Asking for a Friend

"Purpose?" – Exodus 33:18-34:8

September 20, 2026

Back to School Sermon Series

ASKING FOR A FRIEND *Seeking Answers to Questions That We All Want to Ask*	
Date	***Message Title***
Aug 16	PROBLEM OF EVIL: If God is Good and All-Powerful, Then Why is There So Much Suffering, Disease, and Tragedy in the World?
Aug 23	OUT-DATED BOOK: Doesn't the Bible's Views About Slavery and Women Make It Unreliable and Not Relevant for Today?
Aug 30	HYPOCRITES: Why Should I Come to Church When It's Made Up of a Bunch of Hypocrites?
Sept 6	INTOLERANCE: Isn't It Intolerant and Unfair to Claim That Jesus is the Only Way to Heaven? What About Other Religions? What About Good People Who Have Never Heard of Jesus?
Sept 13	SCIENCE: How Do You Reconcile Scientific Evidence Like Evolution with the Creation Story? Don't Science and the Bible Contradict Each Other?
Sept 20	PURPOSE: What on Earth Am I Here For? What is My Purpose?

The Answer to the Most Important Question You Could Ever Ask: What is My Purpose? Why Am I Here?

- The purpose of my life is to glorify God.
- Martin Luther rediscovered our ultimate purpose when the church had gone astray during the Middle Ages. The Reformation helped return us to the 5 Solas:
  (1) *Sola Scriptura* – Scripture Alone
  (2) *Sola Fide* – Faith Alone
  (3) *Sola Gratia* – Grace Alone
  (4) *Solus Christus* – Christ Alone
  (5) *Soli Deo Gloria* – Glory to God Alone
- ***Isaiah 43:7*** *– Everyone who is called by My name, whom I created for My glory, whom I formed and made.*
- ***Romans 11:36*** *– For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen.*
- ***1 Corinthians 8:6*** *– There is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.*
- ***1 Corinthians 10:31*** *– So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*
- ***Psalm 115:1*** *– Not to us, O Lord, not to us but to Your name be the glory.*
- Another way of saying this: My purpose is not about me. My purpose is all about God.
- Rick Warren: "It's not about you. The purpose of your life is far greater than your own personal fulfillment, your peace of mind, or even your happiness. It's far greater than your family, your career, or even your wildest dreams and ambitions. If you want to know why you were placed on this planet, you must begin with God. You were born by His purpose and for His purpose."
- Westminster Confession: "The chief end of humans is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever."

What is the Glory of God?

- Dan DeHaan: "God's glory is the total manifestation of all His attributes. His glory is what will make heaven what it will be. There will be no hindrance to God's brightness and no shadow cast upon God's glory because of sin. God's glory is so unsearchable that it will take all eternity to begin to discover. On earth we know of certain attributes of God, but they constitute only a small part of God's nature. Their function is to relate God's character to us while we are here on earth. Imagine what He is saving for us to discover throughout all eternity. Understanding His glory will become a never-ending adventure."
- John Piper: "The glory of God is the going public of His infinite worth. It is the radiance of His holiness and His infinitely valuable perfections."
- The sun is a picture of God's glory.
- ***Psalm 84:11*** *– For the Lord God is a sun and shield.*
- ***Ezekiel 10:4*** *– Then the glory of the Lord rose from above the cherubim and moved to the threshold of the temple. The cloud filled the temple, and the court was full of the radiance of the glory of the Lord.*
- ***1 Timothy 6:15-16*** *– God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see.*
- Statistics about the sun:
  - Diameter = 865,000 miles (109 times that of Earth)
  - Volume: 1.3 million Earths will fit inside of the sun
  - Temperature at core = 27,000,000 degrees Fahrenheit
  - Distance from sun to Earth = 93 million miles

Moses' Encounter with God's Glory (Exodus 33:18-34:8)

1) God's glory has something to do with His Face (33:20)

- ***Psalm 27:4*** *– One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek Him in His temple.*
- ***2 Corinthians 4:6*** *– For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.*
- John Owen's "The Glory of Christ" is a treatise on beholding Jesus as the key to beholding God's glory.
- ***Luke 9:29,32*** *– As Jesus was praying, the appearance of His face changed, and His clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning…. Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men standing with Him.*

2) **God's glory has something to do with the fame of His Name** (33:18-19; 34:5-7)
   - ***1 Chronicles 16:28-29*** *– Ascribe to the Lord, O families of nations, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength, ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name.*
   - ***Psalm 66:1-2*** *– Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of His name; make His praise glorious!*
   - ***Psalm 72:19*** *– Praise be to His glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen.*
   - ***Psalm 8:1; 29:2; 79:9; 86:9,12; 96:8; 105:3; 115:1; Isaiah 24:15***
   - ***John 12:28*** *– Jesus replied, "Father, glorify Your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again."*
   - By the way, God's name is Jesus!
   - ***2 Thessalonians 1:12*** *– We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in Him….*
   - ***Philippians 2:9-11*** *– Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*
   - The theme of the whole Bible is that God is working to make the fame of His Name (which is Himself; His glory) known to all peoples.

One Big Application for Our Church – Desperately pray the prayer of Moses in Exodus 33:18 – "Lord, show me Your glory!"

- A call to one week of prayer and fasting seeking God's glory from September 20-27 and culminating in a Night of Worship on Sunday night, Sept. 27 at 6:00pm.
- Choose one day between Sept. 20-27 and fast for 24 hours using the extra time slots to pray. Eat dinner one night and then do not eat again until dinner the next night (that's 24 hours). Drink lots of water. Do not fast from food if you are pregnant or nursing or a diabetic or if you are on certain medications. Please consult your physician.
- Alternatives to food fasting could be fasting from your phone, media, TV, or desserts. Use the extra time created to worship and pray.
- Four prayers that we want to pray together during these eight days:

A CALL TO PRAYER AND FASTING
September 20-27, 2026

(1) Lord, show me/us Your glory! (Exodus 33:18)
(2) Lord, please bless Grace Fellowship as a house of prayer for all nations (Isaiah 56:7) to make disciples who make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20).
(3) Jesus, I plead Your Blood over Grace Fellowship. I bind the enemy's attacks over her (Matt 16:18-19), and I release unity, revival, and spiritual awakening.
(4) Your personal prayer burden.

There are 5 primary ways that we glorify God (Purpose Driven Life):

1. **Worshipping Him** (1 Chronicles 16:29; Psalm 86:9)
2. **Fellowshipping with His Family** (Ephesians 1:5; 3:21; Hebrews 2:10)
3. **Becoming like Him** (Romans 8:29; 2 Corinth 3:18; Philippians 3:20-21)
4. **Serving Others** (Matthew 5:16; John 15:8; 1 Peter 4:10-11)
5. **Sharing our Faith** (Psalm 96:3; Romans 15:8-9)

My Application Today – With God's help, I choose to seek to glorify God by…

- ☐ Receiving Jesus Christ into my life (Revelation 3:20).
- ☐ Participating in this week of prayer and fasting with my church family on September 20-27.
- ☐ Participating in the Night on Worship on Sunday, Sept. 27, at 6pm in the Cinco Ranch Campus Worship Center.
- ☐ Fellowshipping with others by joining a small group.
- ☐ Fellowshipping with others by attending the Men's Retreat on October 2-3. Info and sign up at WhatIsGrace.org/Mens1
- ☐ Serving others by serving in Kids Ministry. Inquire at WhatIsGrace.org/kids-ministry-leaders
- ☐ Sharing my faith by participating in the Church Has Left the Building in one of 65 community projects on Sunday morning, October 18. Info at WhatIsGrace.org/CHLB
- ☐ Becoming like Jesus by beholding (2 Corinthians 3:18) His attributes in our church-wide study of Deuteronomy in big church.

REMEMBER
A Study of the Book of Deuteronomy to Help Us Remember God and His Ways

Date	Message Title	Remember God's	Scripture
Sept 27	Remember God	Omnipresence	Deuteronomy 1-4
Oct 4	Remember the 10 Commandments	Jealous Love	Deuteronomy 5
Oct 11	Remember the Shema	Three in One	Deuteronomy 6
Oct 18	*The Church Has Left the Building* – doing Deuteronomy in our community		
Oct 25	Remember Holiness	Holiness	Deuteronomy 7-11
Nov 1	Remember Worship	Incomparableness	Deuteronomy 12-16
Nov 8	Remember Marriage and the Family	Greatness	Deuteronomy 16-21
Nov 15	Remember the Orphan, Widow, and Immigrant	Justice	Deuteronomy 22-26
Nov 22	Remember God's Covenant	Mystery	Deuteronomy 27-30
Nov 29	Remember to Plan for the Future	Eternalness	Deuteronomy 31-34

Bottom Line: You weren't created to make much of yourself; you were created to make much of God.