

session one

the purpose of life

People are both unique and amazing! Each one of us is different in character, appearance, talents, abilities and experiences. Not one of us is the same. God made us to be unique for a reason and a purpose. That purpose can only be discovered through knowing Him and knowing what He has planned for our lives.

Finding God's plan for us brings us into the most fulfilled life possible here on earth. Without knowing this, life just doesn't make sense or have true meaning. The bible says that God's involvement, care and plan for everyone began even before we were born, that none of us are an accident or mistake.

...**You shaped me first inside, then out; You formed me in my mother's womb.** PSALM 139:13 (THE MESSAGE)



COMMON GROUND

Though each of us is unique, there is something that all of us have in common: we are all on a journey through life. The adventure began on the day we were born and will end some day in the future. Even though we will die physically, every person will continue to live after death.

Life does not end with death

He has also set eternity in the human heart. ECCLESIASTES 3:11

Our journey through life is shaped by things we choose for ourselves and things we don't choose.

Give examples of some things we don't choose:

Four horizontal light blue bars for writing examples of things we don't choose.

Give examples of things we do choose:

Three horizontal light blue bars for writing examples of things we do choose.

YOU ARE FREE TO CHOOSE

As we look at God's purpose for us it is vital we know that God will never force us to do anything.

He has given us freedom to choose whether we want a relationship with Him or not.

As we discover what the bible says about God and His relationship with people, keep in mind that everyone has freedom to choose and no-one, not even God, will force you.

Would you agree: to make the right choices we need to have correct information?

Incorrect information leads to problems.

Give some examples:

Four horizontal light blue bars for writing examples of incorrect information.

Correct information helps you make the right choices.

Give some examples:

Four horizontal light blue bars for writing examples of correct information.

Just as we can have right or wrong information about anything or anyone, we can have right or wrong information about God. Not everyone has a correct opinion of you... at times you can be so misunderstood! In the same way, not everyone has a correct opinion of God.

The bible makes us better informed about God and His plan for us, so that we can make right choices based on right information.

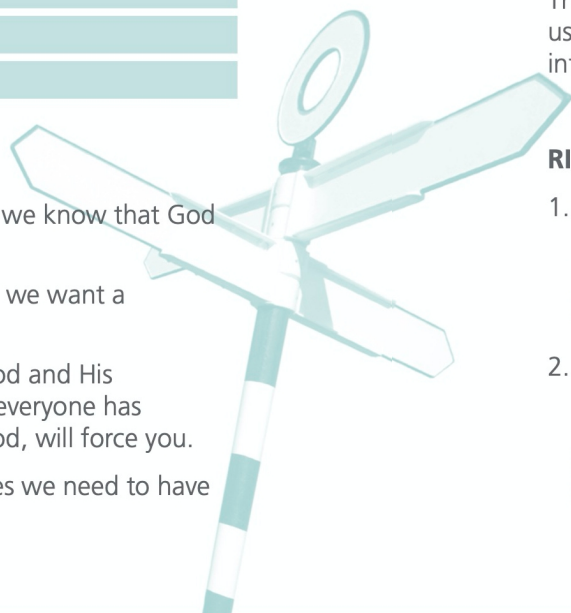
RIGHT INFORMATION ABOUT GOD

1. He is good

God is good. Only good things come from God. Nothing evil comes from Him. The bible says, **Every good and perfect gift is from above.** JAMES 1:17

2. He is gracious

He is not angry and looking for ways to punish people – He is positively generous in heart towards us. The bible says, **The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.** PSALM 103:8



3. He is true

All the way through the bible God is described as the source of truth. His Name is Faithful and True. Because He is true He is totally trustworthy. **I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.** JOHN 14:6

RIGHT INFORMATION ABOUT GOD AND YOU

1. You are significant to God

God knows us and understands us perfectly. Not one person is an accident or insignificant to God. He is interested in our lives. No matter what our background, age, gender or ability, everyone is equally valued, loved and important to Him.

2. He plans to do you good

I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future. JEREMIAH 29:11

Imagine if a friend said this to you and meant it! You would know they cared about you and were looking for ways to make your life better. Well, God says this about you. He has a good plan for you.

3. He can give you a new and better life

I have come that they may have life and have it to the full. JOHN 10:10

God wants us to know Him personally through His Son Jesus, and to have a far better life than before. He didn't come to make life a burden. He came to give a better, more enjoyable life than is offered by anyone or anything else in this world.

SOME WRONG INFORMATION ABOUT GOD

1. God is remote, uninterested and unloving

All other religions teach that if anyone is to reach God they have to earn His approval by doing certain things. If they are good enough they might be accepted by Him. Christianity is the only religion that teaches that God came to reach us. He loves us and is deeply interested in our lives. **For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.** JOHN 3:16

It is love that moved God to come and reach us, giving us an opportunity to know Him.

2. God causes bad things to happen

This is the most common misconception about God! *(Remember, the right information will help us make the right choices.)* Who is to blame for all the pain, suffering and sadness in the world? The bible tells us that the source of this suffering is not God but the devil *(the thief)*. **The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy. I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.** JOHN 10:10

Jesus went about doing good and healing people, proving that God really is good and wants to do us good. The devil is out to harm and destroy people.

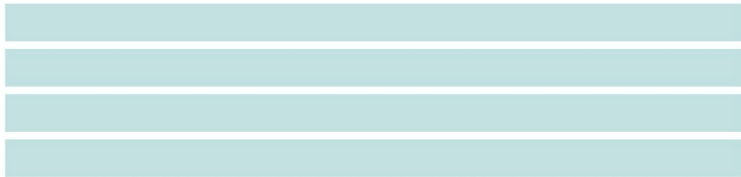
3. Jesus is not relevant for today

Many people have the view that being a Christian is boring and a prop for the weak! They look at cathedrals and so-called religion and say "no thanks"! What is the right image of Christianity?

The bible reveals a God who is relevant,
exciting and powerful.

God is present here on earth today, working miracles and ready to make Himself known to anyone who asks Him!
Think about it – how can really knowing God be boring...?

Q: If it is true that God loves you and is interested in your life how does this make you feel?



FOR NEXT SESSION...

You have been given a lot of food for thought. Have a look over these notes during the course of your week. Don't be too quick to dismiss what you have read, after all the bible is the best-selling book of all time and today there are 2 billion people in the world who believe in what it says!

If you have any questions make a note of them and either contact the person you are doing the course with or bring them next time you meet.