

Called by God Part 1: Created with Purpose

Discussion Notes – April 12, 2026

1. What's something about yourself: a quirk, a talent, or a trait that you've come to appreciate over time?

Read Psalm 139:13–16 (ESV)

“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.”

David wrote this psalm from a place of deep reflection on God’s intimate knowledge of him. He isn’t boasting in himself, he’s marveling at God. Every line points back to the Creator, not the created. Pride says “look at me,” shame says “look away,” but David simply says “I praise You.” That’s the posture this sermon is calling us back to. David recognizes that every part of his life was intentionally formed and seen by God, which leads him not to self-focus but to worship. Instead of measuring his worth by comparison or insecurity, he anchors his identity in the truth that he was purposefully made by a good and attentive Creator.

2. How did this sermon challenge the way you think about where your confidence comes from?

Read Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

Paul is writing to a church that had been saved by grace; people who had nothing to boast in themselves. He reminds them that not only were they saved by God’s design, but their purpose was too. The good works aren’t something they invented or earned their way into. God laid the path out ahead of them. Their job is simply to walk in it. This means they didn’t have to strive to create meaning for their lives, but instead could trust that God had already prepared opportunities for them to live out His purposes. Their role was not to perform for approval, but to walk in obedience and trust, step by step, in what God had already set before them.

3. What’s one area of your life where you’ve been striving to create your own purpose rather than trusting that God has already prepared the path?

Read Matthew 10:29–31 (ESV)

“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value to him than many sparrows.”

Jesus says this to His disciples as He’s sending them out. They were about to face rejection and hardship. He anchors their worth not in their success or their courage, but in the Father’s attention. If God tracks every sparrow, He is not indifferent to you. Your value isn’t measured by what you produce or how you perform. Instead, Jesus reminds them that God’s care is deeply personal and constant, even in the midst of uncertainty. This would have given them confidence not because of what they could control, but because of who was watching over them, shifting their focus from fear of outcomes to trust in the Father’s care.

4. Which feels harder for you to truly believe; that God knows you intimately, or that He values you deeply? Why?

Read Jeremiah 9:24 (ESV)

“Let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth.”

The only boast worth having isn't in what we've accomplished; it's in knowing the God who made us, loves us, and called us His own. In a world that constantly pushes us to define ourselves by success, ability, or status, this verse redirects us to what truly matters. Knowing God is not just information, but a relationship, and it becomes the foundation of our identity and confidence. When we understand His character: His love, justice, and righteousness, it reshapes how we see ourselves and removes the pressure to prove our worth through performance.

5. What's one moment this week where you could stop and remind yourself, “I am fearfully and wonderfully made”?

PRAYER POINTS

- Thank God for the truth that He personally and intentionally created each person in the group.
- Ask God to replace pride and shame with a heart of worship and confidence rooted in Him.
- Pray for clarity and courage to walk in the good works God has already prepared for each person.

DIGGING DEEPER: The Life of Jeremiah

Jeremiah is one of the most deeply human figures in all of Scripture. He was a man who didn't feel qualified, didn't want the job, and at times begged God to let him out of it, and yet God had called him before he was even born. His story is a front-row seat to what it looks like when God's purpose collides with human weakness and doubt. The sermon reminded us that our confidence isn't in our accomplishments but in the God who knit us together and wrote our days. Jeremiah's life is a living illustration of exactly that. He never became a prophet because he figured himself out. He became one because God knew him first.

Read Jeremiah 1:4–9 (ESV)

“Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.’ Then I said, ‘Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth.’ But the LORD said to me, ‘Do not say, “I am only a youth”; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD.’ Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, ‘Behold, I have put my words in your mouth.’”

This is the moment of Jeremiah's calling, and his first response is resistance. He doesn't say “here I am, send me” like Isaiah. He essentially says “you've got the wrong guy.” He was young, he felt unqualified, and public speaking was not in his comfort zone. But notice that God doesn't argue with Jeremiah's weakness. He simply redirects his eyes. The call wasn't based on what Jeremiah brought to the table. It was based on what God had already decided before Jeremiah existed. God's answer to Jeremiah's insecurity isn't a pep talk. It's a promise: I am with you. That was enough.

Read Jeremiah 20:14–18 (ESV)

“Cursed be the day on which I was born! The day when my mother bore me, let it not be blessed! Cursed be the man who brought the news to my father, ‘A son is born to you,’ making him very glad. Let that man be like the cities that the LORD overthrew without pity; let him hear a cry in the morning and an alarm at noon, because he did not kill me in the womb; so my mother would have been my grave, and her womb forever great. Why did I come out from the womb to see toil and sorrow, and spend my days in shame?”

This is Jeremiah at his lowest. He has been beaten, publicly humiliated, and put in stocks by a priest in the temple. And here he doesn't just complain, he wishes he had never been born. This is the raw, unfiltered grief of a man who felt like his purpose had cost him everything. It's a startling passage to find in Scripture, and yet God didn't remove it. Jeremiah's anguish is here on purpose. It tells us that being called by God doesn't mean the road is easy, or that doubt and pain are signs you've missed Him. Jeremiah held together a genuine call and genuine suffering at the same time. God never abandoned him in it.

Read Jeremiah 30:1–7 (ESV)

“The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: ‘Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Write in a book all the words that I have spoken to you. For behold, days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will restore the fortunes of my people, Israel and Judah, says the LORD, and I will bring them back to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall take possession of it.’ These are the words that the LORD spoke concerning Israel and Judah: ‘Thus says the LORD: We have heard a cry of panic, of terror, and no peace. Ask now, and see, can a man bear a child? Why then do I see every man with his hands on his stomach like a woman in labor? Why

has every face turned pale? Alas! That day is so great there is none like it; it is a time of distress for Jacob; yet he shall be saved out of it.”

After years of painful ministry, God tells Jeremiah to write it all down because what looks like the end of the story isn't. Jeremiah had spent decades watching his nation spiral toward judgment, and most of his message had been one of warning. But here God shifts the lens. There is restoration coming. The days Jeremiah had been faithfully living were part of a much longer story that he wouldn't fully see in his lifetime. This is the same truth from Psalm 139. God had already written the days. Jeremiah's job wasn't to understand the whole book. It was to be faithful in the chapter he was given.

Discussion Questions

1. Jeremiah pushed back on his calling immediately, feeling too young and unqualified. Have you ever felt disqualified from something God was calling you to? What did that feel like, and how did you respond?
2. Jeremiah 20 shows a man in genuine anguish over his calling, yet God never rebuked him for it. What does that tell us about how God views our honest struggles and doubts?
3. In Jeremiah 30, God tells Jeremiah to write down His words because restoration is coming even when it couldn't be seen yet. Where in your own life do you need to trust that God is writing a longer story than the chapter you're currently living in?