

Review:

Did you gain any insights as you read through Luke 13-24?

Are there any questions with regard to God's holiness, justice, love, or sovereignty that have been raised in your mind as a result of last week's study?

If God is complete in every way, perfect in every way, why do you think he would choose to create a people like us?

What do you think is the main reason for which God created us?

Matthew 22:37-40 (NIV)

³⁷Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment.

³⁹And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

⁴⁰All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Purpose 1: TO BE IN _____

Did God create us simply to serve him? Is that the extent of it?

Why do you think loving God is the greatest commandment?

What then, from God's perspective, is the greatest evil we could ever commit?

In the following verse, what is the basis for not being accepted into Heaven?

Matthew 7:22-23 (NIV)

²²Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' ²³Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

It's not what you do – it's who you know!

What point are the following verses trying to stress?

Jeremiah 31:3 (NIV)

The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness."

Psalms 37:4 (NIV)

Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Romans 5:8 (NIV)

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

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."

How do you feel when you hear how much God loves you and only wants the best for you?

How could trusting these verses make a practical difference in your life?

What does the following verse indicate about our second purpose?

Genesis 1:26-28 (NIV)

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." ²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Purpose 2: TO _____

The very first statement about mankind in the Bible is that we were made in the "image and likeness" of God. What do you think that means?

Why does God say in the Ten Commandments that we are not to make an image of him?

Exodus 20:4 (NASB)

You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.

"As no coin is so small that it cannot bear the image of the emperor, so no man is so humble that he cannot bear God's image..." Soren Kierkegaard writing on *Radical Discipleship*

What do you think are some implications of having been given this incredible responsibility?

Summary: As God's Image we are his Representatives on earth, caring for creation on his behalf.

God created us for two purposes:

- a) To enjoy RELATIONSHIP with him and his family
- b) To REPRESENT him in this world

How might understanding these purposes make a practical difference in how we live our lives this next week?

Note:

Genesis 1:31 (NIV)

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

If God made us to be in *Relationship* with him and to *Represent* his rule in this world, then by nature we must have been created PERFECT and HOLY. Obviously something changed since the beginning of creation and now. We will explore this over the next few weeks.

HOME STUDY:

Read: Acts: Chapters 1-14

The book of Acts is Luke's sequel to his gospel account. He continues the story of the early church after Jesus' ascension into heaven. The Holy Spirit is now given to all believers and Luke records how God is at work to take the good news of Jesus Christ from Jerusalem, to Judea, then to neighbouring Samaria, and then over all the earth.