

# COME AND SEE John 1:39

PROVIDED BY THRIVE LADIES MINISTRY  
CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH, KANNAPOLIS, NC

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## How to Realize the Purpose in Your Life and Find Actual Peace

BY JANA KIKER CULP

Life ebbs and flows. Sometimes we are in the happiest of places, enjoying our spouses and children to the fullest, and being truly happy. Then a problem comes up. Maybe a large argument with someone close that won't seem to resolve, or an accident, or a sudden financial hit. Then we get sidetracked, lost in the muddle of hurt, worry, and stress. This dark time lasts for a season—maybe a short time, maybe longer—then we come out on the other side of the storm happy, thankful. And, we're back. Back to

enjoying our lives again. And the cycle continues.

What holds us together through the entirety of life itself? Is it our own strength and “gumption” to keep going? Or could it be something bigger? Someone bigger? Because your own strength will fail. There will be times that you will be confused, your head will spin with all of your problems, and you will want to give up.

What is the continual glue that holds our lives together?

You may say, “I believe in myself. I have directed my life!” But who was there directing for you when you let go of the wheel? When you almost gave up on life entirely and (almost) threw in the towel?

Oh buddy, it certainly wasn't you.

ONLY our Creator could guide our lives from birth to death with such detail and precision. God Almighty, the LORD Jesus, gives us a second chance. When

**...Find Actual Peace - Cont'd**

we go through terrible things, He is there leading us, channeling us through the pitfalls of our lives and bringing us out on the other side.

HE GIVES US A SECOND CHANCE.

Maybe you have messed up your own life. Maybe you have made some stupid mistakes that you regret and they have turned your life upside down. Friend, God offers you a SECOND CHANCE. A new beginning. A new start. And a new-found HOPE.

Because, you see, JESUS CHRIST offers to you the keeping of your life. The leading through your ups and downs. People that reject God have nothing. They struggle with confusion. They are always searching for something new to make them temporarily happy. They have ups and downs as normal, but inside, they are always searching.

IT IS HUMAN NATURE TO SEARCH FOR AND FIND ITS CREATOR, and to make peace with that Creator.

Friend, Jesus LEADS YOU TO HIM.

He calls you. He invites to be in peace with Him and to be His own child, friend, and lover. It is so deep and so wonderfully

amazing, no one will be able to understand the fulness of it until we reach Heaven.

The fact that our Creator loves us so much is truly profound. Here are the differences between someone who has made peace with God (accepted Jesus as their Savior) and those who have never placed their belief in Jesus.

LOST SINNER:  
Confused, struggles through life. Has great moments of happiness or wealth, but at the end of the day, when no one else sees, is secretly hurting on the inside. Blaming themselves. Guilty.

They want peace, but they are not sure where to get it. They've tried religion maybe. Tried being a good person for a time. BUT IT WAS HARD. And if they did turn their lives around and become solid, moral individuals, at the end of the day, they still had an empty ache inside. A longing for peace with their Creator.

Compare this to the life of a CHILD OF GOD:

A huge sigh of relief! Life suddenly makes sense. The peace inside of their souls surpasses knowledge itself. How is it possible to feel this much relief? About EVERYTHING? They look back through their life and see the hand of God guiding them to this point.

This point that they meet Jesus

Christ and everything falls in place inside of their beings. The CREATOR has rescued and redeemed the CREATED. Yes, the created will still experience the normal ups and downs of life, BUT HE HAS A ROADMAP. He has a GUIDING LIGHT inside of him and the hand of GOD now leads him throughout life on this earth and on to an eternity of bliss, happiness, and purpose in heaven for the next....billions of years.

THE SAVED and REDEEMED individual has the leading of the HIGHEST HAND, the peace that PASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING ("And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:7), a place with no torment and suffering to thrive in through all eternity, and the VERY BEST FRIEND, FATHER, COUNSELOR, LOVER, and BROTHER of any age and any time throughout eternity, before and behind.

It's a no-brainer friend. Accept Jesus today.

*Jana writes Christian mindset articles for her blog, [joypeaceandcoffee.com](http://joypeaceandcoffee.com). As the wife of an Army veteran and homeschool mom of 2, she believes in putting God and her family first. Jana and her family reside in Concord, NC.*



## One in Eight

BY LEIGH HOLLMAN

I am “1 in 8”. Do you know what “1 in 8” represents? One in eight couples have an infertility problem. I am one in eight. Do you know someone who has problems conceiving? I didn’t know as a little girl that having a family would be difficult. I didn’t know it would take a path less traveled. God knew. He knew that I would need Him, and a strong faith in Him. He knew

Jeff and I have always wanted a large family. We had no idea we would walk a journey that wouldn’t be traditional, in the world’s view. We were married in 1993. We found out not long after we were married that we had an infertility problem. We prayed and began to seek what options we had. However, doctors were not as aggressive towards treatment as they are

today. *Timelines*. This would be a word that would stay with us for a long time. It’s a faith and trust lesson that we have learned through many experiences.

At the beginning of our infertility path, we didn’t have anyone to talk to because everyone around us was having their first, second, and

**One in Eight - Cont'd**

even third babies. No one could relate to what we were going through.

I won't say it didn't bother us. I won't say it wasn't difficult – it was a hard time in our lives. I knew God had a plan for us to have a family, but I was beginning to wonder when that would happen. When would He show us this family? How was that plan going to happen?

We always have ideas of how things should happen. But God always has the PERFECT plan. We had to wait and fully depend on His plan for our family. We became foster parents as we waited. We had many children go through our home, but none stayed long-term.

I searched Bible verses to help me through this. One verse that I found and clung to was Psalm 37:7a “Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him that prospereth in his way...”

This seemed easy at first. As time kept going, and we weren't having the family I thought God had for us, it became difficult. What I didn't know was the children He was placing in our homes was the family He wanted us to have AT THAT TIME.

I didn't know it wouldn't be a permanent family. I didn't know that ministering to small babies,

toddlers, and children would help them and us.

We began seeing more and more specialists to get help. We had so many doctor visits, procedures, and treatments, until finally our doctor told us our hope to have biological children would be through IVF (in-vitro fertilization). This still made us wait longer than we wanted.

We had so many people praying for us. Another verse that helped was Psalm 33:20, “Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he is our help and our shield.” Again, I didn't know how this road was going to look, but I clung to His strength that He would give us biological children, somehow.

I mentioned timing - a timeline, before. There was one recurring lesson throughout our whole infertility issue. God has His timing, and it's not about our timing. We recognized that timing issue.

Jeff came back from the Iraq War (2003) and we were able to get into a military hospital treatment program in order to try for our last IVF. We had previously been told it had a long waiting list. Praise God for His timing! This treatment program was out of state and had so many hurdles and hoops that were no obstacle for God. This part of the story is a story within itself, for another time.

Fast forward - God is good! He blessed us with TWO biological babies, we started fostering again, and God allowed two to stay in our home and we adopted them. He gave us the number of children we had always wanted - FOUR!

This isn't a hard subject for me to talk about, especially now. However, putting the words together in written form, well, that's the hard part. I wanted to share about God's timing, faithfulness, and goodness.

There's more I could tell you about how good God is to me, but that's for another story. I also wanted to share because I feel that this isn't something that is talked about much. It is deeply personal and everyone is affected differently. But I pray that God uses this to reach someone that can be encouraged through His Word and His faithfulness.

*Leigh and her husband, Jeff, and four children moved to Kannapolis in 2016 after her husband retired from the Air Force. She is a homeschool mom, who loves to serve in her home church whenever the need arises.*

## Cover My Eyes

Cover my eyes and make me blind  
To the petty faults I should not find;  
Open my eyes and let me see  
The friend my neighbor tries to be.  
Help me to guard my tongue with care,  
When prone to gossip – breathe a prayer.  
Let me at even rest content  
That for the Lord my day was spent.  
-Anonymous



## Women in the Bible Trivia

Be the first to text your correct answers to 704-305-3210 to claim your prize!  
Be sure to include your name!

1. What relationship was Ruth to Naomi?
2. Who was Jacob's mother?
3. Who did Abram marry?
4. Who was Moses' sister?
5. Which woman was a seller of fine purple goods?
6. What woman is mentioned in the Hebrews "Hall of Faith"?
7. What woman was Moses afraid of?
8. Who was Nabal married to?
9. Who was Uriah's wife?
10. Who caused Joseph to be put in jail?

# Notes and Journaling

- Should prayer be a last resort when we discover we can't handle a problem on our own? Of course not. Prayer is an important part of a Christian's life. Problems - big or small to us - are no issue for God! Is anything too hard for God?
- **READ:** James 1:6; Psalm 18:6; I Thessalonians 5:17; Philippians 4:6; Romans 8:26
- **WRITE or DRAW** your thoughts.

Notes:

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## thrive! Ladies Ministry Spotlight...

### Helping Hands Ministry



Serving our ladies during an illness or death reflects Christ's love and encouragement. Sending cards, providing meals, connecting via calls and texts, and visiting in person are a few ways this team ministers to those in need.

**Team Leader: Karen McCorkle 704-213-8216**



**CREAMY ITALIAN SAUSAGE + POTATO SOUP**

Ingredients

- 1 pound mild Italian sausage
- 2 pounds Russet potatoes, diced
- 6 cups low-sodium chicken stock
- 3 cups chopped kale or spinach
- 1 cup heavy cream
- ½ cup parmesan cheese, shredded
- Kosher salt and black pepper to taste

1. Brown and crumble Italian sausage in a large stock pot or Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Remove sausage with a slotted spoon and drain excess drippings from pot.

2. Return sausage to pot and add potatoes, chicken stock, ½ teaspoon salt, and ¼ teaspoon black pepper. Bring to a boil and reduce heat to medium. Cook until potatoes are tender.

3. Use a slotted spoon to remove ½ of potatoes from pot. In a separate bowl, mash potatoes then return them to the pot. Stir in kale or spinach leaves, heavy cream, and more salt and pepper, to taste. Cook until kale is tender, about 2-3 minutes.

4. To serve, garnish with shredded parmesan cheese & freshly cracked black pepper.

12tomatoes.com

Do you have a recipe you would like to share? Email it to [cbcthriveladies@gmail.com](mailto:cbcthriveladies@gmail.com) and we'll feature it in an upcoming issue.



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- FEBRUARY 10 - VALENTINE'S BANQUET
- FEBRUARY 24 - AWAKEN EVENT
- MARCH 17 - LARGEST BABY SHOWER
- MARCH 24 - EASTER DRAMA
- MARCH 30 - COMMUNITY EASTER CELEBRATION

**'SHE READS' BOOK CLUB**

MEETS ALTERNATE SATURDAYS @ 10:00 AM  
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:  
REBECCA SCOTT-FIELDEN 704-680-2613.

**"THE EXTRAORDINARY DEATHS OF  
MRS. KIP"  
BY SARA BRUNSVOLD**

**GRIEF SHARE**

*"IT HURTS WHEN WE LOSE SOMEONE. FIND HELP AT GRIEF SHARE."*  
MONDAY EVENINGS - 6PM  
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:  
LISA SCARCE 704-640-4381

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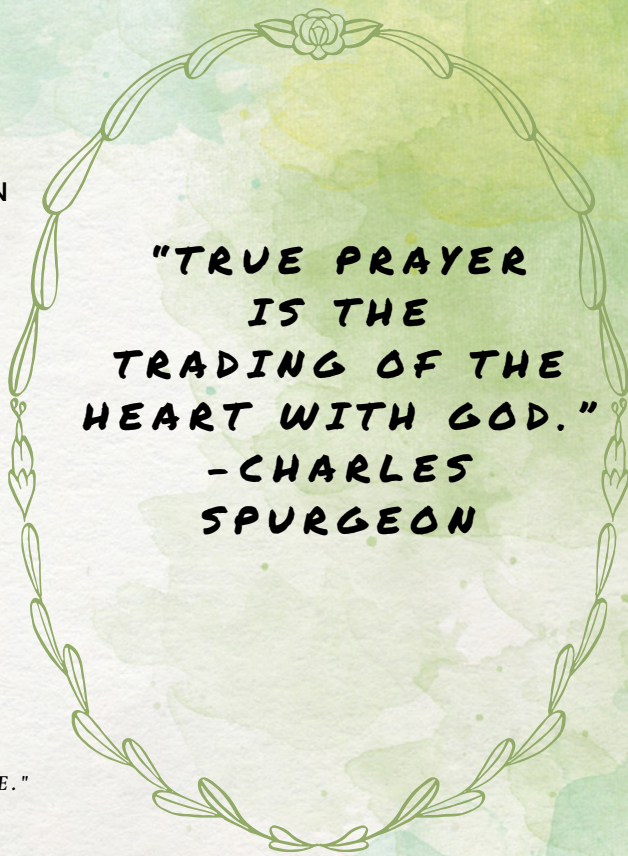
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