



NORTHVIEW
STUDENTS
5th/6th grade

DATE(S)

November 27-28, 2021

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE

Stuffed – Week 4

TAKE-HOME POINT (THP)

Be **STUFFED** with God's
purpose!

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Acts 8:1-3, 9:1-19
2 Corinthians 5:17
Matthew 28:19

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give any Campus-Specific Announcements



THE OVERVIEW

OPENING GAME / GROUP TIME

LARGE-GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

"Pumpkin Spice vs. The Internet"

A pumpkin spiced latte (or a PSL) will cost you around \$5. Students will be shown a series of random items you can buy from the internet. They must determine which is more expensive: the PSL or the odd internet item. Students answer by moving to one side of the room or the other.

OPENING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

ACTIVITIES

Take attendance and make sure to welcome anyone who is a first-time guest!

What was the highlight of your week?

What was the best food you ate this year for Thanksgiving? What was the worst?

When you're finished (and there's time), pray for our time of worship.

STUFF TO ASK TO UNIQUELY CONNECT THE LESSON TO KIDS' LIVES

STUFF TO DO SO THINGS AREN'T BORING



LARGE-GROUP SCRIPT

THE MESSAGE

"Stuffed" Week 4 – FULL of Purpose
November 27-28, 2021

Happy Thanksgiving everyone! I hope you all had a good time spending time with your families, watching a little football, and eating some turkey. In fact, at the count of 3, shout out your favorite Thanksgiving food. 1, 2, 3! Oh man...I'm getting hungry all over again!!

Alright, we are wrapping up our final week of this STUFFED series where we have talked about what a Christian person should be STUFFED with. I want to read the passage of Scripture we have looked at each week from the New Testament in Galatians 5:22-23. Here it is: *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is now law."*

Today, we are going to look at the life of the man who wrote those words, Paul, and how one huge event changed the course of his life forever. If I could describe Paul's life in one word, here is the word I would choose: purpose. You'll see why in a little bit.

First, here is some background info: we are told his name is Saul and he lives in Tarsus, a city in south-central Turkey. We find out in Acts chapter 13 that he is also referred to as Paul. He grew up in a family with a strong Jewish background. In ancient Jewish culture, boys were given the opportunity to become a student under a rabbi. They had to memorize significant portions of the Old Testament and learn all about Jewish law and Jewish traditions. Paul excelled at this and eventually became a Pharisee (or an expert in Jewish law).

However, Paul's life turns out to be in direct opposition to Jesus. Since many people thought that Jesus was the Son of God, this upset Paul and the other Pharisees because they believed he was trying to overthrow them and their leadership (which was part of the reason Jesus was killed). Paul became very angry towards any person who was a Christian. In fact, he spent a great deal of his time trying to arrest them and put them to death. In fact, one Christian named Stephen was executed and Paul ordered the killing to happen.

We can read about this from the writer of the book of Acts, Luke, in Acts 8:1-3 *"And Saul approved of their killing him. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison."*

THE MESSAGE

Paul made it his PURPOSE to try and kill Christians! But then, one day – a day Paul would never forget – something happens to him...something that would change his life and his purpose forever! We're going to look at that event right now because it is recorded in Acts 9:1-9:

"Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' 'Who are you, Lord?' Saul asked. 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' he replied. Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do. The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything."

I don't know if you have ever said...or have heard someone say this before..."God, if you're real, just reveal yourself to me. Just show up and prove to me that you're real." Well, I don't know if Paul prayed that same prayer or not...but God showed up right in front of him! The story goes on and we find out that a Christian man named Ananias is also visited by God at the same time as Paul! We read on in verses 10-19...

Acts 9:10-19 – "In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight." "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go this man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength."

Alright, that's a pretty long story and here's the point. Actually, here's the Take Home Point.

Be STUFFED with God's purpose!

THE MESSAGE

God gave Saul a new purpose. Instead of killing Christians, he was going to share Jesus with non-Christians so that they could BECOME Christians. Instead of executing others for their faith, God told Saul to be prepared to suffer and potentially die for HIS FAITH! Saul was a completely different person. Remember what the verse said? God said that Saul was His "chosen instrument." He gave Saul a new life purpose.

Have you ever considered what your life purpose might be? Have you ever thought about that question? Do you believe God has a purpose for your life?

(Teacher's Note: Share some brief insight of how you are living out God's purpose in your life)

Here's what we can learn from Paul's story. There isn't one person in this world who is too far from God. Anyone can have an experience with God no matter what they've done. If you follow Jesus, you are a new person. This same man, Paul, went on to write most of the New Testament. Check out one of his most famous statements in 2 Corinthians 5:17 – *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"* I love that verse because it was written by someone who TRULY had an encounter with Jesus, and he was NEVER the same. He was a new creation!

I think all of you have a purpose in this life; to love God with your heart/soul/mind/strength and to love/serve others. Now, you may not know what that looks like in the future in terms of a job or potentially having a family of your own, but that's ok! Since we are followers of Christ, we still have a purpose of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ to our friends, family, and all those around us. It's just like Jesus told his disciples in Matthew 28:19: *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."*

Since another part of our purpose as Christians is to make disciples, I want each of you to be STUFFED with God's purpose and to live a life searching for what that purpose might be for you. We have just a few weeks left before Christmas – I want to challenge you to invite 2-3 friends of yours to come with you to Northview Students. Bring them with you and give them an opportunity to get involved here so they can hear about this Jesus who has changed your life. Students, as our Take Home Point says, I believe you can be **STUFFED with God's purpose**, and He can use you as His "chosen instrument." Let's pray!

CLOSING SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

CLOSING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

What was the THP today and why was it important during the message?

We heard about the intense story of Paul (also known as Saul) during the message today. What was the craziest part of that story to you?

We looked at a passage in Matthew in the New Testament that's so important that it's called "The Great Commission" (or the great sending out). Let's have someone read that verse out loud for us. It's found in Matthew 28:19:

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

According to this verse, what is one big part of our purpose in life from God?

What is a gift/talent you have that you could use to live for God's purpose in your life?

How will the THP help you to live differently this week? Try to think of a specific example.

How can this group pray for you this week?

FINAL THOUGHTS

After your group is finished with your discussion questions, close in prayer!

Encourage those students in your group who made first-time decisions or who made re-commitments to follow Jesus today! Tell them that this group is a support system for them and they don't have to do this life alone. If there is a student who makes a first-time commitment to Christ, have them text NVSNEXT to 85379 or fill out a response card so you can capture their information and our staff can follow up with them. Once your group discussion is over, close your group in prayer!



PREP NEEDS

SMALL-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Some Bibles for students to share during group discussion
- Pen/paper for SOAP study (optional)
- Playlister material

LARGE-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Stupid Video of the Week
- Message script
- Message slides

AUDIO/VISUAL NEEDS

- Pro Presenter or Playlister