

O R I G I N S

It's easy to rush through life without pausing to understand our meaning and purpose. But to have a life worth living requires answering the Big Questions: Who are we? Why are we here? Where are we going?

The universe, life, order, meaning, gender, marriage, languages... everything we experience today started somewhere. In this series, we'll examine the beginning of human history and the Bible's answers to some of life's biggest questions.

Week Four: Do I Have What It Takes?

Text: Genesis 2:4-25

Why do young people who grew up hearing, "You can be whatever you want to be!" express such high levels of anxiety and uncertainty that they have what it takes to succeed? Such encouraging words should have empowered them to greatness! Instead, that false message placed a burden on the hearers to determine who they are and then to become it by their own effort and ingenuity. By contrast, the Bible tells us that God gave us life, created each of us in His image, and then gave us a way to live this life that is for our benefit. Family was created as the context in which life is propagated, expands, and thrives. When we operate within God's design and live according to what He says, we live for something greater than ourselves and experience purpose and meaning.

Discussion Questions: These three larger questions will drive our discussion:

1. What did the Holy Spirit say to you through Sunday's sermon and the associated passage?
2. What are you going to do about it?
3. How can others in the group help you and pray for you so you can do what God told you to do?

What did the Holy Spirit say to you through the sermon?

- Do you tend to think of your life as something that belongs to you or to God? Explain your thoughts and give some examples of how this affects the way you live. Just as God created Adam and Eve (Genesis 2:7, 22), God was personally involved in creating you. Explore Psalm 139:13-16. How does this shape the way you see yourself?
- God gave Adam and Eve a purpose and a command (Genesis 2:15-17). Why do you think God gave them the option of disobedience? Is it possible to experience true freedom and love without choices? Try to give some examples.
- God didn't create Adam and Eve at the same time and in the same way (Genesis 2:7, 21-22). Since God does everything for a purpose and to reveal His plan to us, what do we learn about His plan through this passage? (See also Genesis 1:26-28)

What are you going to do about it?

- Even though we live after sin entered God's perfect world, what has God provided for us to successfully live for his purpose? (See 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3-4 and Romans 8:32)
- What areas of your life need more focus on Jesus and less on the cultural view of success or meaning?

How can others in this group help you or pray for you?

- How will your group join with the HCBC staff and elders this week for Fasting and Prayer? See the Family Prayer Guide provided on the church website. www.hcbc.com/prayer

Memory Verse:

The Lord God said,
"It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

Genesis 2:18