**Life Group Bible Study**

**“Why On Earth Am I On Earth?”**

January 1, 2023

**ICE BREAKERS**

 1) How did you bring in the New Year?

 2) What is your favorite winter sport?

**DISCUSSION:**

Consider this quote from Rick Warren’s *The Purpose Driven Life:*

*You were created to be loved by God. God is love and God wanted to create something to love and so He created you. He didn’t need you. He wasn’t lonely. But He made you in order to love you. He didn’t need you, He wanted you. And before we can talk about anything else, you have to understand this is what on earth you are here for—to be loved by God.*

How does it feel to know God loves you in this way? How have you experienced God’s love in your life?

**INTENTIONAL INTIMACY**

Read Psalm 139.

Psalms 139:1-24 NLT For the choir director: A psalm of David. O LORD, You have examined my heart and know everything about me. 2 You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away. 3 You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. 4 You know what I am going to say even before I say it, LORD. 5 You go before me and follow me. You place Your hand of blessing on my head. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand! 7 I can never escape from Your Spirit! I can never get away from Your presence! 8 If I go up to heaven, You are there; if I go down to the grave, You are there. 9 If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, 10 even there Your hand will guide me, and Your strength will support me. 11 I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night— 12 but even in darkness I cannot hide from You. To You the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to You. 13 You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 Thank You for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. 15 You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. 16 You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in Your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. 17 How precious are Your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered! 18 I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up, You are still with me! 19 O God, if only You would destroy the wicked! Get out of my life, you murderers! 20 They blaspheme You; Your enemies misuse Your name. 21 O LORD, shouldn't I hate those who hate You? Shouldn't I despise those who oppose You? 22 Yes, I hate them with total hatred, for Your enemies are my enemies. 23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. 24 Point out anything in me that offends You, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

Consider how intimately God knows us. How do you think David’s knowledge of this drew him closer to God? How do you think David came to this knowledge? Do you find your intimacy with God increases as you spend more time with Him? Why or why not?

**TOTAL SURRENDER**

Read Psalm 139:16 and Ephesians 2:10.

Psalms 139:16 NLT You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in Your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.

Ephesians 2:10 NLT For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.

Do you like the idea that God has set a path for your life and knows the choices you will make? Why or why not? What does Jeremiah 29:11 say about God’s plans for you? (Jeremiah 29:11 NLT  *For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.*) Is it easier to surrender to God’s plans knowing that they are good? Why or why not?

**EXPERIENCE MORE**

Whether at work or home, how does it feel when things are in a state of confusion? How about when things are orderly? How do you think having a sense of purpose helps bring order? How do you think understanding God’s purpose for you can help you experience more?

**LOVE LIKE JESUS LOVES**

How do you think you can develop an attitude toward others similar to that found in 2 Peter 1:2-3?

2 Peter 1:2-3 NLT May God give you more and more grace and peace as you grow in your knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord. 3 By His divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know Him, the One who called us to Himself by means of His marvelous glory and excellence.