

STEP 1 ADMIT

WEEK 2 DAY 3

CREATED WITH PURPOSE

PRAY FIRST: God, show me that I matter to you.

You matter to God. Regardless of what you have done or how broken you are, God loves you and is calling you.

Did you know that you hold a special place in all of creation?

- God created you for a purpose: “...*there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist...*” (1 Corinthians 8:6)
- God created you to reflect his goodness—to bear God’s image. He made you to be like him by caring for and overseeing his creation:
“*Then God said, ‘Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.’ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.*” (Genesis 1:26-27)
- You are from God and made by God to represent his goodness: “*For from [God] through [God] and to [God] are all things. To him be the glory forever.*” (Romans 11:36)

Q1: What in this world have you looked to for meaning and purpose apart from God?

The disease of a sinful nature was born in all of us when Adam and Eve followed the lie of the “adversary.” There is nothing in our human nature that wants to follow God’s way. Our nature fights against God. If left to ourselves, all of us go our own way.

- “...*None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside...*” (Romans 3:10-12)
- “*For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.*” (Romans 7:18)

When we reject God’s plan, God allows us to seek our satisfaction and purpose elsewhere. He gives us over to our desires and our desires begin to rule us. Read the following passage:

For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator... (Romans 1:21-25)

“the flesh”

mankind’s sinful nature and its desires; “carnal desires”

Worship means various things in different cultures and religions. You may not think that you worship anything, but consider this: Worship is how we respond to someone or something we adore. Our thoughts, our time, how we plan life, and spend money are influenced by what we value.

Q2: Review your calendar and financial records for the last month. On what did you spend most of your time and money?

Q3: Consider your thought life over the last month. What did you “worship” with your mind? Some examples might be the focus of conversations, daydreams, or thoughts that kept you awake at night.

Read the quote by A. W. Tozer in the margin. If God created you for a purpose, then maybe living out this purpose is what will bring you satisfaction in life. If this were true, then trying to find satisfaction outside of God’s plan would only leave you dissatisfied, wanting more from life and trapped in a cycle of unfulfilled desires. Apart from God, you would be powerless to find the true purpose of life. Your efforts to do so would leave you frustrated, and possibly, hopeless.

Q4: Do you believe that on your own you are powerless to overcome the traps of your sinful nature?

Q5: Look at answers to Q2 and Q3. Were your answers different from what brought you to recovery? Does God or his plan for your life show up in your answers above?

wor • ship

adoring reverence or regard

“I find that many men and women are troubled by the thought that they are too small and inconsequential in the scheme of things. But that is not our real trouble—we are actually too big and too complex, for God made us in His image and we are too big to be satisfied with what the world offers us!... Man is bored, because he is too big to be happy with that which sin is giving him. God has made him too great, his potential is too mighty.”

(A.W. Tozer)

CLOSING PRAYER: God, if you created me for a purpose, help me to know what it is and give me what I need to accomplish it.

TAKE ACTION:

- Practice reciting Romans 7:18. Practice memorizing 1 John 1:8 if you are Going the Extra Mile.
- Commit to sobriety for today.