CHARIS YOUTH

Series: Living by Divine Design

Lesson 1: Created with Purpose

About This Lesson

Teens struggle with identity. This series reminds the young people that God designed them with a plan and a purpose, and that they can partner with Him to fulfill it. In this lesson, the focus is on God's design in each person because we are made in His image. God has a purpose for each person to know Him.

Key Takeaway: God created each person in His image and for a purpose.

Key Verse: Psalm 139:14 *I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well.*

Teaching Outline:

I. CREATED WITH PURPOSE

Genesis 1:26-28 [26] *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."* [27] *So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.* [28] *Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

A. You are created in God's image. You are a reflection of who He is.
   1. Great artists leave their image in their creations.
      a. The artist's style and technique are evident in their work.
      b. Great masterpieces didn't just happen by chance. There wasn't a big bang that made them. Each artwork's beauty, thought, order, function, and design show that a master created them.

B. Everything God created was perfect—especially YOU. Don't mess with God's perfect design for you.
   2. When people look at you, they should see God.

C. Jesus came to us in human form to show us who God really is.
   John 14:6–12 *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. [7] "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him." [8] Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." [9] Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? [10] Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. [11] Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.*

II. GOD HAS PURPOSE FOR EVERYONE

A. God's purpose is for everyone to know Him.
   1 Timothy 2:4 *Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

B. God does not want to send anyone to hell, but offers a plan to redeem everyone who repents.
   2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord is…not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

C. God loves everyone and offered His Son so we could have everlasting life with Him.
   John 3:16 *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

III. GOD HAS PURPOSE FOR YOU!

A. Example of Jeremiah:
   1. Before he was born, God had chosen him as a prophet.

Jeremiah 1:5 *Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.*

2. Jeremiah disqualified himself because he thought he was too young to be used by God.
   Jeremiah 1:6 *Then said I: "Ah, LORD God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth."*
3. God validated him and told him not to be afraid.
   Jeremiah 1:7–8 *But the LORD said to me: "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' For you shall go to all to whom I send you, And whatever I command you, you shall speak. [8] Do not be afraid of their faces, For I am with you to deliver you," says the LORD.*
4. God put the words to speak in Jeremiah's mouth.
   Jeremiah 1:9 *Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth."*
5. God wants to help you fulfill His plan for your life!
   Jeremiah 1:12 *Then the Lord said to me, "You have seen well, for I am ready to perform My word."*

B. My purpose is to know God.
   Philippians 3:10–14 *That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, [11] if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. [12] Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. [13] Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, [14] I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

   1. Get to know God by spending time with Him. Listen for Him to speak to you, make time in your schedule for Him.
   2. Pursue His purpose for your life—that should be your goal.

C. My purpose is to know what the Bible says and do it.
   Psalm 119:9–16 *How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.*
   [10] With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!
   [11] Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.
   [12] Blessed are You, O Lord! Teach me Your statutes.

13 With my lips I have declared All the judgments of Your mouth.
14 I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches.
15 I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways.
16 I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.

1. The verbs in this passage show you what to do:
   a. Verse 9 – read and obey (take heed)
   b. V 10 – seek Him
   c. V 11 – hide the Word in your heart
   d. V 13 – declare the Word
   e. V 14 – rejoice in what He has done
   f. V 15 – meditate on it
   g. V 16 – delight in it and don't forget it

D. Invite the young people to receive salvation and the baptism of the Holy Spirit so they can fulfill God's purpose for their lives.

Bottom Line:
God has a purpose for my life. I find it in Christ. I fulfill it through His Word and His Spirit working through me.

Small Group Time:

1. The word "design" means to create something that is both aesthetically pleasing (beautiful, good-looking, attractive) and also functional. God created you with both beauty and purpose in mind. Psalm 139:14 says, *"I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well."*

- What are some things that you are thankful God uniquely designed in you? Note: Sometimes, young people don't recognize God's design in their lives. Affirm each person with something you notice that bears God's image and is part of their special design for their God-given purpose. Encourage them also to name the positive things they see in other people in the group.

2. The Bible teaches us that we are made in the image of God. That means to be like Him.

- How are you like God?

- How does Jesus make it easier for us to understand who God really is? What are some attributes of Jesus that you would like to have and be like?

3. God's heart is for everyone to be saved. One purpose that all believers share is to help others receive the gift of salvation.
   - What does it mean to be saved? How can people be saved?
   - What are some ways you can be a witness and point someone to Jesus? Spend time praying that each person in the group has opportunities this week to share their faith with others and to invite them to receive forgiveness for their sins.

Declaration:
"I am created in God's image and designed with a special purpose."

Youth Weekly Journal:

Handout, Email, or Download

- **Question:** How do you reflect God's image?
- **Pray:** Ask God to reveal His purpose for your life and affirm it through the Holy Spirit, other believers, and God's Word.
- **Read:** Psalm 139:13–18 and reflect on how God thought about you and planned for you to come into this world at this time for a purpose.
- **Live It:** God's plan is for you to live out your divine purpose. Look for ways to do and say things that show you are fulfilling your purpose to know God, know His Word, and help others know Him.
- **Create:** Jeremiah 1:5 reminds you that God knew you before you were formed and planned you with a purpose. Use this concept to create a song, poem, blog, video, picture, or meme that expresses God's design in you.

EXTENDING THE LESSON

Icebreaker Question: If you could instantly master any musical instrument, what would it be, and why?

Opening Activity Suggestion: Search the Internet for pictures of things with a "poor design," such as a faucet over an electric outlet. Engage the young people in

identifying the design flaws and have them suggest better designs. Invite them to share anything they have encountered that was poorly designed. Ask them to name some things they feel are well-designed and serve a purpose, such as a nice car or expensive watch. Use these as examples during the lesson of things people designed, but God's designs for us are far better.

Opening Affirmation: "God's Word says I'm created in God's image with a divine purpose. I know my value, and I choose to clothe myself with my heavenly Designer clothing."

Giving Time: Genesis 8:22 *While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease.*

This verse shows God's promise that a harvest will follow planting seeds. The little word "and" signals they go together. Whatever seed you sow, that's the crop you will reap. If you sow your money to do God's work, you will reap more to put into the kingdom of God.

BEYOND –
ADDITIONAL APPLICATION FOR CHURCH OR HOME

Challenge: This week, have the young people set a goal to find at least one way they reflect God's image each day. Encourage them to make a list and share next week at youth group.

Biblical Worldview: Young people are image-conscious and often reflect the image of influencers, celebrities, and sports figures. When we apply our biblical worldview to our image, we will want to reflect God in our words and actions. Encourage the young people to fulfill their purpose of influencing their friends to want a relationship with Him.

Outreach/Missions: Missionaries are image-bearers of God to the people they are ministering to. Their words and actions should always reflect God and draw people to want to know Him. Make a list of the missionaries your church supports. Invite the youth to gather in pairs and give each pair a missionary's name. Have them pray that the missionary would reflect God's image and help others desire to become Christians.