

## LARGE GROUP LESSON

**BOTTOM LINE:**

God has a purpose for your life.

**OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will discuss how every time they see the sun, moon, and stars they can be reminded that God has a purpose for their life.

**KEY PASSAGE:**

Genesis 1:14-19, The Fourth Day

**INTRO:**

There's a lot of preparation that goes into the start of a new school year. As the summer starts to wind down, your parents get a little too excited about it all. They take you to the doctor to get your sports physicals and check ups. They take you shopping to get new clothes for school. And they take you to the store to buy a whole new year's worth of school supplies.

Starting a new school year may not be the highlight of your late summer, but school supply shopping can be fun and exciting. Every school gives out a list of supplies that students need, and each item on that list gives you some clue as to what you will do that year. Markers and crayons and colored pencils means there will be coloring activities. Flashcards in multiplication and division mean that some new math challenges are ahead. Switching from pencils to pens is a definite sign that you are growing up and facing new challenges.

You may never have thought about this, but there's a purpose and a reason for every supply on your list. All the colored folders, all the colored notebooks, everything from dry erase markers to pocket dictionaries to rulers with standard and metric measurements have a purpose. Your teacher has every lesson and every new subject already mapped out, and the supplies on your back to school shopping list all have a purpose.

Today as we move to day four of the creation story, we see God shift his attention from the things of Earth to the things above the Earth. God seems to take a step back by creating some heavenly bodies to govern the night and day. God had a practical purpose for these new, heavenly creations, and God's plan for these new creations can remind us that He has plans for us as well.

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## READ GENESIS 1:14-19

### MAIN POINT:

God created light and dark so that we would have day and night, but God wanted us to do more than mark the days. By creating the Sun and setting our planet in orbit around it, he gave us the ability to mark the years. He also gave us the moon so that we could track the months. And he gave us stars to not only help light the night sky and mark the seasons, but also allow us to navigate our world by following the signs in the sky.

The sun, moon, and stars have a purpose, even beyond night and day. Thanks to these heavenly bodies, we have a monthly and yearly calendar that allows us to remember holy days and other special events.

Just like the sun, moon, and stars, you have a special purpose. The Bible tells us that God had plans for you before you were even born, and if you seek God's will, he will light the way for you to fulfill those plans. You are God's special creation, and God has a plan only you can fulfill.

### DRIVE IT HOME:

Every part of God's creation has a purpose, if you look closely enough. We already mentioned last week that every plant on Earth has a purpose. Not only do they create life-giving oxygen, they provide food that has all the nutrients we need to have healthy, strong bodies.

Each part of creation works in harmony to fulfill God's purpose. We see it in the animal food chain and in the life cycle of plants. We see it in the changing of seasons and in the shifting tides. If God has a plan and a purpose for created things, how much more does he have plans for you?

The ultimate plan for our lives is for us to find God, to know him, and to lead others to him. God wants us to seek him like the wise men who followed a star to Bethlehem. He wants us to know him, like the sailors who knew the star maps and used them to navigate the globe. And he wants us to lead others to him, just as the stars led wayward travelers home.

The sun, moon, and stars have another message for us besides revealing God's purpose. They remind us that time is short. Days turn into months, and months into years. God wants us to find our purpose and follow him now. Whether your purpose is to serve here in church, to serve outside, or simply to be a friendly witness to your friends, God wants you to seize your purpose just as the sun, moon, and stars did on day four and live it out every day.

There are no accidents. There is no "whoops" in God's creation.

# LARGE GROUP LESSON

There is a purpose for every created thing, and there is a purpose for you being here. Ask God to reveal His plans to you, and God will use you to do great things!

**CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:**

*Dear God,*

*Thank you for the plans you have for us!*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*