

## **Week Two: “You Are Not an Accident”**

### **Day One: “Your Conception”**

**Read:** Pages 22-23 in *Purpose-Driven Life*

**Read:** Psalm 139 (p. 681 Freedom in Christ Bible)

**Reflect:** What were you told about whether you were wanted and planned? What do adopted or unplanned children sometimes struggle with?

**Dig:** According to Psalm 139:2-3, how intimately does God know us?

What does it mean that God “hems me in”? How does Psalm 34:7 (p. 614 Freedom in Christ Bible) help you answer that question?

How does Psalm 139:13-16 help you understand what your self-image ought to be built on?

What do these verses reveal about the world-view that tells you that you are just highly evolved pond scum (naturalistic evolution)?

How do verses 23-24 help you understand that God’s creation of your inmost being also means accountability to him?

**Apply:** Pray this prayer back to God as you begin your day today:

*“Search me, O God, and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”*

**Week Two: “You Are Not an Accident”**  
**Day Two: “The Nature of Humanity”**

**Read: Psalm 8 (p. 594 Freedom in Christ Bible)**

**Read: Commentary (p. 595 Freedom in Christ Bible)**

**Reflect:** In what various ways are we human beings defined by our culture? For example, for people who believe that human beings descended from apes, what does that say about who we are? What is your self-esteem currently based on? According to this Psalm, what should it be based on?

**Dig:** According to this Psalm, what sets human beings apart from the rest of creation? According to the commentary on page 595, what sets us apart from the rest of the animal kingdom?

What does the Bible define as being “made in the image” of God? See Colossians 3:10-14 (p. 1378) for part of the picture. Also check out Ephesians 4:22-24 (p. 1359). What do you think of the line from the commentary which goes like this: “What the heart takes in also becomes its master, stamping the heart with its character.” Compare this to II Cor. 3:17-18 (p. 1330).

**Apply:** It is bondage to think of yourself as “just a \_\_\_\_\_.” (You fill in the blank.) It is also bondage to think too highly of yourself. God wishes us to have truth as the basis of our life. How does today’s truth set you free? How can you more fully become an image of God’s true character today? How can you practically apply II Cor. 3:17-18 (p. 1330)?

**Week Two: “You Are Not An Accident”**  
**Day Three: “God Planned the Earth for Us”**

**Read: Isaiah 45:18 (p. 801 Freedom in Christ Bible)**

**Read: Purpose-Driven Life p. 24 (especially the quote by Michael Denton)**

**Reflect:** What does our culture tell us about whether human beings are special in God’s sight?

What does it mean to you that we are “created in the image of God”?

**Dig:** What does Isaiah 45:18 tell you about the claim among naturalists (people that believe in naturalistic evolution) that human beings are the result of a combination of natural law and chance?

How does the verse just prior to verse 18 and the verse just after verse 18 help you understand what the Holy Spirit’s purpose is in verse 18?

How does the quote by Michael Denton on page 24 in *Purpose- Driven Life* agree with Isaiah 45:18?

**Apply:** Form a prayer which thanks God for creating our world and giving us such a hospitable environment to live in---what specifically comes to mind as you think of this earth as our home?

**Week Two: “You Are Not An Accident”**  
**Day Four: “Finding God’s Purpose for You”**

**Read: Romans 12:1-3 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 1295)**

**Reflect:** What would you say to someone who asked you how you are supposed to find God’s will for you life?

**Dig:** This passage in Romans begins with “in view of God’s mercy...” What mercy is in view here? See the close of the previous chapter and also review the close of the Romans 8:31-39 passage.

So, if the close of verse two tells us that we can “test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will,” then what ways of living must we follow to find God’s perfect will?

We must “offer \_\_\_\_\_.”

No longer “conform to \_\_\_\_\_.”

....and be “transformed by \_\_\_\_\_.”

Compare the NIV version of the next verse (Romans 12:3) with the Message version of that verse:

NIV: “For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.”

Message: “The only accurate way to understand yourselves is by what God is and by what he does for us.”

**Apply:** To know God’s will and purpose for your life, what specific habits of life or pathways of thought do you need to quit, and in what ways does your thinking need to be transformed? (what you watch, read, allow yourself to be influenced by, etc.)

**Week Two: “You Are Not an Accident”**  
**Day Five: “Thinking About My Purpose”**

**Using the “Lectio Divina” method of Bible study, (see page 2 of this booklet), meditate on this scripture:**

**“I am your Creator. You were in my care even before you were born.”**  
**Isaiah 44:2 (CEV)**

*Lectio divina* (a Latin expression which means Sacred reading) is done in three stages:

- **reading:** you read the passage slowly and reverentially, allowing the words to sink into your consciousness; after you have memorized the text, write down one word which strikes you and draws your attention and note why you chose that word.
- **Meditation:** you allow the passage to stir up memories within you, so that you recognize in it your own experience or that of people who have touched your life; write down memories of events or conversations or other scripture passages.
- **prayer:** you allow the meditation to lead you to prayer – thanksgiving, humility and petition. Write out a prayer based on the passage.