



**JANUARY 2 2022**  
**SERMON STUDY GUIDE**

Brian Bales: Lead Pastor

Colossians 1:16 • Genesis 1:26-27 • Psalm 139:14 • John 1:12 • Ephesians 2:10  
Hebrews 12:6 • Matthew 22:37-39 • John 14:1 • Romans 8:37

**This study guide is intended for the life application of the Sunday Sermon**  
James 1:22-25 tells us to put into action what we are discovering in God's word.

## REVIEW

- Who did you encounter this week that needed to hear the good news of the birth of King Jesus?
- How did you share this great news and what was the outcome?

## LESSONS TO EXPLORE

Intro: We Can Miss the Basics

1. Understanding Who You Are
2. Understanding Whose We Are
3. Understanding Why We Are Here
4. The Result

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Intro: Pastor Brian tells us that it is easy to overlook the basics in every part of life. When we do, what can happen?

1. Why do we think that it's normal to struggle as much as we sometimes do? When was the last time that you chose the wrong tool for a project or repair only to discover the right tool too late? What was the outcome?
2. Read Colossians 1:16. *For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him.*
  - a. Where do you see yourself (and others) in this verse? Who is the Apostle Paul writing to and why? Why is it important to identify who our Creator is?

b. Read Genesis 1:27. *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.* When is a recent time that you considered that in some way “you look like God”?

c. Why does it matter that every person on this planet was made in God’s image and that each of us is a unique reflection of our Creator? How will you see yourself and others differently considering this reminder; We are spiritual beings created to live forever, and relational beings designed to have a friendship with God.

d. Why are we sometimes tempted to keep our relationship with God transactional? How will you engage in a friendship with your Heavenly Father?

3. Read John 1:12. *But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.* Consider all the benefits of a birth right. What are some of the privileges that only a son or daughter can claim?

a. If you recall the story of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-32 , what details stand out in the way that the father treated both the younger and the older son?

b. How does this story reflect who our Heavenly Father is? Can you see yourself in this story? Where do you find hope that you are loved by God just as you are?

c. Where do you see that God wants more for us than we do for ourselves and that transformation is possible?

4. Read Ephesians 2:10. *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

a. Rick Warren's book **The Purpose Driven Life** begins with this, "it's not all about you." Translated, we are placed here by God for a purpose.

b. What has God called you to do here on earth in His name? Your list may be long, short or even blank but the Holy Spirit can help you create or add to the list and then equip you to carry out what God has uniquely designed you to do.

c. Pastor Brian references Hebrews 12:6. *For the Lord disciplines, trains the one's He loves...* Why is this a part of the process?

d. Michael Jordan was not born as one of the most talented basketball players of all time. What did it take for him to achieve those skills? How has God disciplined and trained you to do what He has or is calling you to do?

5. Matthew 22:37-39 says this, *And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

a. We are all called to live out the commandments in Matthew 22. What does **loving** God look in your life each day?

b. What does **loving** your neighbor look like and "*who is your neighbor*"?

c. We will struggle if we miss the basics. How does Romans 8:37 encourage you? *No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*

### **Making it Real**

- Today, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal an area where you struggle. Engage a trusted friend who follows Jesus to be present and encourage you to allow God to grow you and transform you. Remember that you belong to Him.

**A place** to JOURNAL and REFLECT on your thoughts and prayers:

