This Is My Story

Featuring

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Session 1: Redemption
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This study will examine the word "purpose." It might be easy to say we have a purpose, but do we live a life of purpose? What does the Bible tell us about our purpose? Let's explore John chapter 21 with the word purpose in mind. In the midst of this story, you'll see your story—a story that finds itself full of purpose. This is your story.

1. What is the first thing you think of when you hear the word "purpose"?

Purpose is defined as:
The reason for which something is done or created or for which something exists.

Christian's story is about finding purpose. He said, "You are not a mistake; you have a purpose and God wants to use your story to help other people."

2. When you look back at your story, is there a moment when you believed that you had no purpose?

3. As single moms, where do you find your purpose?

4. When you look at your child/children do you see an area of their life where they lack purpose? Is there an area where they might feel like a mistake?

5. What could you do as a parent to help your child navigate these feelings?

6. Christian uses his story to teach people they have a purpose. What do you think your story can teach people?

7. Christian said, “You were created for a purpose, on purpose, with a purpose.” How does this statement encourage you?

   What is one thing you could do to show your children that this statement is true in their lives?

Christian was able to overcome the idea that he was mistake by discovering his purpose. Let’s read a story that is all about purpose.

It's time to journey through John 21 with the word purpose in mind.

Read John 21.
As you read this story pay attention to the people Jesus encounters.
Where do see someone discovering purpose in this story?
Notice how Jesus interacts with each person.
Underline or highlight words that stand out to you in the story.

At this point in the story, we can’t find any evidence that Peter and Jesus have been able to talk about what happened earlier in the book of John. Peter has already denied Jesus and now they are face to face again.

John 21:7-8 ESV
7 That disciple whom Jesus loved, therefore, said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. 8 The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.

When Peter sees Jesus, he jumps out of the boat and rushes to him. The other disciples row the boat to the shore where they find Jesus sitting around a fire. Jesus was cooking them breakfast! Peter thought he was in big trouble, but instead he got to eat a seaside breakfast with the Savior.

8. How do you think Peter was feeling at this very moment?

9. How do you think the other disciples were feeling at this very moment?

10. How do you think Jesus felt at this very moment?

11. Have you ever had a moment when Jesus showed up unexpectedly?

In the middle of this reunion, Jesus begins to question Peter.

John 21:15-19 ESV
15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” 16 He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” 17 He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. 18 Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.” 19 (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, “Follow me.”

Jesus and Peter have this repetitive conversation where Jesus makes sure that Peter understands his purpose. Jesus asks Peter over and over again, “Do you love me?” and Peter's response is “Yes Lord, you know that I do.” Every time Peter confirms his love for Jesus it is followed up with a powerful statement. Every time Jesus calls Peter to his purpose.

12. What do you believe Peter is feeling *after* Jesus’ response?

13. How are you encouraged by this part of the story?

14. As single moms, how can you relate to Peter?

You and your children were created on purpose and for a purpose. This is Christian’s story. This is Peter’s story. This is your story. You have a purpose.

15. How can you encourage others to believe they are not a mistake?

Read John 21 with your children and ask them these three questions:

- What did you learn about people in this story?
- Who do you relate to most in this story?
- What did you learn about Jesus in this story?

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MEL HIETT

Study Guide Content Author

Hi friends, I’m Mel Hiett. I like to believe that my nine years of being a single mom to two rowdy boys helped prepare me for Arise Ministries. Just in case raising those two wild boys wasn’t enough training, God allowed me to work with teenagers in the local church for sixteen years. If nothing else, I have a handful of wild stories and God moments to share with all of you. My husband, Trae, and I decided to make life more interesting in 2017 when we got married. Together we have five children, two dogs, and some chickens. We have a family group text affectionately named “The Zoo.” Please feel free to follow my adventures on Facebook or Instagram @themelymel.