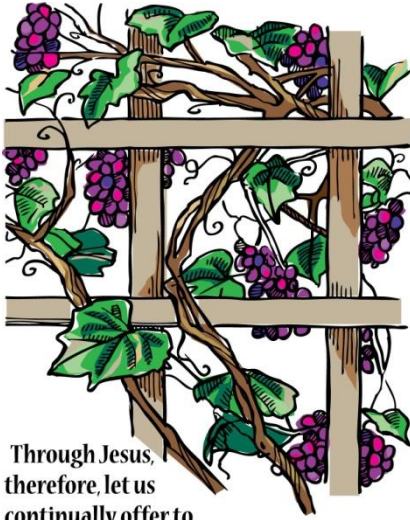


# SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

## LESSON 5



Through Jesus,  
therefore, let us  
continually offer to  
God a sacrifice of praise—  
the fruit of lips that confess his name.

## MAN'S PURPOSE

*Scripture Texts: Isaiah 43:7, Isaiah 43:21; Jeremiah 31:3;  
Matthew 10:30-31; 1 Corinthians 1:9; Revelation 4:11*

Did you ever ask yourself the question, "What are we here for?" Have you heard, "We are here to help one another?" Yes, but this is secondary. For what, then, is the primary purpose? The Bible tells us that God had a purpose in all His creation work. He had a purpose in creating man.

God created man to fellowship with Him and bring glory and praise and pleasure to Himself. Because God loves man, the fulfillment of his purpose brings good to both God and man. He expects and deserves our love in return. A one-way love is one of life's tragedies.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

—*Revelation 4:11*

### One Goal to Reach

**Isaiah 43:7, Isaiah 43:21 I have created him for my glory.** God is speaking. Why can He claim this right? Because **I have made him.** Does not the Creator have right to the benefits? **They shall shew forth my praise.** In the light of this, a multitude of goals become unnecessary to us—money, position, ease, comforts, possessions, approval of men, worldly achievement—What are these? Redeemed man has but one goal—the glory and praise of God.

To crown His Creation, God made man like Himself, with mind and spirit capable of high aspirations reaching even into eternity. God has always given man a law to obey, a path to follow. Why? Does not this point to the certainty of a purpose to be fulfilled? One goal to reach to the exclusion of others? Would an all-knowing God plan and build a complex body of man, his amazing mind and his awesome spirit, only to dash it to a meaningless end in seventy or one hundred years? Does our short earthly life fulfill the promise seen in even the visible Creation? What then? There is more.

### Man of Value to God

**Jeremiah 31:3 I have loved thee with an everlasting love.** The thing loved is valued most. God is the greatest Being. Therefore, His love is greater than any other. His love for His people (first literal Israel, the nation, then spiritual Israel, the church) never ends. **Therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee—** draws us to Himself. Love breeds love. Love calls for love. Having received His love, we are constrained to return that love with self-abandoning devotion. When love flows between two, every purpose is for the blessing of both.

**Matthew 10:30-31** God cares about all of His Creation—trees, grass, birds—all were made for a purpose. Man is His highest creation. Our **very hairs are all numbered.** If this small detail is so particularly cared for, how about our bodies, minds, joys and sorrows, life and death, our souls and their eternal destiny? We need not fear. We are **of more value** to God **than many sparrows.**

Why are we of value to Him? Because He made us for a purpose. That purpose is to serve His good, but also, since He loves us, it is to serve our good as well. Neither can win nor lose without the other winning or losing also. We are valuable enough to God for Him to plan, create, grieve over, and die for. He needs us.

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It is natural for one who loves to desire a return of love. God longs for this. Jesus said the first commandment is that we love God with all our hearts, souls, and minds. Without love of Him, we cannot; with love, we cannot but glorify Him. We need Him.

It is also natural for a person loved to love back. All of us would love God were it not for sin. Our obedience to God's Word shows our love to Him. See **John 14:15, John 14:23**. God's redeemed ones are the only ones who love Him. They delight to glorify Him. A one-way love is a tragic experience. Hearts are broken because love is not returned. It breaks the great Heart of God when we refuse to return our love to Him.

### Man Is to Fellowship Christ

**1 Corinthians 1:9** God has called us **unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord**. We and He are to know each other, to be friends (**John 15:15**), to enjoy each other's companionship. This fellowship is precious to both God and man (**Malachi 3:16-17**). To have it, we must know Him.

How close is this fellowship? Look at Christ's prayer for His people in **John 17:22-23**. **And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me**. Christ's people are His church and the church is His body—the closest relation. The church has **been all made to drink into one Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13)**. The Holy Spirit is the means of our fellowship. **Our conversation is in heaven (Philippians 3:20)**. The living of a saint's life is anchored in Heaven. He fellowships with heavenly ones in heavenly ways in heavenly places. This, God planned and provided for.

### Man Is for God's Pleasure

**Revelation 4:11** What prompts the worship and honor the saints give to the Lord? (See **Revelation, Chapters 4 and 5**.) The worthiness of the Lord, all He is, all He has done. He **created all things**. They exist for His pleasure as we are told in **Colossians 1:16**.

Does not our success lie in fulfilling our purpose? The thought that we may give pleasure to God is a joy in itself! How can we? First, by repentance and believing on Christ and then, by trust and obedience, to live all for Him. Study the Bible to learn what will please Him. For individual, daily direction, pray and listen to Him. Thus we will GLORIFY God, PRAISE Him, FELLOWSHIP with Him, and PLEASE Him. This will fulfill our purpose.

Does God exist for man or man for God? Even reason tells us man was made for God, to glorify and please Him. How? By **the fruit of our lips (Hebrews 13:15)**. By keeping both body and spirit pure (**1 Corinthians 6:19-20**). By a righteous life reflecting the image of God for all to see (**1 John 3:7**). By bearing much fruit (**John 15:8**). An unholy man cannot glorify a holy God.

What are we to get from a life so lived? It cannot be measured. What reward has anything in the fulfillment of its purpose? How much can a rose rejoice in its blooming? Could we wish for more than the approval of the One Who gave us life and put a purpose in it? But there IS more. Read **Romans 8:17; Philippians 3:21; 1 John 3:2; and Revelation 3:21**.

### JUST A THOUGHT

**Greater is the faithful finish than the fabulous start.**

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.  
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