



DESIGNED ON  
PURPOSE!

**Living Out God's  
Divine Plan**

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DR. DARRYL T. CANADY  
RODMAN STREET CHURCH.  
3.1.26

# **DESIGNED ON PURPOSE!**

## **JEREMIAH 29:11**

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##### **Title: Designed On Purpose: Living Out God's Divine Plan**

**Sermon Summary:** This powerful message centers on Jeremiah 29:11 and the profound truth that we are designed on purpose by a God who knows the plans He has for us. Drawing from the principles of Kwanzaa, particularly Nia (purpose), we discover that our lives are not random accidents but divine appointments. The sermon challenges us to understand that purpose doesn't begin with our dreams or ambitions—it begins with God's initiative. Before we ever took our first breath, God had already blueprinted our lives with intention and meaning. The sermon illustrates three crucial aspects of divine purpose: God's initiative in designing us before we were born, God's investment through Christ's sacrifice on the cross, and God's inheritance—the future He has secured for His people.

The message powerfully connects Holy Communion to our understanding of purpose, reminding us that Jesus didn't just think about our future—He died for it. When we participate in communion, we're not merely remembering what Christ did; we're recalibrating what we will do in response. The bread and cup represent God's investment in us, and when heaven invests in something, it has value. Through the lens of Holy Communion, the pastor challenges believers to stop living casually and randomly, but instead to embrace their God-given assignment with intentionality, recognizing that their lives are meant to impact generations.

This teaching confronts us with challenging questions: Are we investing in our faith or just consuming sermons? Are we living worthy of the price that was paid for us? The call is clear—we were not saved to sit, but to serve; not redeemed to retreat, but to rebuild. Pastor Canady emphasizes that purpose is not self-generated but divinely initiated by God and that God has plans to prosper His people, not to harm them, and to give them hope and a future. Therefore, our purpose extends beyond ourselves to become an inheritance for the next generation, transforming survival thinking into sustainability, and maintenance into mission.

## **Chapters**

### **Chapter 1: Understanding God's Initiative in Our Lives**

God has plans for us before we were born, and our purpose begins with His divine initiative, not our own decisions or circumstances.

### **Chapter 2: The Investment God Made Through the Cross**

God invested in our future through Jesus Christ's sacrifice, proving our immense value and calling us to live worthy of that investment.

### **Chapter 3: Building an Inheritance for Future Generations**

Our purpose extends beyond ourselves to create an inheritance for future generations through spiritual growth, education, economic development, and community transformation.

### **Chapter 4: Living Out Our Divine Purpose**

We are called to live as the answer to someone's prayer, understanding that we were not saved to sit but to serve, building something bigger than ourselves.

## **Key Points:**

- Purpose begins with God's initiative, not human ambition or planning
- You were designed before you decided—God planned your life before you were born
- Purpose is divinely initiated, not self-generated
- When purpose is not known, abuse is inevitable—we must understand why we exist
- God's investment in us was demonstrated through Christ's sacrifice at Calvary
- Holy Communion reminds us that Jesus paid the price for our purpose
- We are not saved to sit but saved to serve; not redeemed to retreat but to rebuild
- God expects a return on His investment in our lives
- Our inheritance includes hope for the future and a legacy for the next generation
- The Community of Hope and LIFE Male STEAM Academy represent generational purpose
- We must stop thinking about survival and start celebrating sustainability
- Earth is not our home—our ultimate inheritance is heaven
- Unity, self-determination, collective work, and stewardship all require purpose to have meaning

- We are the answer to somebody's prayer and must not waste what God invested in us

### **Scripture Reference:**

- Jeremiah 29:11 (primary text): "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
- Psalm 139 (referenced): God's intimate knowledge of us—He searched us, knows us, formed us
- John 10:10: "The thief comes to kill, steal, and destroy, but I have come that you may have life and have it more abundantly"
- John 14:1-3: "Let not your heart be troubled...In my Father's house are many mansions"

### **Stories:**

- Pastor Canady's personal testimony of coming to Pittsburgh in 1988, encountering snow and ice, declaring he would never return, yet being called back by God in 2010 to serve at Rodman Street Church
- The story of a 17-year-old Woodland Hills High School student who was tragically shot and killed while friends were drinking, smoking, and playing with a gun—used to illustrate the urgency of the church's mission beyond trivial concerns
- Reference to a grandmother bringing her nephew/grandson from Greensburg to LIFE Male STEAM Academy every day, with family members taking turns, demonstrating sacrificial commitment to the next generation's education

- The testimony of a pastor visiting on Friday who had never seen the school, with Pastor Canady explaining he didn't build it for his 32-year-old son but for somebody else's children
- Myles Munroe's teaching about the cemetery being the wealthiest place on earth, filled with unfulfilled dreams, unsung songs, unwritten books, and unrealized purposes

## **Scripture References from the Sermon**

### **Explicitly Mentioned:**

1. Jeremiah 29:11 - "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
2. Psalm 139 - Referenced regarding God searching, knowing, forming, and fencing us in before and behind.
3. John 10:10 - "The thief comes to kill, steal, and destroy. But I have come that you may have life and have it more abundantly."
4. John 14:1-3 - "Let not your heart be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions..."
5. John 15:16 - "You did not choose me, but I chose you" (paraphrased in the sermon).

### **Strongly Alluded To:**

6. Psalm 139:14 - "I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (referenced multiple times).
7. Genesis 1:26-27 - Created in God's image (referenced throughout).
8. Psalm 23:6 - "Goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life."

9. Romans 5:8 - God's love for us before we loved Him (theme of God's initiative).
10. Ephesians 2:10 - Created for good works/purpose (theme throughout).
11. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 - Holy Communion/Lord's Supper (discussed extensively).
12. Philippians 1:6 - God completing the work He started (alluded to in completion theme).

### **Suggested Relevant Verses for Main Themes:**

#### **On Purpose and Design:**

- Ephesians 1:4-5
- Romans 8:28-30
- 2 Timothy 1:9

#### **On God's Investment (The Cross):**

- 1 Peter 1:18-19
- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
- Galatians 2:20

#### **On Inheritance and Future:**

- 1 Peter 1:3-4
- Romans 8:17
- Revelation 21:1-4

## QUOTES:

You were not born by accident. You were not saved by coincidence. You were not sent here randomly. You were designed on purpose.

Purpose does not begin with you. It does not begin with mama and daddy. It begins with God.

When purpose is not known, abuse is inevitable. If you don't know why something exists, then you begin to misuse it.

God was so serious about sin that when His Son became sin, He didn't change His mind. Anytime somebody invests in you, you have value.

You were not saved to sit. You were saved to serve. You were not redeemed to retreat. You were redeemed to rebuild.

The Cross didn't just forgive you, it funded you. It funded your calling, your confidence, your courage, your assignment.

If God gave us hope and a future, then our children should walk into buildings that we prayed for, benefit from systems that we sacrificed for, and inherit dignity that we fought for.

God created you because He loves you. You are not a biological accident. You are a divine appointment. You are not random DNA. You are written with destiny.

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## **5-Day Devotional: Designed On Purpose**

**Day 1: God's Initiative - You Were Planned Before You Were Born**

**Reading: Jeremiah 29:11; Psalm 139:13-16**

**Devotional:** Before your first breath, God had a blueprint for your life. You are not a biological accident but a divine appointment. The plans God has for you were set in motion before your parents met, before you made any decisions about your future. This truth should transform how you view yourself and your circumstances. When you understand that God initiated your life, you stop living randomly and start living intentionally. Your detours were supervised, your disappointments managed through purpose. Today, reject the lie that you stumbled into existence. You were planned, purposed, and positioned by a God who never makes mistakes. Your life belongs to Him because He initiated it.

**Reflection Question:** How does knowing God initiated your life change the way you approach today's challenges?

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## **Day 2: God's Investment - The Price Paid For Your Purpose**

**Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 1 Peter 1:18-19**

**Devotional:** God didn't just think about your future—He died for it. The cross wasn't simply forgiveness for your past; it was an investment in your future. When someone invests in you, it proves you have value. Heaven emptied itself because you were worth it. Every time you participate in communion, you're reminded that your body has purpose and your life has a cost. Jesus stretched His arms wide to fund your calling, your confidence, and your courage. You cannot afford to waste what was purchased at such a price. You were not saved to sit; you were saved to serve. You were not redeemed to retreat; you were redeemed to rebuild. The blood shed secures your future and demands your faithfulness.

**Reflection Question:** What are you doing with the life Jesus purchased for you?

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## **Day 3: Living Worthy of the Investment**

**Reading: Ephesians 2:8-10; Romans 12:1-2**

**Devotional:** You are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works. The Greek word for workmanship is "poiema"—from which we get our word "poem." You are God's masterpiece, His work of art designed with intention and purpose. But this gift comes with responsibility. When God invests in you, He expects a return on His investment. Are you investing in your faith or just consuming sermons? Are you investing in your family or just coexisting? Communion isn't just about remembering what He did; it's about recalibrating what you will do. Don't waste your body, mind, or gifts. You are the answer to somebody's prayer. Your obedience unlocks someone else's breakthrough.

**Reflection Question: How are you reinvesting what God has invested in you?**

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**Day 4: Your Inheritance - Purpose That Outlives You**

**Reading: Proverbs 13:22; 2 Timothy 2:2**

**Devotional:** God's plan for you doesn't end with you—it extends to generations you'll never meet. You have an inheritance to leave, not just receive. Purpose is generational. When you understand inheritance, you stop asking "What's in it for me?" and start asking "What do I leave behind?" The Community of Hope, spiritual growth, educational access, economic opportunities—these are inheritance strategies. You don't waste your purpose when you know it belongs to history. Your children should walk into buildings you prayed for, benefit from systems you sacrificed for, and inherit dignity you fought for. Stop thinking survival; start building sustainability. Your obedience today creates opportunities for tomorrow's generation.

**Reflection Question: What legacy are you building that will outlive you?**

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## **Day 5: Heaven - Our Ultimate Inheritance**

**Reading: John 14:1-3; Revelation 21:1-4**

**Devotional:** Earth is not your home; your ultimate inheritance is heaven. When we get there, no more burdens to bear, no more racism to endure, no more sickness to battle, no more tears to shed. Our joys will never cease, our peace will never flee, our beauty will never fade. This hope doesn't make us irrelevant on earth; it makes us unstoppable. Because we know where we're going, we can endure what we're going through. The table of communion reminds us that His blood secures our future—both here and in eternity. You were designed on purpose, invested in with purpose, and destined for a purpose that transcends time. Live today with heaven in view, knowing that your labor in the Lord is never in vain.

**Reflection Question:** How does your hope of heaven influence your daily decisions and priorities?

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**Closing Prayer:** Lord God, thank You for designing me on purpose. Help me live worthy of the investment You made in me through Jesus Christ. Give me vision to see beyond myself and build an inheritance for the next generation. Keep my eyes fixed on my eternal home while my hands remain faithful to the work You've assigned me here. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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## **Small Group Guide: Designed On Purpose**

**Based on Jeremiah 29:11 | Nia (Purpose) - Kwanzaa Principles Series**

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### **Opening Prayer (5 minutes)**

Begin by asking God to open hearts and minds to understand His purpose for each person in the group.

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### **Icebreaker (10 minutes)**

**Question:** Share one moment when you felt like you were exactly where God wanted you to be, even if it wasn't where you originally planned to be.

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### **Sermon Recap (5 minutes)**

**This sermon focused on the fifth Kwanzaa principle, Nia (Purpose), teaching that:**

- God initiated our lives before we were born
- God invested in our purpose through Jesus Christ
- God has secured our inheritance and future

**Key Scripture:** *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* - Jeremiah 29:11

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## **Key Takeaways**

### **1. God's Initiative - You Were Designed Before You Decided**

Purpose doesn't begin with us; it begins with God. He planned your life before you took your first breath.

### **2. God's Investment - He Paid for Your Purpose**

Through Jesus' sacrifice, God demonstrated how valuable you are. Your life has worth because heaven invested in you.

### **3. God's Inheritance - Purpose Produces Your Future**

Your purpose isn't just about you—it's about leaving a legacy for the next generation.

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## **Discussion Questions (30-40 minutes)**

### **Section 1: Understanding God's Initiative**

1. Pastor Canady shared how he resisted coming to Pittsburgh, but God had other plans. When have you experienced God's plans overriding your own preferences? How did that turn out?

2. The sermon stated: "Purpose is not self-generated; it is divinely initiated." How does this truth change the way you view your current circumstances or challenges?
3. Myles Munroe said, "When purpose is not known, abuse is inevitable." In what areas of your life might you be "abusing" (misusing) something because you don't fully understand its God-given purpose?

## **Section 2: Recognizing God's Investment**

4. Holy Communion reminds us that Jesus paid the price for our purpose. How does understanding the cost of your redemption affect how you live daily?
5. The sermon asked: "If God invested in you, how are you reinvesting back to God?" Take time to honestly assess: Are you investing in your faith, or just consuming sermons?
6. Pastor Canady said, "You were not saved to sit; you were saved to serve." What is one specific way you can move from sitting to serving this week?

## **Section 3: Living for God's Inheritance**

7. The message challenged us to stop asking "What do I get?" and start asking "What do I leave?" What legacy are you currently building for the next generation?
8. How does understanding that your purpose is bigger than yourself change your perspective on current sacrifices or challenges you're facing?
9. The Community of Hope and LIFE Male STEAM Academy were given as examples of generational purpose. What is something you could invest in now that would outlive you?

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## **Personal Reflection (10 minutes)**

**Take a few moments of silence for each person to consider:**

- What is God saying to me about my purpose right now?
  - What am I doing with what God has invested in me?
  - Am I living beneath what was paid for me?
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## **Practical Applications**

**This Week's Challenge:**

**Choose ONE action step to complete before your next meeting:**

### **Option 1: Purpose Inventory**

- Write down your gifts, talents, and resources
- Prayerfully ask God: "How can I use these for Your Kingdom and not just my comfort?"

### **Option 2: Investment Assessment**

- Evaluate how you're investing your time, talent, and treasure
- Identify one area where you're "consuming" rather than contributing
- Make a concrete plan to change that this week

### **Option 3: Legacy Letter**

- Write a letter to someone in the next generation (your child, a young person you mentor, a student)
- Share what you hope they'll inherit from your life of faith
- Commit to one action that will make that inheritance real

## **Option 4: Service Commitment**

- Identify one ministry or community need at Rodman or in your neighborhood
  - Commit to serving in that area for the next month
  - Remember: you're not saved to sit; you're saved to serve
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## **Group Accountability (10 minutes)**

- Share which action step you're committing to
  - Exchange contact information to check in with at least one other person during the week
  - Pray for one another's commitments
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## **Closing Reflection**

### **Read together:**

*"You are not a biological accident. You are a divine appointment. You are not random DNA. You are written with destiny. God initiated your life. God invested in your purpose. God has secured your inheritance."*

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## **Closing Prayer (5 minutes)**

**Go around the circle and have each person complete this sentence prayer:**

*"God, help me to remember that I am designed on purpose for..."*

Close with a group prayer thanking God for His initiative, investment, and inheritance in each person's life.

## **Before Next Week**

- Reflect on how your purpose connects to the previous principles: Umoja (Unity), Kujichagulia (Self-Determination), Ujima (Collective Work), and Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics)
  - Journal about how understanding your God-given purpose brings all these principles together
  - Prepare to share one testimony of how you lived "on purpose" this week
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## **Additional Resources**

- Re-read Jeremiah 29:11 in multiple translations
  - Study Psalm 139:13-16 (God's intentional design)
  - Read Ephesians 2:10 (created for good works)
  - Reflect on Romans 8:28-30 (God's purpose and calling)
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**Remember: You were designed on purpose, for a purpose, with a purpose. Don't waste what God invested in you!**

## **ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. How does understanding that God initiated your life before you made any decisions change the way you view your current circumstances and future choices?
2. The sermon states that when purpose is not known, abuse is inevitable. In what areas of your life might you be misusing

gifts, talents, or resources because you haven't fully understood their God-given purpose?

3. What does it mean practically that you are designed on purpose rather than being a biological accident, and how should this truth affect your daily decisions and self-worth?
4. The pastor emphasizes that God invested in you through Jesus' sacrifice. How does viewing yourself as a divine investment rather than just a forgiven sinner impact your sense of responsibility and calling?
5. How can we balance celebrating our individual purpose with embracing collective responsibility, as seen in the principles of Umoja, Kujichagulia, Ujima, and Ujamaa?
6. The sermon challenges listeners to ask not what do I get but what do I leave for the next generation. What specific legacy are you currently building that will outlive you?
7. In what ways might you be living casually or randomly instead of intentionally pursuing the purpose God has designed for your life?
8. How does participating in Holy Communion serve not just as remembrance but as a recalibration of your commitment to fulfill God's purpose for your life?
9. The pastor mentions that many people die with their potential untapped, taking dreams, songs, and purposes to the grave. What unrealized potential in your life needs to be activated before it's too late?
10. If God's plans for you include prosperity, hope, and a future as stated in Jeremiah 29:11, how should this promise influence the way you respond to current setbacks, disappointments, or opposition?