

THE LIFE

EMBRACING THE LIFE OF A CHRIST-FOLLOWER

PART 2: THE PICTURE OF A DISCIPLE UNIT 4: A DISCIPLE ENGAGES WITH HIS OR HER SURROUNDINGS LESSON 38: THE PURPOSE OF OUR WORSHIP

What we want students to learn: That worship is when Christ-followers give heartfelt glory and honor to God through their voices.

What we want students to do with what they've learned: To identify ways in which they bring glory to God and ways in which they give glory to other (unworthy) things.

Scripture Focus: Isaiah 43:6-7; Ephesians 1:11-12

Supporting Scripture: Revelation 5:11-14; Isaiah 48:9-11

Overview: God created us for His glory. This is an amazing truth. But what is equally amazing is that the purpose of our worship is to return this glory to God. God desires to be glorified by His children. This is right because God alone is worthy of worship. It is His due because of who He is. As Christ-followers seeking to live the life of authentic disciples, your students should long to give to God what is rightfully His: glory and honor through heartfelt praise and worship. This lesson helps frame worship in this context, challenging your students to consider how they practically bring glory to God, as well as considering ways in which they give misplaced glory to any thing other than God.

TEACHER PREP VIDEO

Each **LIFE** lesson comes with a Teacher Prep Video. These are short videos designed to help you grasp the main point of the lesson as you prepare to teach.

To access your **LIFE** lesson 38 Teacher Prep Video, login to your Lesson Manager, navigate to lesson 38, and click on the "Background" tab. You'll notice the Teacher Prep Video near the top of the Lesson Manager window.

BIBLE BACKGROUND

The *Bible Background* is designed to help you provide some context for the Scripture you'll be studying. The Details gives you background info for each book, The Setting informs you what's happening in and around the passage, and The Main Point gives you an overview of how the passage will be used in the lesson.

- **What do we mean by "context"?** In every **YM360** Bible study lesson, you'll notice we make a point to encourage you to provide the context for the passages you study. By "context" we mean at the very least helping students know **who** wrote the book, **when** it was written, and **why** it was written.
- **What's the big deal?** When we teach the Bible without giving context, students don't get a "big picture" understanding of the story of the Bible. But this view is vital to grasping the story of God's plan of redemption for humankind. As you teach, use the Bible Background to help summarize the context.

THE DETAILS

Isaiah

- **Author:** Isaiah, son of Amoz wrote the book of Isaiah.
- **Time frame:** The events of Isaiah occurred between 740 and 681 B.C., though some parts of the book would have been constructed at a later date.

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- **Purpose:** The purpose of this book was to call the nation of Judah back to God, to warn of coming judgment, and to tell of God's ultimate salvation through the Messiah.

Ephesians

- **Author:** The Apostle Paul wrote the letters to the Ephesians. Of course we know Paul as the one-time chief enemy of the Church. After his miraculous conversion on the road to Damascus, Paul would go on to have a position of great importance in the early Church and beyond. He wrote 13 of the 27 books of the New Testament.
- **Time frame:** Ephesians was probably written by Paul from prison in the latter years of his life, sometime around 60 or 61 AD.
- **Purpose:** Paul had a very close relationship with the church in Ephesus. It seems as if the motivation for the letter was simply that the church would know how he was faring in his imprisonment. But, true to form, Paul couldn't help but teach. The letter covers general teaching on the work of Christ to redeem believers, unity among believers, and how believers are supposed to conduct themselves.

THE SETTING

The Lord is speaking to the people of Israel through the prophet Isaiah. He has called them out on their sin and has explained the consequences that will come upon them for that sin. However, God tells His people that even though they will be judged for their sin, He will not forsake them. He assures them that as they go through trials, He will be with them. He will gather His people together once again.

THE MAIN POINT

God has created us for His glory and He will get glory through His faithfulness to His people. Too often we give glory to other people and things, which is contrary to what God designed us to do. He alone is worthy of glory and honor. So, He has created His people to worship Him and give Him the glory and honor He deserves. It might sound selfish at first, but the more we think about it, wanting glory and honor is only selfish and misplaced if we don't deserve it. God deserves it and when we give it to Him, we are fulfilling what we were created to do.

LESSON PLAN

The *Lesson Plan* contains three elements: An introductory activity called **The Lead In**; the Bible study section called **The Main Event**; an application-focused segment called **The Last Word**.

THE LEAD IN

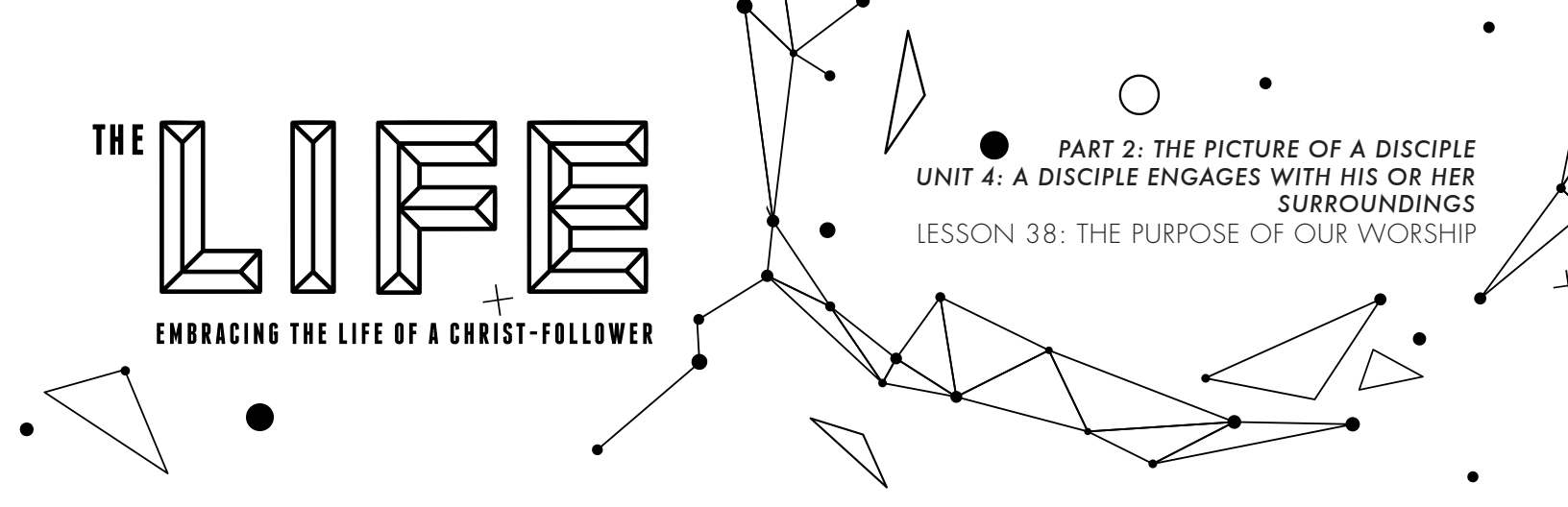
- **Goal:** To get students thinking about how things, including themselves, were created with a specific purpose in mind.
- **Set Up:** Have a piece of paper, pen, and paperclip for each member of the class.

FIRST, give each student a piece of blank paper, a pen, and a paperclip. Explain that you will give them 90 seconds to come up with as many uses for a paperclip as they possibly can. Encourage them to be creative. This activity can be done individually or in pairs, at your discretion. Have them write their answers on their piece of paper.

NEXT, after you have given the students 90 seconds, ask students to share some of their answers. Ask something like:

- **Have you ever thought of a paperclip having so many uses?**

WEEK 38: LESSON PLAN
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- o Answers will vary.
- **What are some other objects that have multiple uses?**
 - o Answers will vary. Duct-tape, clothespin, milk jug, etc.

Explain that even though some objects have multiple uses, they were created with a specific purpose in mind. A paper-clip can also be used as a lock picker, but it works best when it is holding pieces of paper together.

NEXT, ask something like:

- **What can happen when you try to use an object for something other than its intended purpose?**
 - o Answers will vary. It can oftentimes break or not perform its alternative task very well.
- **Have you ever been to the kitchen section or hardware section of a store, or maybe even your own kitchen, and seen objects that you had no idea what their purpose was? What is the problem when we have no idea why something exists?**
 - o Answer: We can't put things to use if we don't know what they are and what they were intended to do.

FINALLY, wrap up this section by saying something like:

- **Just like paperclips, spoons, hairbrushes, and chairs have an intended purpose, you were created with a specific purpose. Your purpose leads to the purpose of specific things we do as believers. In our lesson today we are going to talk about how we as Christ-followers can live out our purpose of worshipping God.**

Transition into *The Main Event* portion of the lesson.

THE MAIN EVENT

- **Goal:** Help students understand that worship is when Christ-followers give heartfelt glory and honor to God.
- **Set Up:** You may benefit from a dry-erase board, but it's not critical. Make sure students have a Bible or that they are able to look along with a friend.

FIRST, ask students to turn to Isaiah 43. As students find Isaiah, take a moment to provide context for this passage using information from the Bible Background. Read or have a student read Isaiah 43:6-7. Remind them that this is God talking to His people through the prophet Isaiah. Ask something like:

- **Looking at verse 7, what actions do you see from God? What has He done?**
 - o Answer: He has created people. He formed them and made them.

THEN, explain that we can actually learn a lot from this little verse. Here we see that God is Creator. He is the one who brought us into existence, who has fashioned and formed us the exact way that He desires. Because He is the one who created us, He gets to say "why" we were created; it's not up to us to guess. Explain that God tells us exactly why He created us, which helps us understand our purpose. Say/ask:

- **We do not have to go through life aimlessly, without purpose or meaning. If we rightly understand the purpose He has for us, it directs our steps and helps us know what we are supposed to do. According to God, here in verse 7, why were you created?**
 - o Answer: For God's glory.

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- **Does it give you peace or comfort to know “why” you were created? How can knowing this help us?**
 - Answer: People have always wanted to know the answer to why we are here and the meaning of life. This passage helps us answer this question. It gives us comfort to know that we don’t have to figure it out on our own or spend our lives aimlessly searching for meaning.

NEXT, explain that the word “glory” frequently carries the idea of heaviness or of giving weight to something. It can refer to honor or praise of something or someone. Ask something like:

- **What does it mean to be created for God’s glory?**
 - Answer: It means that we were created to give weight to God’s name, to honor and praise Him. Our lives are about putting a spotlight on God’s greatness.
- **How does it make you feel to know that you were created for God’s glory?**
 - Answers will vary.
- **When you know why you were created, how does that help you know what you are supposed to do?**
 - Answers will vary. It helps give us direction in life and rightly consider if our actions and pursuits line up with the purpose of bringing glory to God.

THEN, explain that in Paul’s letter to the Ephesian church, he echoes this idea of our purpose. Read or have a student read Ephesians 1:11-12. Say something like:

- **In this passage, we find that God is the one who has determined that Christ-followers will obtain an inheritance through faith in Jesus. He is the one who brings us to salvation for the praise of His glory. Our salvation, going from death to life through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, brings praise to God’s name; it gives weight to who God is and what He can do.**

NEXT, explain that knowing that we were created for God’s glory leads us to question how we can bring glory to God. We find an incredible example of this in Revelation 5. Read or have a student read Revelation 5:11-14. Ask something like:

- **In your own words, what is going on here?**
 - Answers will vary. This is a worship scene. We see every creature in giving glory to the Lamb, Jesus. Point students to the living creatures, the elders, and the angels saying something and then there is a response by every creature. After the response by every creature, the four living creatures and the elders respond.
- **Describe in your own words what the living creatures, elders, and angels are saying.**
 - Answer: They are declaring that Jesus is worthy of glory. He is worthy of worship.
- **How does every creature respond to what the living creatures, elders, and angels say?**
 - Answer: They give Jesus the glory. They worship Him.

THEN, explain that the purpose of worship is to give God the glory that He is due. We give glory and honor to God through our praise and worship of Him. In this passage, Jesus is being declared as worthy of glory. The response to this declaration is worship, or the giving of Jesus the glory that He is due. Ask something like:

- **Do you see any connection with the way our church services are set up and the scene described in this passage of Revelation 5? Explain.**
 - Answers will vary.
- **Do you think praising God through song is important? Why or why not?**
 - Answer: Although some people might not enjoy singing, worshiping God through song is talked about all throughout Scripture. It is also important to note that the majority of the psalms were written for singing, especially during gatherings of God’s people.

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- It is important for us to understand that the book of Revelation is a record of John's vision about the end times. These are future events. With that in mind, let's notice who is doing the worshiping in verse 13 and who is the one being worshiped. Who is worshiping? And whom are they worshiping?
 - Answer: Every creature in worshiping Jesus, the Lamb of God.
- This is a vision of you worshiping in the future! How incredible is that? God is worthy of our worship and He will get our worship. If you ever wonder what you will be doing in the future, you can be sure that you will be worshiping the Lord. How is worshiping God fulfilling what we were created for?
 - Answer: We talked about us being created to give God glory. When we worship Him, we are ascribing to Him the praise and honor that He is due. We are recognizing and acknowledging the "weight" and "heaviness" of His existence and being.
- Even though we know that God created us for His glory and that He deserves our worship, do we always give Him the glory that He is due? Do we worship Him the way we should?
 - Answers will vary. Of course not, though. We get tangled up in sin. We try and put people and things in positions of importance above God.
- You have probably given glory to someone or something other than God. Our hearts tend to worship things that we think will make us happy. What are some things that we tend to worship other than God?
 - Answers will vary. Explain to the students that these aren't always bad things. Sometimes they're good things that we get too consumed with. Of course, it can be sin in our lives, but it can also be things like relationships, social status, or material possessions.

NEXT, say something like:

- As Christ-followers we need to be really careful about who and what we are worshiping. God gives us a warning about this in Isaiah 48:9-11.

THEN, read or have a student read Isaiah 48:9-11. Ask something like:

- According to this passage, what does God do for His own sake?
 - Answer: He will bring affliction to His people because they have profaned His name. God says that He will not cut off His people completely, but they will face consequences for not giving Him the glory that He is due (this is what it means to profane His name).
- Why do you think God is so passionate about preserving His own name?
 - Answer: He is the one, true God. His name is His character and reputation. He wants people to rightly understand who He is and the glory that He is due.
- God says that He will not give His glory to another. What does that mean?
 - Answer: God will not allow anyone or anything to take His place in a believer's life. No one could be more important than Him or deserve more glory than Him, because if that were the case, He would no longer be God. Wow. That's a heavy truth to think about.
- What can we do to make sure that we are giving God the glory that He is due?
 - Answers will vary. We can grow deeper in our relationship with Him, which will impact our hearts and desires and lead us to follow Him more closely. We can think through our actions, decisions, and words and consider who or what they are giving glory to.

FINALLY, remind the students that we were created for God's glory. God is the only one truly worthy of glory, so He deserves our worship. Worship is how we give God the glory that He rightly deserves. God will not share His glory with another. He is jealous for the heart of His people.

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Ask if there are any questions, and if there are none, transition into *The Last Word*.

THE LAST WORD

- **Goal:** Have students identify ways in which they bring glory to God and ways in which they give glory to other (unworthy) things.
- **Set-Up:** A copy of the Lesson 38 “Worthy? Or Unworthy?” activity sheet for each student.

FIRST, distribute a copy of the Lesson 38 handout to each student. Explain that they will go through the list and put a “G” next to the things that give God the glory and an “O” next to the things that give glory to other (unworthy) things.

THEN, give students a few minutes to put every statement into one of these two categories. When they are finished, discuss their answers together.

NEXT, tell students to circle some specific things that were on the list that they struggle with. Direct students to write out some ways that they have given glory to other things or people rather than giving God the glory He is due. Ask something like:

- **Think about the paper clip you were given at the beginning of the lesson. When we try and give glory to other things, how are we like a paper clip that’s being used to pick a lock? When we give glory and honor to God, how are we like a paper clip being used to hold papers together?**
 - o Answers will vary. When we try and give glory to other people or things, we aren’t fulfilling our true purpose. And it might seem to work out for a little while, but just like the paper clip picking the lock, it will fail at some point. It can’t last or hold up. The relationships or things we’re giving glory to will fail us eventually. But when we are giving God the glory He is due, those things and relationships fall into line and function the way He intended them to. And our lives are filled with meaning and a fulfillment of our true purpose.

FINALLY, remind students that as Christ-followers seeking to live the life of authentic disciples, we should long to give to God what is rightfully His: glory and honor through heartfelt praise and worship.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU . . .

- Do you have questions about a lesson?
- Something that worked particularly well you want to share?
- Something that didn’t work up?

We value your feedback! Please do not hesitate to email us with your questions, comments, or concerns, at feedback@youthministry360.com.