

# Parenting with PURPOSE



## Unit 1.1: God is Creator

Our powerful God created the world and everything in it in six days. God created all things for His own purposes. God's purpose for us is to have a relationship with Him.

**Memory Verse:** Revelation 4:11

### Lesson Objectives:

- GOD IS CREATOR. View and praise God as a powerful, artistic Creator who only has to speak and things are made.
- GOD CREATED US FOR A SPECIAL PURPOSE. Learn that in six days God created the world and everything in it from nothing for His own special reasons.
- GOD WANTS TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH US. Discover that God created humans in His image and with the ability to have a relationship with Him.
- GOD WANTS US TO GET TO KNOW HIM. Understand that the Bible is the place where we find out about God and how to have a relationship with Him.

### Talk about it:

- Can anyone be a creator? Why or why not?
- What does it mean to be created in God's image?
- Why did God create us? How do we know why He created us?



### Encouragement for you:

Our powerful God created the world and everything in it from absolutely nothing... and He did it in just six days! Revelation 4:11 tells us that it was by God's will, or choice, that all things were created. There was a purpose or reason for everything He created. This week, as you face challenging situations, remember that God put thought and purpose into creating you! You can thank God for being your awesome and powerful Creator.

## T&T Announcements

## Family Activity: Make Your Own Creation

### What You'll Need:

Art supplies for each child (e.g. playdough, paper, crayons, markers, pipe cleaners, sheets of aluminum foil)

**STEP 1:** Give each child a set of art materials and give them a few minutes to make their own unique creation with the materials (e.g., pipe cleaners shaped into animals, foil hearts, flowers).

**STEP 2:** Ask them to share about their creations. Then start a discussion asking why they chose to create what they did and what they hope to do with their creation now. Will they give it to a friend? Hang it on a wall?

**STEP 3:** Take one of creations and say it is yours now and you will use it for some silly purpose other than what the child intended to do with the creation. Continue the discussion by asking how they would feel if you took their creation without asking and used it for your own purpose. Share these important concepts:

- When you create something, you own it. You are in charge of it. You chose what you wanted to make for a certain reason and you decide what you will do with it.
- It's the same way with God. God created the world and each one of us for a very special reason.

Continue the discussion by asking how they think God feels when we do what we want to do instead of what He made us to do. What problems might come if we don't do what God made us to do?

**STEP 4:** Share these key concepts:

- God created EVERYTHING!
- We should praise God because He is the Creator.
- To praise God is to tell Him how great and powerful and awesome He is!
- God is the only one who could create the world, so He is the only one that deserves our praise.
- God chose what He wanted to create. He created everything for His own special reasons.

# Parenting with PURPOSE



## Unit 1.2: God is Holy

God is holy, without sin. We are sinners, but through Christ we can become holy in His sight. After we trust Jesus as Savior, the Holy Spirit helps us to do what's right.

**Memory Verse:** Revelation 4:8b

### Lesson Objectives:

- **GOD IS HOLY.** Understand that God is holy. He is perfect, without sin and always right.
- **WE ARE NOT HOLY LIKE GOD.** Realize that we are not holy like God because we are sinful and born in sin.
- **THE BIBLE TEACHES HOW TO BE RIGHT WITH GOD.** Desire to look to God to know what is right.
- **WE CAN BE HOLY IN GOD'S SIGHT.** Believe that once they trust Christ as Savior, they are holy in God's sight. The Holy Spirit lives inside them and helps them to do what's right and be more like Christ.

### Talk about it:

- What are some examples of disobedience to God? Why are these things sin?
- Sin isn't only disobedience to God. It's also not doing the good things God wants us to do. What are some good things that you knew you were supposed to do but didn't?
- Share a time when you had a choice to make – to sin or not to sin – and you chose not to sin. What helped you not to sin?



### Encouragement for you:

Revelation 4:8b tells us that God is holy; He is perfect and without sin. Because we all sin, we can never meet up to God's standard of holiness. But God loves us too much to expect us to be holy on our own merit. We can be encouraged that when we accept Jesus Christ as Savior the Holy Spirit helps us to live holy lives. John 14:26 tells us that the Holy Spirit will help us, teach us and make us more like Christ.

**T&T Announcements**

## Family Activity: Imitation Game

What You'll Need:  
Nothing

**STEP 1:** Ask kids to imitate everything you do. Begin making simple hand and body motions and move to faster and more complex motions, making it difficult for them to keep up. Continue this game for a few minutes.

**STEP 2:** Ask if they found it easy or hard to imitate everything you did. Why was it easy or hard? In the Bible, God tells us to imitate Him. God is not asking us to copy His hand and body motions. He doesn't have a body like we do! But He is asking us to be like Him and act like Him, to do the things HE tells us to do. Ask if they think it would be easy or hard to be like God. Why? Help them to see that one reason it is hard to be like God is because we are sinful and He is not! Share these key concepts:

- Sin is anything we think, say or do that disobeys God. We also sin when we don't do good things that God wants us to do.
- Even if we could go our whole lives without sinning, we still wouldn't be clean because we are human and we are born in sin.
- We are born in sin because we all are related to the very first man, Adam, who was a sinner.
- God is different from us. He has never sinned and He wasn't born in sin.
- God is perfect and He helps us to be more like Him — though we can never be perfect like God!

**STEP 3:** Ask the kids what the word *holy* means and let them offer ideas. Share these key concepts:

- *Holy* is a very important word in our verse.
- The verse calls God holy three times, which is the Bible's way of saying that God is super holy and that nothing or no one else even comes CLOSE to being holy like He is.
- When God is described as holy, it means He is perfect and without sin. He has never done anything wrong and He will never do anything wrong. For example, God has never told a lie. When Jesus lived on earth, He never once disobeyed His parents or said one mean word to His siblings.
- The second part of the verse says that God is the one *who was and is and is to come*. This means that God has always been alive (before I or you or anything else was alive); He is alive now and He will always be alive. God never changes! He was always holy before; He is holy now; He will always be holy in the future.
- Holiness also means that who God is and what He does is always right. That's why the Bible says God is righteous. Psalm 145:17 says: *The LORD is righteous in all His ways, gracious in all His works*.
- If we want to know the right thing to do when we have a problem, we should think about what God is like and what He tells us to do in the Bible. That will help us make the right decision!

# Parenting with PURPOSE



## Unit 1.3: God is Just

God is perfectly just and always gives people what they deserve. Even though we deserve death because of sin, God sent Jesus to take our punishment and give us life forever in heaven.

**Memory Verse:** Deuteronomy 32:4

### Lesson Objectives:

- GOD IS JUST. Understand that God will always give people what they deserve. He never treats anyone unfairly and has no favorites.
- GOD WILL GIVE EACH PERSON WHAT THEY DESERVE. Know that the Bible says all people deserve hell, since no person is sinless except Jesus.
- GOD SENT JESUS TO TAKE THE PUNISHMENT FOR SIN. Thank God for sending Jesus to take the punishment that we deserved for our sin.

### Talk about it:

- What does it mean to say God is just?
- Read James 2:10 and explain the verse.
- What is the punishment we deserve for our sin? Why is Jesus the only one who could take our punishment?



### Encouragement for you:

By God's very nature He cannot be anything but just. He is completely reliable and we can count on Him to be faithful. God's ways are perfect and right and He is the stability we need every day (Deuteronomy 32:4). When life seems out of control, we can count on God to be completely immovable and secure.

## T&T Announcements

## Family Activity: Candy Justice Simulation

### What You'll Need:

Bowl, piece of candy or other treat for each child, watch or timer

**LEADER PREP:** Fill the bowl with candy or other treat. Choose one child in advance to help you with the simulation and tell him or her what to do. (See Step 2 below.)

**STEP 1:** Hold up the bowl of candy when starting. Let everyone know you will give a piece of candy to each person who remains seated for the next 30 seconds.

**STEP 2:** Start the timer and remind them that they only get the candy if they remain seated. Shortly after you start the timer, the helper you chose should stand up and whine that he or she wants the candy right now. Tell the helper he or she won't get a piece of candy because he or she didn't follow the rule. If another person stands up for any reason, don't give him or her candy either.

**STEP 3:** After the time is up, distribute candy to those who earned it and talk about the activity. Let the kids know they just saw an example of justice. Share these key concepts:

- Justice means that everybody gets what they deserve.
- Everyone who stayed seated deserved and got a piece of candy because they followed the rule. That was fair.
- Everybody who stood up didn't deserve and didn't get candy because they didn't follow the rule. That was also fair.

If they haven't already figured it out, tell the kids that you asked the person to stand up while you were timing the group. Give this person another chance to earn a piece of candy by having him or her sit for 30 seconds. Share these key concepts:

- They were all treated fairly today during the activity.
- Sometimes people aren't fair and don't treat us fairly because they are sinners and make mistakes. (Ask them if they can recall a time when someone wasn't fair to them. Let them share briefly or share from your own experience.)
- God is always fair to everyone.
- The Bible says He is a just God, which means God will always give people what they deserve.

Remind them that sin is anything we think, say or do that disobeys God. We also sin when we don't do good things that God wants us to do. Emphasize that we are all sinners who were born in sin. Sin is a part of us and we can't get rid of it! When Jesus died on the cross, He took the punishment of death that WE deserved because of our sin. Jesus is the only one who could take our punishment because He was perfect and never sinned. Share these key concepts:

- Since God is just, He must give us the punishment we deserve for our sin.
- It wouldn't be just for Him to let us into heaven because we all sin and don't deserve to go to heaven.
- Thankfully, Jesus took the punishment of death that we deserve for our sin and we are allowed into heaven if we've trusted Jesus Christ as our Savior.



# Parenting with **PURPOSE**



## Unit 1.4: God is Love

God is love. His love is perfect and amazing because He sent His Son to die for us and take our punishment, even though we were sinners and enemies of God.

**Memory Verse:** Ephesians 2:4-5

### Lesson Objectives:

- **GOD IS LOVE.** Understand that God created us for a love relationship with Him, but our sin keeps us from that relationship.
- **GOD SENT JESUS TO SHOW US HIS LOVE.** Know that because God is just, someone must pay the punishment for our sin, which is death.
- **GOD'S LOVE IS AMAZING.** Be amazed that because God loved us, He sent His Son, Jesus, to take our punishment.
- **WE CAN FOLLOW GOD'S EXAMPLE OF LOVE.** Learn to love others as much as God loves us.

### Talk about it:

- God IS love. What does that mean?
  - God is holy and just; therefore, He must punish sin. But because God is also love, what did He do?
  - How do we escape the punishment we deserve?
  - When we love another person, we want the very best for them, even if it means that we don't get the very best for ourselves.
- Jesus wanted the best for us but it came at a price for Him. What price?



### Encouragement for you:

As a parent you may not always like what your child is doing, but you do always love them. God's love is the same. Ephesians 2:4-5 tells us that even when we were living lives controlled by sin, God made us alive with Christ. By sending His Son Jesus to die on the cross God did what was best for us because He loved us. How can you show that kind of love to your child this week?

## T&T Announcements

## Family Activity: Vote for the Most Loving

What You'll Need:  
White board and dry erase markers or pen and paper

**STEP 1:** Read these three scenarios and tell them to listen carefully because they will be asked to vote on which person they think is acting in the most loving way:

**Scenario 1:** Tamika spent several weeks planning a special surprise birthday party for her best friend. She made the invitations herself and sent them out to the party guests. She bought balloons and streamers and a special gift for her friend. On the day of the party, her friend was surprised and felt very happy.

**Scenario 2:** Marcus is the meanest bully at school. He makes fun of everyone. He sometimes steals snacks or toys from kids' backpacks, but kids are too afraid to tell on him. One day he tripped Caleb when Caleb was walking to the classroom. Caleb was upset, but later in gym class that same day he saw that Marcus was sitting on a bench, sweating and breathing heavily. Caleb brought Marcus a cup of cold water because he thought Marcus needed a drink.

**Scenario 3:** Emma was swinging on her favorite swing in the playground and a friend asked her if she could have a turn on the swing. Emma said, "Sure, let me swing for just a few more minutes and then you can have a turn." After a few minutes, Emma got off the swing and let her friend have a turn.

**STEP 2:** Write the names Tamika, Caleb and Emma on the board or paper. Ask them to vote (with a show of hands) on whether they think Tamika, Caleb or Emma was acting the most loving. Place hash marks under each name to record the votes. Tell them there is no right or wrong answer. They just need to think about why they are picking the person they are picking.

**STEP 3:** Look at the results of the vote. Ask each person to share why they voted for that name. Share these key concepts:

- Loving another person means doing what's best for them, even if it means that we don't get the best for ourselves. We may have to give up something, like Tamika gave her time and money, to make a nice party for her friend. Emma gave up more time on her favorite swing.
- It is much easier to love the people whom we know and like and who love us too. It is much harder to show love to people we don't know or people who are bad or mean, like Caleb did.
- God's love is much stronger and better than ours! He loves us and always does what's best for us. And He loves people even when they are bad and mean and don't know Him or deserve His love at all.



# Parenting with PURPOSE



## Unit 1.5: God is Eternal

God is eternal. He has always been alive and He will always be alive. He offers us eternal life with Him if we choose to trust Christ as Savior.

**Memory Verse:** Psalm 90:2

### Lesson Objectives:

- GOD IS ETERNAL. Understand that God is eternal, which means He has no beginning or end.
- WE HAVE A BEGINNING. Recognize that they and everything else on earth has a beginning. They have not always been alive, but they will always be alive.
- WE WILL ALWAYS BE ALIVE. Believe that God offers us eternal life (life forever) with Him and that eternal life starts when we trust Christ as Savior and it continues on in heaven forever.

### Talk about it:

- Is there anything or anyone else who has always existed or will always exist?
- Why does everyone and everything have a beginning except God? What is eternal life?
- True or False – You will not always exist in the future. Why is it true or false?



### Encouragement for you:

Psalm 90:2 tells us that the God of the universe and Creator of everything has no beginning or end. What a comfort it is to know that when the chaos of life abounds, our God is in control and will never die or be destroyed. Even better is the fact that we can spend eternity with God if we accept Jesus as Savior. Have you talked with your child about trusting in Jesus? If not, find an opportunity to do that today.

## T&T Announcements

## Family Activity: Verse Sculptures

### What You'll Need:

Whiteboard and dry erase markers (or pen and paper), play dough, tables or plastic garbage bags

**LESSON PREP:** Draw or trace a circle on the board. Be sure to connect the circle lines cleanly so there is no evidence of where your marker started and ended.

**STEP 1:** Direct kids to look at your circle. Ask them these questions:

- Does the circle have a beginning point?
- Does the circle have an end point?
- Does the circle remind you of God in any way? How?

**STEP 2:** After kids ponder and discuss the questions, write the word *eternal* on the board. Share these key concepts:

- Like the circle, God has no beginning or end.
- Because God has no beginning or end, we say that He is eternal.
- God has always been alive, and He will always be alive.
- No one created God. There was never a time when God was not alive.

**STEP 3:** Draw a dot on the board and an arrow extending from the dot. Near the dot write the year you were born. Near the middle of your arrow, draw another dot with an arrow extending in same direction. Write the year that most of your kids were born near the dot. Share these key concepts:

- Unlike God, we all had a beginning. We were created by God and one day we were born.
- I was alive before you, but I wasn't alive before God created me and you weren't alive before God created you.
- Everyone and everything else in the world - animals, trees, the ocean, the stars in space - has a beginning.
- *Optional Fact:* Jesus is the only person who had already been alive before He was born as a human because Jesus is God.

**STEP 4:** Hand out the play dough. Ask your kids to shape a picture of Psalm 90:2 with their play dough in five minutes. For example, they can shape mountains or the earth and various items on the earth. Encourage them somehow to show in their picture that God was alive before the mountains or the earth. Let them be creative in showing this, but if they get stuck, offer some examples: they could put a cross in front of the mountains to show Christ came first or make a circle shape around their picture to represent God.

**STEP 5:** Talk about the pictures. Point them back to your arrows on the board. Extend both arrows as far as you can on the board. Share these key concepts:

- We are not like God because we had a beginning and we were not always alive.
- But we are like God in another way: like God, we will be alive forever.

# Parenting with PURPOSE



## Unit 1.6: God is... Review

God is our Creator, who is holy and just. He created us for a relationship with Him, but our sin keeps us from that relationship. Because God is loving and eternal, He made a way to save us from our punishment and give us life forever with Him.

**Memory Verse:** Revelation 4:11, Revelation 4:8b, Deuteronomy 32:4, Ephesians 2:4-5, Psalm 90:2

### Lesson Objectives:

- Remember the five character traits of God studied in the “God is...” unit.
- Recognize how they personally relate to each of God’s character traits.
- Understand the truth of the gospel clearly.
- Make a response to the lesson truths as the Holy Spirit leads them.

### Talk about it:

- God created us to have a relationship with Him. How do we grow in our relationship with Him?
- We can’t be holy just like God, but we can be holy. How can we be holy?
- God is just. What’s the bad news about that and what’s the good news?
- Whom do you love? A parent or sibling? A friend or grandparent? Think of one person you love very, very much. Now consider having to sacrifice that person so that others can live. How much would that hurt? That’s the kind of love God has for us and the kind of hurt He went through when Jesus died on the cross.
- God is eternal, which means He always existed and always will exist. Why could remembering this help you?



### Encouragement for you:

As we learn more about who God is by studying His characteristics, we are able to grow in our trust, obedience and love for Him. Read over the list of God’s attributes listed in the Lesson Summary section this week and be encouraged by all that He is and what that means for you!

## T&T Announcements

## Family Activity: God's A-MAZE-ING Character

What You'll Need:  
Ball of yarn or string

**STEP 1:** Have kids sit in a circle. Review the five aspects of God's character studied in Unit 1 (Creator, holy, just, love, eternal) by asking children to name each of the five aspects.

- **GOD IS CREATOR.** God made the whole world and everything in it from nothing in just SIX days!
- **GOD IS HOLY.** God is perfect, without sin, and always right. He has never done anything wrong and He CANNOT do anything wrong.
- **GOD IS JUST.** He is always fair. Because God is always fair, He must always give us exactly what we deserve.
- **The punishment for breaking God's law (sinning) is death.** If we break just one little command or rule from God's law, we are as guilty as if we had broken all of His commands. God must always punish sin and the punishment for sin is death.
- **GOD IS LOVE.** God loves us and wants the very best for us. He made a way for Jesus Christ to take the punishment for sin.
- **GOD IS ETERNAL.** We cannot find where this circle began or where it ended. God had no beginning and He has no end. He has always been alive in the past and He will always be alive in the future.

**STEP 2:** After the first person names an aspect of God's character, gently toss the ball of yarn or string to them. Ask them to recall something they remember about God from that lesson. Allow others to chime in too. Take time to correct any misunderstandings they have had about what they've learned about God's character. Then have that person hold onto a section of the yarn or string and then toss it back to you.

**STEP 3:** Continue in this pattern for several minutes, letting additional people name character aspects, share what they remember about God from that lesson, hold onto a section of the yarn or string and then toss it back to you.

**STEP 4:** At the end of the activity, observe together the pattern they created with the yarn. Point out that each length of yarn represents something they know about God's character. Point out that each of God's many character traits is unique and special and yet God is ALL parts of His character, ALL the time. For example, He isn't love one day and holy the next. He is all parts of His character at the same time. Also point out that when we know who God is, it helps us know more about who we are and in today's lesson we will remember who God is and who we are!