

Maker Fun Factory: God Made You For A Reason
July 16, 2017 (Transmitter)
Lynn Haven UMC

Introduction

“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 hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,” declares the Lord... (Jeremiah 29:11-14a NIV)

Do you ever wonder, “Why am I here?” The universe stands on display showcasing the intricate details God splashed into the creation of the oceans, landmasses and all creatures, great and small. The complexity with which our bodies function surely points to our being formed with divine intention. Since we were clearly made for a reason, what could it be? This week we will spend some time talking about how we can be sure that God made us all for a reason.

Digging Deeper

We discover the reason God made us when we...

CENTER our lives on God through WORSHIP.

- Worship is essential because we were planned for God’s pleasure. Our goal everyday should be to please God in what we think, say and do as a means of expressing our love and gratitude for all that He is and does. Taking out the trash? Thank you God for allowing me to be physically able to do this! Going to work? Thank you God for blessing me with a way to support myself and those who may rely on me. You get the idea. Read Revelation 4. Worship will be a primary focus when we get to heaven, so we may as well get good at it here on earth! Do you make an effort to incorporate a spirit of worship into every little thing you do? Do you consider it a worthwhile endeavor to do so?

CONNECT with other believers through FELLOWSHIP.

- Read Ephesians 4:4 (CEV). Each of us is an individual, but we find our purpose in the context of the whole body. You and I cannot find our reason for existence apart from the whole. That’s because we were formed for God’s family. We fulfill our purpose by centering our lives on God in worship and by connecting with other believers thru fellowship. Do you belong to a life group? If so, how has fellowship with like-minded Christians strengthened your relationship with God? If you are not in a life group, contact Mindy Clemons at mindy@mylhmc.net to get connected to (or perhaps create) one today!

CULTIVATE godly character through DISCIPLESHIP.

- As a child perhaps you aspired to be like your favorite superhero, athlete, singer, movie star, etc... As we grow in our Christian faith, we begin to realize that the only superhero we were made to emulate is Jesus Christ. To work toward that end, we must cultivate our lives in an effort to make them fertile ground for God to do His holy work. What are some discipleship practices that will help us to experience the change, little by little, into Christlikeness? How can we discover God’s plan for our growth?

- You've surely heard this well-known schoolyard retort often wielded in response to an insulting remark: "Oh yeah, well it takes one to know one!" What are some behaviors you have seen in others that let you know they are one (of His)?

CONTRIBUTE something beneficial through MINISTRY.

- Read Matthew 25:31-46 (NLT). We were shaped for serving God and we serve Him by serving others. Every believer needs to find a place of service or ministry. Do you have yours? There are many ways you can connect and serve right here in our own community. For example, we will be hosting a Back to School Bash at Southport Elementary on August 6th. To find out more about how to plug into this, or any of our servant opportunities, contact Heather Howell, Director or Radical Hospitality Ministries, at heather@mylhumc.net or visit our website (www.mylhumc.net).

COMMUNICATE God's love to others through EVANGELISM.

- We were made for a mission and that is to share the good news of Jesus Christ with everyone we meet. This is not easy for a lot of people because of the fear of rejection, awkwardness or even a perceived ineptitude. But if we can see past all of those human barriers, we would realize that God doesn't call the equipped, he equips the called; and He has called us to share our faith. What are the biggest stumbling blocks you face when it comes to evangelism? How can they be overcome?

Conclusion

You are God's custom made, unique masterpiece, designed with a specific purpose. Since we know He doesn't make mistakes, we can be sure that God most certainly made you for a reason! Some people spend their whole lives trying to figure out the purpose for their lives. Luckily for you, we can begin to find and fulfill our purpose through the five activities we've just discussed in this week's sermon and study guide!