

LESSON 2 Devotional

God's Purpose for Your Work

The world says that your life is just a random series of accidental events that has no purpose or destiny. This worldview leads the multitudes to pursue whatever pleases them personally, since they feel it is the best use of their life.

The Bible, however, presents an unconventional worldview. Forty authors wrote 66 books that amazingly all speak of the same four-part story: Creation, The Fall, Redemption, and Restoration. This story is God's overarching plan for the world. Here He sets in motion a plan to redeem the fallen world and ultimately to restore it and align it with His original intent. *His plan includes a role for you and your organization that gives your life meaning and purpose.*

Many Christians have been led to believe that pastors or missionaries are the only ones that have a true calling from God, but this runs counter to scripture. As we will see through the old testament story that follows, our work did then and continues to matter to God.

After God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, it became evident that the special stones needed to be kept in a safe place, a place that would ultimately preserve them for thousands

GOD'S PLAN FOR THE
WORLD:
THE FOUR-PART STORY

Creation
The Fall
Redemption
Restoration

of years. The time was 1466 BC, when God’s plan was revealed to Moses—an Ark of the Covenant was to be constructed in a special way and with expert craftsmanship.

Reading further, in Exodus 31, we come across the first person mentioned in scripture to be filled with the Spirit of God. You might think that this person would be Noah, maybe Abraham, surely Moses, or even Aaron the priest. But it wasn’t, it was a craftsman named Bezalel. It was he who was filled with the Spirit and *called* to be the expert artisan that God needed.

The Lord told Moses, “See, I have called by name Bezalel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. I have filled him with the Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship, to make artistic designs for work in gold, in silver, and in bronze, and in the cutting of stones for settings, and in the carving of wood, that he may work in all kinds of craftsmanship.”

Bezalel had a calling and it wasn’t to be a pastor or missionary. Instead Bezalel was *called* to use his God given skills to build the Ark of the Covenant with amazing excellence. As history has now shown, the Ark was used and withstood time from 1466 BC until at least 586 BC, when it disappeared.

Many people claim the Ark still exists to this day, some say it is in a church in Ethiopia, and others believe it’s under the Temple Mount. Regardless, Bezalel played his part as a craftsman in God’s plan.

Just as Bezalel was called by God to use his unique skills, God designed you with skills, abilities, and knowledge to carry out important vocational work. He wants you to live it out fully and in a way that Glorifies Him.

Proverbs 16:4 teaches, “The Lord has made everything for its own purpose.” You have a purpose, as does your organization. Are you clear on what that might be?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Take a few minutes to list some of the thoughts or ideas you have as to why God may have placed you on this earth?

2. How does your profession or organization help God redeem or restore our world? For example, lawyers can bring justice to a broken world, or a plumber can help bring about a healthier world by providing clean drinking water and removing dangerous waste efficiently.

3. How would you feel if you believed the world's view that your life is random or meaningless? How does it make you feel that God has a unique purpose for your life and your organization?

4. What are some thoughts you have on maximizing your God-given purpose and your organization's purpose? How might you raise the bar to have a bigger Kingdom impact?
