

# HEAVEN TO EARTH

## LESSON 4 // THE PURPOSE OF HEAVEN

**Big Idea:** God has a purpose for your life, and a personal relationship with Him through Jesus provides all you need to live it out.

To fulfill heaven's purpose, you must believe you have access to God through Christ. Jesus has given you "keys of the kingdom" (Matthew 16:19)—His authority that opens doors of His purpose. You also have forgiveness in Christ because of what He has done for you on the cross. No failure or shame from your past can keep you from the future He has in store. And you have God-given potential to make a difference for His kingdom. He wants to use you, no matter how small or insignificant you may feel.

**Matthew 16:13-19 (NIV)** *When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"<sup>14</sup> They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."<sup>15</sup> "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."<sup>17</sup> Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.<sup>18</sup> And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.<sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."*

### Start Talking:

- If you could pick an ideal group of people to spend a day with, who would it be and what would you do?
- If you had to share God's purpose in your life in one sentence, what would that sentence be?

### Start Thinking:

- This weekend Pastor Dale shared that we were designed for fellowship with one another to overcome. How can the right relationships help you overcome challenges? How can the "wrong" relationships harm your growth and progress?
- To break free from the enemy and fulfill God's will for our lives, we need the keys to the kingdom. Those keys are prayer, praise, relationships (healthy relationships with Christians), and the correct mindset. Which of these "keys" do you need most during this season?
- **Read John 21:1-17.** Peter was struggling with his failure as a result of denying Jesus. He went back to his life before Jesus had called him. What can "going back" in your life look like? In what ways can you receive the forgiveness and restoration of Christ after failing? What role should His purpose for your life play in restoration?
- **Read Judges 6:11-12 & 7:7-9.** God saw more in Gideon than Gideon could see in himself. What can this teach us about how God has called Christians to live? If we believe what God sees in us, how should we live? Is there anything in your life that you believe God is calling you to step out in faith and trust Him with? If so, what is it and what is holding you from stepping out in faith?

### Start Praying:

Pray with (and for) your group. Ask that God's purpose would be clear and that He would strengthen you to step out in faith and trust Him. Also, pray for those that may be struggling with past failure. Ask them to seek and receive forgiveness from God that they would move forward in God's purpose.

### Start Doing:

- Invite those in your group to prayerfully consider supporting outreach efforts at Church of the Redeemer. Support can be offered by volunteering, donating products, or offering financial support (for those that are able). For more information visit: <https://church-redeemer.org/ministries/outreach/covid-19>