

Week 3: Finding Purpose

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. Ephesians 2:10

Read:

Matthew 9:9-13

When Jesus was walking through Capernaum past a tax collector's booth, he asked Matthew to follow him *as he was*. Matthew stood up and followed Jesus, leaving everything behind. Later, Matthew invited Jesus and other tax collectors to his home for dinner. However, when the Pharisees and their teachers saw this, they were disgusted and said, "Why do you eat and drink with such scum?" When Jesus heard their negative and judgmental remarks, he responded by saying "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do." Jesus came for those who knew they were sinners, not the ones who claimed to be righteous.

Matthew taught us a great lesson on how to find our purpose through God. Did you notice what Matthew did when Jesus asked him to follow? He got up and left everything behind. He did not ask questions, express any doubt, grab his things, or even get his life in order. He got up and immediately followed Jesus! In that moment, Matthew found his purpose and went on to show God's love to people everywhere.

When we are trying to find our purpose, we often compare ourselves to others. We may become insecure if our skill set does not exactly match our co-worker, neighbor, or even a sibling. But did you know that comparison is a tool the enemy uses to block the discovery of our purpose? God has created us with our own unique talents and abilities. God has shaped every one of us beautifully, so to compare ourselves to other people is pointless. We must look to our Lord alone for finding our purpose. It's as simple as saying "yes" to God and following him – no questions asked – like Matthew.

Questions to think about:

1. What are some of your talents, passions, and hobbies?
2. What are some ways you can use those to serve the Kingdom of God?
3. If someone were to ask you what your purpose is, what would you say to them?