

The Search for Meaning

Grades: 1-8

Time: 30 minutes

Preparation Time: 5 min.

Standards Addressed:

J2E

J2E 1 **Acceptance of God**

Surrender one's whole life to God; develop a relationship with Jesus Christ; and allow the Holy Spirit to work in one's life.

J2E Accept God as the Creator and the Redeemer.

1.1

J2E Have a growing knowledge of God's Word and enjoyment in its study.

1.2

J2E Embrace God's gift of grace by accepting Christ as one's personal Savior.

1.3

J2E Discover the importance and power of prayer and faith in one's relationship with Jesus.

1.4

J2E Value God's revelation of Himself through inspired writings and creation.

1.5

J2E Respond to God's love by using one's spiritual gifts to serve others.

1.6

J2E Value and participate in worship alone and with others.

1.8

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will find purpose and meaning in their lives. Students will experience in a new way what God has plan and purpose for their life.
- Students will participate in reading the Bible and E G White.
- Student will create their own cross about their own purpose and meaning.

Description of Worship/Learning Experience:

This worship is called “ The Search for Meaning” is it designed to start the journey of uncovering God’s plan for each of His children.

1. Teacher led discussion

Deep inside us the two burning questions we all wrestle at one point or another are:

- Why am I here?
- What does God want me to do?

The desire to make a difference burns in our souls. Our deepest heart’s desire is to worship our Maker and be of service. This is what we search for; to find value and give is the ember burning in us all. Without finding answers to these questions I find people have “soul holes”.

A “soul hole” is a place that nothing else can fit except God’s meaning and significance for our lives. Sometimes we may try to put other things in the “soul hole”, yet find nothing quite fills the need. Then after a searching here and there, we find our journey leads us into the hands of our Maker. These may look like hard times, unfortunate events or elating experiences. We don’t have the expansive view of time and space to view these as precious learning opportunities. If we did we may say, like Ellen G White:

“God has a purpose in sending trial to His children. He never leads them otherwise than they would choose to be led if they could see the end from the beginning, and discern the glory of the purpose that they are fulfilling. (*Prophet and Kings, p. 578*)

2. Human Value Activity

- BEFORE CLASS - Prepare a big poster board with a cross and the students names written on the cross in red.
- Explain that each name is written in red to symbolize the blood that Jesus’ shed for them. He did this because of how much He values each person.
- Ask students for any Biblical support about human value. Provide assistance as necessary (*see possible Bible verse below*).
- Place student suggested Biblical support texts around the cross.
- Hang the poster board cross in your classroom.
- Hand out quotes on index cards (*see Human Value Activity Quotes below*).
- Select different students to read each text and share what the text means to them.
- Watch/Sing along to Chris Tomlin, *Made to Worship* music video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9pyreN9jn8>
- Say: “Finally, God searches for us endless, unendingly He is calling. His persistent love will never let us go.”
- Watch Mother Teresa, *Small Things* at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0h6vZ3qefrU>
- Students share with a partner what small thing he/she can do.

- l. Share the following Bible verse: “Because I am God, your personal God, The holy of Israel, your Savior, I paid a huge price for you” Isaiah 43:1 (The Message)
- m. Students create their own cross poster or 3-d popsicle stick cross. In both cases they must include their favorite scripture and words that illustrate meaning for their own life surrounding the cross.

Possible *Human Value Activity* Bible Verses

Isaiah 43:1- The Message Bible

[When You're Between a Rock and a Hard Place] But now, God's Message, the God who made you in the first place, Jacob, the One who got you started, Israel: "Don't be afraid, I've redeemed you. I've called your name. You're mine. When you're in over your head, I'll be there with you. When you're in rough waters, you will not go down. When you're between a rock and a hard place, it won't be a dead end— Because I am God, your personal God, The Holy of Israel, your Savior. I paid a huge price for you.

Jeremiah 11:4 The Message Bible

Obey what I tell you. Do exactly what I command you. Your obedience will close the deal. You'll be mine and I'll be yours.

Ezekiel 16:8-The Message Bible

I came by again and saw you, saw that you were ready for love and a lover. I took care of you, dressed you and protected you. I promised you my love and entered the covenant of marriage with you. I, God, the Master, gave my word. You became mine.