

# 40 Weeks of Purpose

Week 15

## Formed for God's Family

### POINT TO MEDITATE ABOUT FROM LAST WEEK:

*God is real, no matter how I feel.*

Sometimes it feels like God is close to you. Sometimes it doesn't. God is concerned about Faith, not Feelings. He will purposely make it seem like He is not near just to grow your Faith.

### VERSE TO MEMORIZE FROM LAST WEEK:

*"I will never leave you. I will never forsake you."* – Hebrews 13:5

We need to remember that God is always near, no matter how we feel. We can be confident in this. We can have faith in it.

### QUESTION TO CONSIDER FROM LAST WEEK:

*How can I stay focused on God, even when He seems distant?*

Developing a constant awareness of the presence of God will help you to stay focused on Him.

- You were formed for God's family.
- God wants a family. He has always wanted a family from the beginning of creation, and He stills wants one today
- This is God's Second Purpose for our lives
- Being a part of God's Family is called "Fellowship"
- God wants you to be a part of that family, and He has planned this from before you were even born
- The Bible is the story of God building a family to love Him, honor Him, and reign with him forever

- Ephesians 1:5 (NLT)

5) His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave him great pleasure.

- Because God is Love, He treasures relationships

- He chose to identify Himself in family terms:

- God is the Father

- Jesus is the Son

- Israel was His Children

- We are His adopted Children

- When we become baptized into Christ, we become God's children

- Other believers become our Brothers and Sisters

- The Ecclesia becomes our Family

- Everyone was created by God, but not everyone is a child of God

- Everyone is born into this world

- The only way you get into God's family is by being born again into it

- 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:3-4 (NIV)

3) Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4) and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you,

- Your spiritual family is even more important than your natural family, because it will last forever

- Our natural families are wonderful gifts from God, but they are fragile, broken by divorce, distance, and ultimately death

- Our relationship to God, Jesus and other believers will continue throughout eternity

- There are also tremendous benefits in being a part of God's spiritual family

- The moment you were baptized, you received astounding gifts:

- The Family Name
  - The Family Likeness
  - Family Privileges
  - Family Intimate Access
  - The Family Inheritance
- Galatians 4:7 (NLT)
    - 7) Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, everything he has belongs to you.
- It's important that we come to understand the great riches of our inheritance
- Ephesians 1:18 (CEV)
    - 18) My prayer is that light will flood your hearts and that you will understand the hope that was given to you when God chose you. Then you will discover the glorious blessings that will be yours together with all of God's people.
- Our inheritance includes:
    - 1) We get to be with God forever
    - 2) We will be completely changed to be like Christ
    - 3) We will be freed from all death, pain and suffering
    - 4) We will be rewarded with positions of service
    - 5) We will share in Christ's glory
- 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:4 (NLT)
    - 4) For God has reserved a priceless inheritance for his children. It is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay.
- Being included in God's family is the highest honor and the greatest privilege you will ever receive
  - Whenever you feel unimportant, unloved or insecure... Remember this verse:

• Hebrews 2:11 (CEV)

11) Jesus and the people he makes holy all belong to the same family. That is why he isn't ashamed to call them his brothers and sisters.

• We are the Brothers and Sisters of Jesus!

**POINT TO MEDITATE ABOUT THIS WEEK:**

*I was formed for God's family.*

**VERSE TO MEMORIZE THIS WEEK:**

*"His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into His own family" –  
Ephesians 1:5*

**QUESTION TO CONSIDER THIS WEEK:**

*How should I treat believers if they are members of my family?*