

## INTRO

- What did you want to be when you were younger?
- Should life be purposeful? Why/Why not?
- How would you answer someone asking you what the purpose of your life is?

Today we look at the importance of being RESOLVED in Living Purposefully. Defining Purpose: “*Purpose is the reason for which something is done or created or the reason for which something exists.*”

## READ

Gen 1:26-28

## REFLECT

*Qu: what does it mean to be ‘made in the image of God’?*

Genesis 1 tells us what true humanity means — to be an image-bearer. God has infused us with purpose. There are hints to our ‘made in his likeness’ all over: our value of relationships, beauty, the need for justice, productivity and fulfillment and so on.

*Qu: And how do we image God in the world?*

We image God in the world through:

- **RELATIONSHIP:** with God, others & creation.
- **REPRESENTATION:** in God’s “likeness” we are to govern, rule, and exercise wise power within and over creation causing human flourishing and creation’s fruitfulness.

As we do this, we bring glory and worship to God and experience immense fulfillment. This is what it means to be truly human.

However, as both our own human experience and what the Biblical story tells us is that we don’t experience this in the way God intended.

Instead, humans abdicate their purpose and put other things within creation in the place of God. We become image-bearers of these lesser gods giving them immense power within our lives and God’s creation. They in turn enslave us and corrupt God’s good world. The bible calls this idolatry. And it ruins both creation and humans.

*Qu: Consider common idols like money, sex or power. How do we give these idols power and how do they corrupt us?*

So, Jesus rescues us through his death & resurrection. The purpose of Jesus is that He rescues us from everything that’s getting in the way of our being fully human. Jesus enables damaged, broken and hurting people to be flourishing human beings again.

*What does this have to do with us Living Purposefully today?*

Everything. The gospel is the good news that through Jesus you are free to fulfill your human purpose once again as a restored image-bearer:

- **RELATIONSHIP:** with God, others, creation
- **REPRESENTATION:** Ask, ‘how do I represent God’s likeness’:
  - WHERE I am right now?
  - In WHAT I’m doing?
  - WHO I’m with?

God provides dignity and purpose to our everyday living and nearly every chosen path in life.

## RESPOND

- What was most encouraging/challenging from today’s discussion?
- How will you apply this to your life?

## PRAY

- Pray for one another that we’d grow more fully into what it means to be an image-bearer.