

My Purpose Will Stand Scope and Sequence

My Purpose Will Stand is a study for children on the providence of God. The study begins by helping children understand the definition of providence and sovereignty and then goes on to examine various ways in which God is working in the world to accomplish His purposes. Throughout the curriculum children will retrieve pieces to a puzzle that at the end of the study will reveal a picture of the beauty of sovereignty. The aim of this curriculum is to urge children to see God's hand in their lives and to trust His providential care.



Lesson 1: There is None Like God

Memory Verse: Isaiah 46:9b

God cannot be compared to anyone or anything else.

In this opening lesson, students are presented with a picture of the immense greatness of God through looking at verses from Isaiah 40, and from them drawing the conclusion that God has no equal. He is infinite in wisdom and power. Everything else in creation is insignificant in comparison to God—nations are like a drop in a bucket of water; men are like grasshoppers. Unlike the idols of man, God is self-existing, eternal, and active. Such a great God is worthy of our praise.

Lesson 2: The Providence of God

Memory Verse: Deuteronomy 3:24

God is present and active in all His creation, watching and working in all things.

God is not distant and uncaring, but is actively involved in His creation, graciously providing for the universe. God's providence is explained as students identify His watching eye and His working hand in various Bible passages. They are encouraged to worship with thanksgiving our God who sees everything and works in everything that happens in the world.

Lesson 3: God's Sustaining Providence

Memory Verse: Colossians 1:17

God created and sustains the universe.

God sustains all of creation by His upholding power. God is not limited in any way and is attentive in all things. Therefore, He perfectly sustains the universe. Every living thing is dependent on God who, in mercy, sustains life. Without God's sustaining hand of providence over the universe, it would cease to exist.

Lesson 4: God Has the Right, Power, and Wisdom to Govern the World

Memory Verse: Psalm 103:19

God has the right, power, and wisdom to govern the world.

God created, sustains, and rules the universe, though we may not be aware of His providence. As the Creator, God alone has the right and is qualified to rule the world. This important truth leads students to understand that they are the creature and not the Creator, and therefore have no right to question, complain about, or resist God's rule. As the One with the right, power, and wisdom to rule the world, God is worthy of our confidence and praise.

Lesson 5: God Has a Plan for All Creation

Memory Verse: Psalm 33:11

God has an unchanging plan for the World.

God has an unchanging plan for the world and, under His watchful eye, He is moving all history to fulfill His purposes. All events are the unfolding of His story written before the foundation of the world. The four key events of history—creation, fall, redemption, and return—are bringing us to the ultimate end of all of history in which the Father will be glorified by the confession of every person that Jesus is King as they bow before Him.

Lesson 6: Everything God Does Has a Purpose*Memory Verse: Ephesians 1:11***All things are ordained by God and serve His plans.**

All things are ordained by God and serve His plans. This means that there are no surprises to God, no random acts in our lives, and no mistakes, for God is perfectly in control of all things at all times. Though Christians may not always understand God's purposes, we can have confidence in a sovereign God who establishes our every step.

Lesson 7: All God's Purposes Are Right*Memory Verses: Deuteronomy 32:3-4***God rules the world with perfect justice and righteousness.**

It is against God's unchanging nature to act in an unrighteous way, so we can trust Him to rule the world with perfect justice and righteousness. Though we may be tempted to question God's ways, we must remember that God is wiser and more loving than we are, and all His purposes are right.

Lesson 8: God will Accomplish All His Purposes*Memory Verses: Isaiah 46:9b-10***Nothing or no one can hinder God from accomplishing His purposes.**

God is unlimited and never fails to accomplish His purposes, even when He chooses to use limited, imperfect sinners to accomplish His will. Nothing and no one can thwart God's plans, and it is foolish to oppose Him. Though we only see a small part of God's plans and purposes, we can trust the God who sees the beginning and the end of all things.

Lesson 9: God is Never Surprised: God Foresees All Things Because He Has Already Ordained All Things*Memory Verse: Psalm 147:5***God foresees all things because He has already ordained all things.**

God is directing all things for His good purposes and works in anticipation of events. Christians can have confidence that everything in the present and in the future is already known and planned by God.

Lesson 10: Hidden Providence*Memory Verses: Isaiah 55:8-9***Though God's providential works are often hidden from man, we are called to trust Him.**

Many times we do not recognize God's work in our lives—yet He is unfolding His plans in His way and in His time. His thoughts and ways are higher than ours, so we can trust His power, wisdom, and goodness. And we can thank Him for the things in our lives we see and those we do not see.

Lesson 11: God's Purposes Are Far Reaching*Memory Verse: Job 37:5***Though God's works of providence serve multiple purposes, God's ultimate purpose is to display His glory.**

Though God's works of providence serve multiple purposes, God's ultimate purpose is to display His glory. From our limited view we cannot see the multiple, far-reaching purposes in all that God does. His hand is always at work, even though we cannot see it. Often the passing of time helps us see God's providential work more clearly, yet we are called to trust Him even in the times of uncertainty and confusion.

Lesson 12: God Acts for His Glory*Memory Verses: Psalm 77:13-14***God acts in order to be seen and to show His greatness and worth.**

God does not hide who He is, but He displays His glory, goodness, and worth in all of His acts of providence. Just as He reduced the army of Israel to display His glory in defeating the Midianites, so He acts in the world today to display His goodness and worth. When we truly see the glory of God, we cannot help but echo back His greatness in worship and praise.

Lesson 13: God's Providence Over Nature*Memory Verse: Isaiah 48:13***God controls nature; consequently, all creation is subject to His will.**

Everything in the universe is subject to the sovereign rule of God and serves His purposes. Jesus demonstrated His command of the wind and waves, which ceased its raging in obedience to Him, revealing His identity as God. It should fill us with awe that our God controls everything from earthquakes to insects.

Lesson 14: God's Providence Over Human Life*Memory Verses: Psalm 139:13-14***God creates all people for His sovereign purposes and for His glory.**

Every human being, made in the image of God, is fashioned precisely as planned by God. As God is sovereign in giving life, He has also determined the time of our death. Each life has a unique position to play in God's unfolding plans. Those with disabilities can display God's glory in unique ways, as God is glorified in weakness by those who depend on Him and radiate His joy in suffering.

Lesson 15: God's Providence Over Rulers and Nations*Memory Verses: Daniel 2:20b-21***Rulers and nations are subject to the providence of God.**

Earthy kings may think they rule autonomously, but God is the one who directs all things, including their hearts, to fulfill His plan. God has the right to govern His universe as He desires. Therefore God can even use evil nations and rulers to serve His purposes. Our lives should reflect a respect for those in authority—with confidence and trust that God's sovereign plan is being worked out through them.

Lesson 16: God's Providence Over His Word*Memory Verse: Isaiah 55:11***God sustains His Word, which accomplishes His purposes.**

God has preserved His Word despite thousands of years, 40 unique writers, and three different languages, demonstrating that in reality there is truly only one Author of the Bible—God. God continues to watch over the accuracy and spreading of His Word, and He will give His Word success.

Lesson 17: God's Providence Over Man's Heart*Memory Verse: Proverbs 21:1***Man's heart is subject to the will of God.**

God's sovereign control over the heart of man is shown in the examples of Rehoboam and Cyrus. Man's heart is inclined toward evil and can only be changed by the intervention of God's grace. God changes sinful hearts, giving man the will to follow Him and love what He loves.

Lesson 18: God's Providence Over the Cross*Memory Verse: 1 Peter 2:24***All the events leading to the cross were planned by God from before the foundation of the world.**

God planned the cross to solve man's sin problem. The events leading to the cross did not surprise God or happen by chance. Jesus knew the cross was a necessity and part of God's eternal divine plan.

Lesson 19: Saving Providence: Seeking and Saving the Lost*Memory Verse: Luke 19:10***The saving providence of God calls men to be saved.**

God is actively working in the world, seeking and saving lost people. Through Jesus we see the amazing love and mercy of God toward undeserving sinners. Even though we are unworthy—God seeks lost sinners because of His great love for us. God sees our great need and orchestrates events in each of our lives to bring us to repentance. To those who have ears to hear, His call is irresistible.

Lesson 20: Saving Providence: God's Gift of Salvation*Memory Verses: Ephesians 2:8-9***Salvation is a free gift of God.**

No one can earn his salvation; it is a free gift from our merciful Savior. The Philippian jailer was released from the prison of sin. The woman at the well received living water. And Nicodemus was born again—all by grace. No one has the right to expect or demand God's mercy. Though it may seem "unfair" to us that God would elect some for heaven and condemn others to hell, in reality everyone is deserving of hell. All are rebellious, running away from God...yet God in His mercy rescues some.

Lesson 21: God's Providence in Salvation and Evangelism*Memory Verse: Romans 8:30***God works through the evangelistic efforts of His people as they proclaim the Gospel.**

Through a detailed discussion of the steps of salvation, students will see that God does the work of conversion. Yet we have a part in extending the Gospel call to the lost. We are called to preach, teach, and share the Word, and show the reality of it through our love and deeds.

Lesson 22: God's Providence Over Evil and Misfortune*Memory Verses: Lamentations 3:37-38***God not only permits evil, but ordains it, and yet also restrains it by His grace.**

Nothing is outside the providence of God including evil and misfortune. Everything that happens in this world comes from His hand. Evil did not originate with our Holy God, but entered the world through Satan. In His mercy, God has put Satan on a leash, constantly restraining evil. Rather than blame God for evil done by others, we need to thank Him for His continued goodness to us.

Lesson 23: God is Sinless in His Providence Over Evil*Memory Verses: James 1:13-14***Although God decrees evil, He does not directly perform morally evil deeds.**

As recorded in James 1, God does not tempt anyone to do evil. All moral evil flows from the evil intentions of man's heart. Often we are prone to blame God when bad things happen. We fail to remember that this world is under a curse, and man is not entitled to blessings. When blessings come to us, it is grace.

Lesson 24: Evil Serves the Purposes of God*Memory Verse: Proverbs 16:4***All evil serves God's purposes.**

Sinful men follow the evil intentions of their hearts. God sees and directs this evil to serve His good purposes. By looking closely at the crucifixion of Jesus, we see how God used Satan and the evil intentions of men to accomplish His plan for our good. God often permits what He hates to accomplish what He loves.

Lesson 25: God's Providence Over Pain and Suffering*Memory Verses: 2 Corinthians 4:17-18***God uses the evil intended against His children for their good.**

When seen in the light of God's purposes, our suffering is light and momentary. Because God is more interested in our sanctification than in our comfort, He is willing to permit necessary suffering in our lives to produce spiritual growth in us that is ultimately for our good.

Lesson 26: God Takes No Pleasure in Evil or Suffering*Memory Verses: Lamentations 3:31-33***God is grieved by evil and suffering.**

God's heart for all men, and especially His children, is a heart of love. Though at times suffering is necessary, God grieves over suffering and works to alleviate suffering while allowing it to work His good purposes.

Lesson 27: God's Providence Over Calamities*Memory Verse: Isaiah 45:7***Disasters are a result of God's curse as a consequence of man's sin.**

God's sovereignty over nature includes natural disasters. Disasters come directly from the hand of God as judgment for sin, from Satan, from the hand of man, or from natural causes resulting from the curse. Even through judgment we see God's mercy—warning us that sin will be punished, teaching us that hell is real, and reminding us to walk in holiness.

Lesson 28: God's Providence Over Man's Way*Memory Verses: Proverbs 3:5-6***Man's way is subject to God's control.**

God is wise in governing the world, and in mercy He leads His people "in the way they should go." How sweet it is to go through life with guidance from God who knows the perfect way for each of us. We are wise to tentatively make our plans, submitting to the Lord who establishes our steps.

Lesson 29: God's Providence Over Circumstances*Memory Verse: Proverbs 19:21***God directs circumstances to serve His purposes.**

God ordains and controls circumstances to fulfill His plan and purposes. So, though man plans His way, God orchestrates the steps of man, working all circumstances in the lives of His children for their good.

Lesson 30: God's Plans Work Together Perfectly*Memory Verse: Deuteronomy 3:24***God is sovereign over all circumstances and orders them to work out His plans perfectly.**

God is never surprised at any circumstance, as all of life is divinely orchestrated to work flawlessly according to His perfect plan. He is always perfectly in control and always accomplishes His purposes. We need not worry, because God never makes mistakes but divinely orders the circumstances of our lives for our good and His glory

Lesson 31: God's Timing Is Perfect*Memory Verse: Psalm 90:2***God's timing is perfect.**

God, being Creator, is also the master of time. His order is perfect. His timing of all things is perfect, and His plans are eternal. All things work together perfectly for God's great purposes. Lesson examples include God, the Master of time, stopping the sun, and the timing of Philip's encounter with the Ethiopian eunuch.

Lesson 32: God's Providence and Man's Choices*Memory Verse: John 8:34***Man is free to make real choices, and is therefore accountable and responsible for his choices.**

Man is free to make real, willing, meaningful choices, and actual things happen in the real world because of the choices man makes. Just as God did not accept the excuse of Adam and Eve in the Garden, so He also holds all men responsible for the choices they make. However, man does not have total freedom, as his will is limited because of his finiteness, his fallen nature, and God's providence. Only God is totally free to act according to His pleasure, as He is not limited in any way. Only God has the power to draw man's heart toward what is good. We should praise God for His undeserved grace in turning rebellious hearts to Him.

Lesson 33: God's Providence Over Prayer*Memory Verse: Psalm 57:2***God ordains prayer as a means to fulfilling His purposes.**

We have all wondered "What difference do my prayers make? Do my prayers accomplish anything?" In Psalm 57:2, the psalmist recognizes both the sovereignty of God and the need to pray, giving us the reassurance that God has ordained that He work in answer to prayer. We should pray with fervency and faith, knowing that God will accomplish great work through our prayers, as God not only ordains the end all things, He also often ordain prayer as the means to that end.

Lesson 34: All Things Work for Good for God's Children*Memory Verse: Romans 8:28***Because nothing is outside of God's providence, all things work for good for God's children.**

All believers can be assured that every single thing that has happened, is happening, and will ever happen to them will be for their good to the end that they be conformed to the image of Christ.

Lesson 35: Trusting in the Providence of God:**Believing that All God's Purposes are Right***Memory Verse: Psalm 145:17***Faith is believing that all God's purposes are right.**

We can fix our eyes on our circumstances and wrongly question God's wisdom. Or we can put our hands over our mouths, guard our hearts, and remember that God has the right, power, wisdom, and righteousness to govern the world. God has a plan for the world, and He has a perfect way to fit us into His plan. We must remember that God promises that He will always do good to His children, and we must recognize that His purposes are never fully revealed in this life. His plans for our spiritual growth deserve our complete trust.

Lesson 36: Trusting in the Providence of God:**When you Can't See God's Hand, Trust His Heart***Memory Verse: Isaiah 64:4***Faith is trusting God's heart when you cannot see or understand His ways.**

Though God loves all mankind, He especially loves His children with an everlasting love and is committed to doing good to them. So, no matter what happens in our lives, we can rest on the truth that God never changes. His love for us will never change—even when we don't feel His love. We fight the fight of faith by choosing to dwell on the truths in God's Word and not on our feelings.

Lesson 37: Trusting in the Providence of God:**Submitting to the Will of God***Memory Verse: Psalm 143:10***Trusting in the providence of God means submitting to His will.**

God calls us to lay down our wills and follow Him—even when we don't understand what He is doing. If we would rightly trust God, we must believe that He is completely sovereign, infinitely wise, and perfect in love. Our reaction to God's ordained circumstances in our lives reveals whether we truly trust Him. The heart application of this lesson is that students will trust God regardless of the ways things appear, knowing that He is completely sovereign, wise, and good.

Lesson 38: Looking for the Providence of God in All Things:**Meditating on the Works of God***Memory Verse: Psalm 143:5***To rejoice in God's works, we must learn to meditate on His works.**

God's works are everywhere, but we so often are blind to them. We often forget God's past mercies or the past evidences of His power and grace. We need to intentionally take time to review the gracious works of the Lord each day.

Lesson 39: Looking for the Providence of God in All Things:**Seeing the Big Picture***Memory Verse: Galatians 2:20***God is the center of everything in the universe.**

Everything in the world was created to revolve around a center—from planets to flower heads. This universal pattern points to the Creator and Center of all of life. We were intended to live for God's glory, yet we can become preoccupied with our microscopic view of our own little kingdom of needs and wants. Pointing to the lives of Jeremiah and Paul, this lesson demonstrates the greater joy of living for the glory of God and the secret for doing so—dying to self.

Lesson 40: Looking for the Providence of God in All Things:**See Jesus***Memory Verses: Romans 11:34-36***In everything that happens to us, we should see the hand of God and rejoice that if we have Him, we have everything.**

In all the circumstances of life, our response should be to see God at work. All things are counted as rubbish compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus. So if Jesus is our treasure, no matter what happens to us, we have all we need.

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