives. What is it?

Preparation: Bring a helium tank, bag of large balloons, small spool of string or ribbon

Pick up a balloon and ask the children the following question: What is the purpose of this balloon? (Wait for the children to answer.)

Answer: That's right, to have air or water pumped into it so it can be used for something special.

Question: Something like what? (Wait for the children to answer.)

Answer: Yes, to either add a beautiful, festive touch to a space or it can be used for fun games.

Main Point: What if I decided I wanted to have a party with lots of balloons and I purchased a pack of balloons but while setting up the party instead of blowing the balloons up I just laid them around the room. (You can actually take time to lay balloons around the room while talking...) Would I be using the balloons for their purpose? Would anyone get joy out of seeing them laying around deflated? (Explain to the younger ones deflated means without air.)

The balloons are there for a purpose. That is the same message for our lives. We, like the empty balloons are here for a purpose but where do we go to get the answer for why we are here?

FOR OLDER YOUTH YOU CAN INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING (AGES 12-17):

Ask the older youth the following: Where do you go to find answers to why you are here and your purpose? (Wait for the youth to answer.)

Some people say they can go to their friends for answers and others say they think hard about it and it just comes to them and they just know. Still others say they try to find answers in different books or watching different TV shows or even getting advice from social media. Most of these options can get confusing and lead many in a lot of different directions but never actually to the truth. After a while sometimes people give up because it's just too confusing and too many mixed messages.

When is the last time you picked up the Holy bible? (The leader can ask...) Does everyone have a bible? (The leader can say...) If not we will get you one.

Instead of listening to everyone else why not go directly to God's Word to find the answers you want? He put them there just for you. Jesus Christ is the Word of God and He tells us through the power of His Holy Spirit, God's purpose for our lives. He is like a light bulb in our hearts and minds that lights things up so we can see where He is leading us. He puts the air in our body through His Holy Spirit, like the air filling a balloon and gives us purpose for our lives. He knows where we need to go we just have to trust and follow His lead. As we study God's word the power of God's Holy Spirit grows in us and as His Spirit grows in us He reveals more to us about who He is...

That's right, we can't do this alone we need God's Word, Jesus Christ and God's Holy Spirit working through us to lead the way to the truth about God's purpose for our lives. Take a look at the verses below to see some of the amazing things God's word tells us:

1- About Jesus being the Word of God.

2-About the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives and how we access Him.

3-Clarity on our purpose.

1-IS JESUS REALLY THE WORD?

John 1:1-5, 14 English Standard Version (ESV)

The Word Became Flesh

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. JESUS IS THE WORD OF GOD IN THE FLESH.

Why don't more people know about Jesus? Many people have and continue to try to tell others about Him but there is a problem. Take a look at how God describes it in His word.

John 1:6-9 English Standard Version (ESV)

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own,[b] and his own people[c] did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. 15 John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me because he was before me.'" 16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

That's right...people have come to tell us throughout history about Jesus Christ who paid the ultimate price to connect us back to God but because of sin and all the mixed messages from the world, many of us just aren't listening. We can't hear Him because God's Holy Spirit is not inside of us to help us understand who He is and what we have been called to do, our purpose.

2- HOW DO WE GET GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES AND WHAT IS HIS PURPOSE? LET'S GO TO HIS WORD...

Acts 2:38 ESV

And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:16 English Standard Version (ESV)

16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

John 7:37-39 ESV

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Holy Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Holy Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

The Work of the Holy Spirit

"I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. 5 But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' 6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 7 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper, the Holy Spirit will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; 10 concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; 11 concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 When the Holy Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

John 14:25-30 English Standard Version (ESV)

25 "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Now that we know we don't belong to ourselves but rather we belong to God following His lead is what He calls us to do. Our bodies are his temple.

1 Corinthians 6:19

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

3-SO BASED ON GOD'S WORD WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE? We must go back to His word. He gives us all the answers we need.

Matthew 28:19-20 English Standard Version (ESV)

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

When we live for ourselves we miss the essence of why we are here. Even though we think it's not that bad we are just like the balloons with no air. So whether you sing, dance, teach, preach evangelize or whatever way God uses you to share His message of love REMEMBER it's not you doing it but God working through you to accomplish His will for your life. He should get all the praise not you!

REMEMBER YOUR BODY DOESN'T BELONG TO YOU...

1 Corinthians 6:19

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

Colossians 3:23 English Standard Version (ESV)

23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,

ENDING FOR THE YOUNGER CHILDREN (AGES 4-12):

So what is our purpose?

Matthew 28:19-20 English Standard Version (ESV)

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Ask the younger children: Can you repeat after me?

That's your purpose! Now that you know that what can you do to share God's message of love with everyone you meet? (Listen to your question.)

Great let's go out and do it!!!

NOW LET'S TAKE A MOMENT TO PRAY...

