

PBC Growing in Christ

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January 24, 2021

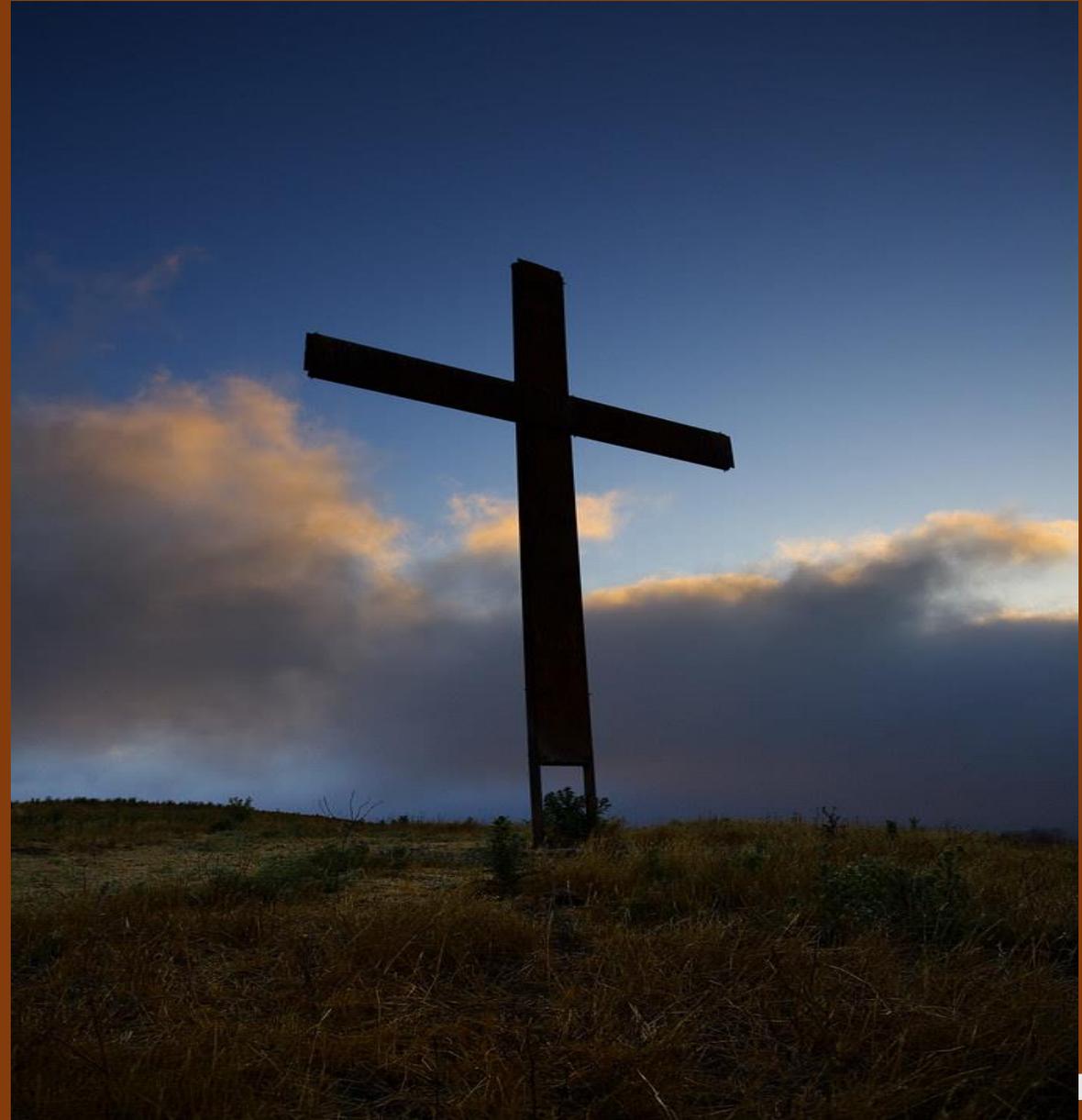
Class Norms

A large, dark wooden cross stands in a field of tall grass. The background is a sunset sky with soft, golden light and scattered clouds. The cross is the central focus of the image, with its vertical post and two horizontal arms clearly visible against the sky.

- Place your microphone on mute.
- Use the chat room. Located in the upper right of the screen.
- Interact in the class just raise your hand. The instructor will take you off mute.
- Technology may not always work....please be patient.
- God is always in the midst
- Enjoy the class.

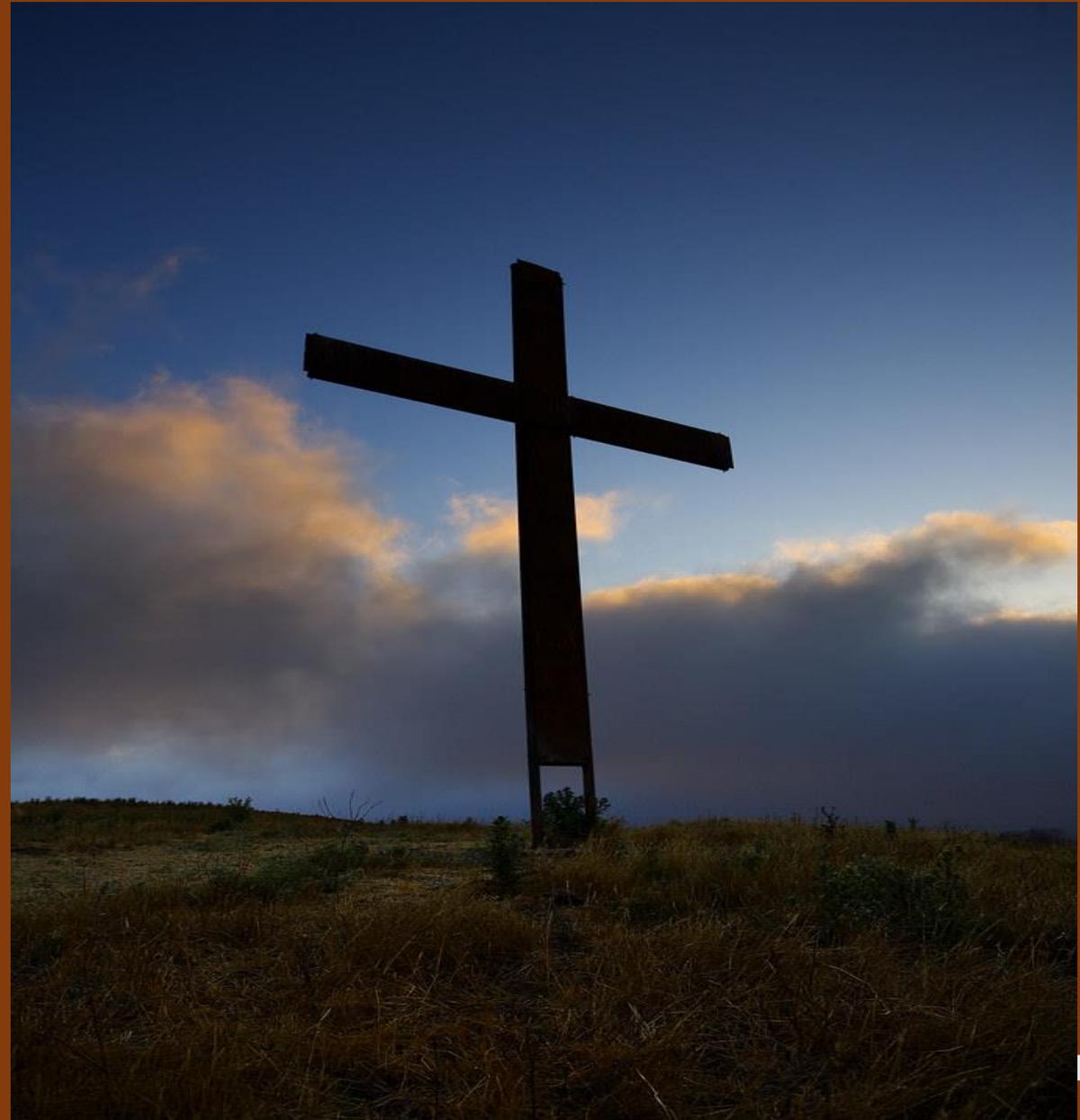
Growing in Christ

- Every day is an opportunity to grow in the word.
- Growing in Christ will tackle real life issues, while studying the bible for its answers.
- Examine challenges believers and non-believers face every day.
- Growing in Christ bible study will focus on how Christians face challenges and how the bible addresses these issues.



Growing in Christ

To equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:12-13 (NIV)





Created for a Purpose

Jeremiah 1:4-10

What would a personality test reveal about you?

Scripture
Created for a Purpose
Jeremiah 1:4-5

4 The word of the LORD came to me: 5 I chose you before I formed you in the womb; I set you apart before you were born. I appointed you a prophet to the nations.



Created for a Purpose Jeremiah 1:4-5

How do you respond to the truth that God knows you personally?

When have you felt called or drawn to accomplishing a specific task?

Created for a Purpose

Jeremiah 1:4-5



- God wanted Jeremiah to know that his life, his calling, and the time in which he was born were no accident. God's desire to use us in this time and place was a part of His specific purpose and plan from the beginning of time.
- God assigns personhood and value to the unborn Jeremiah in verse 5: "I chose you ... I formed you ... I set you apart before you were born. I appointed you a prophet to the nations" (emphasis added).
- Every human being has full value from the earliest stages of life. This truth has widespread implications for how we see ourselves and the world. First it reminds us that we are not our own but were created by a loving Creator. Second, it informs the way we are to see others.

Scripture
Created for a Purpose
Jeremiah 1:6-8

6 But I protested, “Oh no, Lord GOD! Look, I don’t know how to speak since I am only a youth.” 7 Then the LORD said to me: Do not say, “I am only a youth,” for you will go to everyone I send you to and speak whatever I tell you. 8 Do not be afraid of anyone, for I will be with you to rescue you. This is the LORD’s declaration.



Created for a Purpose

Jeremiah 1:6-8

What are some excuses we use for not doing what God commands us to do?

When have you experienced the provision of God's presence or deliverance?

Created for a Purpose

Jeremiah 1:6-8



- **God chose Jeremiah and set him apart for a purpose. But for the young prophet, the call of God just seemed too difficult. Jeremiah claimed he couldn't possibly be the person for the job.**
- **God promises His presence to every believer, regardless of age or season in life. Just as Jeremiah wasn't to let his age keep him from surrendering to his Creator, so young adults today shouldn't wait until they are older to surrender their lives to Jesus. Being used by God knows no age restrictions. The way of a disciple is to listen to the voice of God and step into His mission, regardless of age or experience. The God who knows us and forms us will be with us as we live out His purpose for our lives.**

Scripture
Created for a Purpose
Jeremiah 1:9-10

9 Then the LORD reached out his hand, touched my mouth, and told me: I have now filled your mouth with my words. 10 See, I have appointed you today over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and demolish, to build and plant.



Created for a Purpose

Jeremiah 1:9-10

What makes you feel afraid about the work God has called you to do?

When has God given you what you needed to carry out His purpose?



Created for a Purpose

Jeremiah 1:9-10

- The call of God wouldn't just be about Jeremiah's self-discovery. Jeremiah had received a clear and unmistakable mission of God to preach judgment and salvation to God's people.
- The same God who equipped a young, obscure prophet to speak hard truths to Judah is the same God who fills us with His power to do what He calls us to do today.
- We have the promise that God has formed us in His image, knew us before we were born, empowers us in our weaknesses, and is the same as He was in Jeremiah's day. If you are in Christ, God knew you before you were born. And your weaknesses and limitations are a perfect match for His power.



GROWING IN CHRIST IN ACTION

JANUARY 24, 2021

- **Seek God.** Pray and seek God's face. Ask Him to show you the ways He wants to use you for His kingdom, as well as the things you have been allowing to hold you back—those things you may consider weaknesses or limitations.
- **Surrender to serve.** Put your “yes” on the table and trust God to empower you for His service. Step out in obedience, trusting the power of the Holy Spirit, and carry out God's calling on your life.
- **Support and value.** Support and encourage people who are often forgotten or overlooked by others. Find practical ways to help those the culture deems helpless, because God values them and has a purpose for them as well.



Final thoughts about Created for a Purpose

- **God exists outside of time.** Before we were born, He knew us and knew who we would be.
- **God values life.** Life is always valuable to God. Even when life is fragile and dependent on someone else, that human being is known and valued by God.
- **The excuse of deficiencies.** Jeremiah wasn't blind to his weaknesses. It is good to admit our limitations, because God can use a person who humbles himself in this way. God works through those who know they aren't talented or gifted enough apart from Him.
- **The excuse of age and inexperience.** Jeremiah's second rebuttal to God's call was his age and inexperience. Yet God refused to let Jeremiah use his age as an excuse to opt out of his appointed mission.
- **I have filled you.** To be filled is to be empowered by God. He specifically filled Jeremiah's mouth with His words. So when the people of God rejected Jeremiah, they were ultimately rejecting God Himself.
- **I have appointed you.** To be appointed is to be hand-selected by God.

Resources

- **Calling of God for specific kinds of work:**
 - **Deborah: Judges 4:4-5**
 - **Samson: Judges 13:3-5**
 - **David 1Sam. 16:12-13**
 - **John the Baptist Luke 1:13-17**
 - **Paul Gal. 1:15-16**
- **Philippians 1:11**
- **BIBLE-Basic Instruction Before Leaving Earth**
- **Bible.com**



Next Week: January 31, 2021
Holy

Isaiah 40:25-31

When have you seen
something that would be
considered 'one of a kind'?



**God Bless
You!**

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