



What we long for, what we sense deep in our bones, what we want to be true even when nothing on earth tells us its true, is that there is something for which we were intended; there is someone for whom we were no accident. What if I told you that you were planned. Purposed. Intended. Chosen.

These questions are intended to deepen your experience of the message. Use them for your personal or family study time, or with an open Bible as you share the good news with your neighbor.

Sermon Quote:

“You are an original, and God loves you just as you are. But Christ is our original standard, and in His life we find what it means to be who we are meant to be.”

**WHO AM I?** Read Psalm 8:3-4. Have you ever struggled with the question “who am I”? Your identity? If so, what kind of things have you tried to find your identity in? Discuss with the group as much as you are willing to share.

**FALSE STORY: YOU ARE AN ACCIDENT.** The storyline that is at the heart of our culture is that there is no God, so there is no “creation” or meaning. The end result of that is to say we are accidents. How is this displayed in popular music, books, movies, etc.? What are some ways we might adopt this story ourselves?

**TRUE STORY: YOU WERE INTENDED.** Read Genesis 1:26-28 & 31. What does it mean to be made in God’s “image and likeness”? Why does He call this day “very good”? Share how this story—that humans were made by God in the image of God and called “very good” is a “counter-cultural story.”

**FORMED & PRE-FORMED.** Read Psalm 139:13-16, Isaiah 43:1 & Jeremiah 1:5. Compare the language of these passages to the cultural story that we are simply random accidents. How does the Bible story—that we were wanted and intended by God even before we were personally formed in the womb by God—offer hope and give us meaning?

**TRUE IN CREATION.** Read John 1:10-11, 3:16-17 & Romans 5:5-8. If every person is made in the image of God, and if God loved the world even when we were bitter enemies, then that means that every person—no matter what—is wanted, intended, and loved by God. Discuss how this excludes no one!

**REALIZED IN CHRIST.** Read Eph 1:3-4, 11-12 & 2:10. Nathan said “What is true in creation is realized in Christ.” Anyone in Christ is “chosen” and represent God’s “masterpiece” or “workmanship.” But this call is to everyone. Discuss how God’s intentions for humanity are found ultimately in Jesus Christ. **Follow up:** Sing “O Holy Night” and discuss this line: “and the soul felt its worth.”