

Who? Why? How?

THE POINT: Men will understand why they should look to their Creator's design to find out who they are, why they were created, and how they will succeed in life.

WARM UP: Hold a \$1 bill in your hand. Ask, "What is this bill worth?" ____ Crumble the bill up, then step on it, and ask "How much is it worth now?" ____ Let's say you are this \$1 bill. What lesson do you take away from this illustration? _____

◇ Read **1 Samuel 16:1-7**. How is the way God looks at a person different from what people see? _____

WORKOUT ~ Three major questions answered by the God of creation. Read **Genesis 1:26-29**.

1. The question of IDENTITY: Who am I? Verses 26a, 27; Psalms 8:3-5

◇ What does it mean to be created in the "image" (**tselem**) of God? _____

◇ What does it mean to be made according to the "likeness" (**demuth**) of God? _____

◇ If you saw a photo of yourself lying on the floor or in the dirt, what would you do, and why? _____ Apply this to you as God's image & likeness. _____

◇ Read **2 Corinthians 5:17**. Why do I need a **new identity** in Jesus Christ? _____

2. The question of PURPOSE: Why am I here? Verse 26b; Matthew 6:33

◇ What is God's big assignment for you on earth? Read **Psalms 8:6-8; 115:16**. _____

◇ Why must you take this assignment very seriously? Read **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Romans 14:12**. _____

3. The question of MEANS: How will I make it? Verses 28-29

◇ What does it mean to be "blessed" (**barak**)? _____

◇ How does being blessed make it possible for you to **be** God's representative and **do** His kingdom assignment on earth? Read **Philippians 4:13,19**. _____

THE TAKEAWAY: How God designed me should determine what I do with my life. Who I am must come before what I do. My identity is stable when it is rooted in my Creator and who I am in Jesus Christ. If I seek to be the man that God made me to be, then I will be able to advance God's Kingdom on earth, and I will succeed as He blesses me.

Pray It Loud (from the Heart): Dear God, I acknowledge You as my Designer and Creator. I am Your handiwork. I will find my identity in You alone, not in anything else, not in anyone else. I am Your image and likeness and a new creation in Christ. And because You do not change, my identity in You will never change, and my assignment is sure. Lord, I will position myself under Your authority and blessing so I can complete Your Kingdom assignment. In JESUS' name. Amen!