



Main Idea: God's ultimate challenge for you: to bring Him glory in everything you do.

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 10:31; Matthew 5:16; Matthew 28:19-20

Today has been full of competitive challenges. Some of you dominated. Some of you completely embarrassed yourselves. Every challenge had one thing in common; there was a goal. What was the goal? To beat the opponent, win the game, and earn points. Whether or not you realized it while you were going through today's challenges, your life also has a goal.

Most people spend their whole lives trying to figure out their life goal. We ask questions like, *"Why am I here?" "What's my purpose?" "Does my life actually matter?" "What am I supposed to do with my life?"* And honestly, a lot of teenagers feel pressure to have their lives figured out already. *"What college am I going to?" "What career should I pick?" "What if I mess up my future?" "What if I'm not good enough?" "What if nobody notices me?"*

[Leader Note: This would be a great spot to briefly share about a time in your life when you felt pressure to figure everything out; maybe choosing a college, wondering what direction your life should go, or trying to figure out your purpose. Be real and relatable. Students need to hear that even adults wrestle with questions about purpose and identity.]

If you were an alien who had just been dropped on to planet Earth and you observed the life of a typical American teen for one day, what might you conclude teenagers think their purpose is? What conclusions would the alien come to from observing a typical 40-something, or a typical retired person? It's often difficult to tell from how people live their lives whether they've given any thought to this whole question of *"What is my purpose?"* But it is the BIGGEST of the BIG questions. Ask most people about their purpose and most of the time you will get an *"I don't know"* response. Most people feel purposeless!

Which brings us to this: tonight I want you to know something: God's biggest challenge and purpose for your life is actually much *simpler* than you think. It's not become famous, make a ton of money, get followers, be popular, or have everyone like you. God's ultimate challenge for you is this:

Bring Him glory in everything you do. And this means your life must point people toward Jesus.

³¹ So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31, NIV)

So, God's ultimate challenge for you is to bring Him glory in everything you do, not just at church, not just on Sundays, or not just when adults are watching you. Your challenge is to bring God glory everywhere; at school; at practice; when you're online, or at home, and when you're with your friends. Glorify God In all your relationships, conversations, and attitudes. Bring God glory in **everything**.

Point #1: You represent Jesus everywhere you go.

Some of you are the only Jesus people will ever see. Think about that! As a Christian, you are Jesus' representative. For some people, YOU are the Christian they know. YOU are what shapes their opinion of Jesus. That's a huge responsibility. YOU may be **the** person God will use to change their life. Matthew 5:16 says:

"...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16, NIV)

People are constantly watching how you live. They watch how you treat people, how you talk, how you respond when you're angry, what you post, what you laugh at, how you handle pressure, and whether your faith is real or fake. And listen; no one is perfect, and nobody expects you to be perfect. But people should be able to tell as they watch you, in what you say, and in what you do, that there's something different about you because of Jesus.

Bringing God glory at school might mean sitting with the lonely kid, refusing to gossip, standing up for someone, not joining in when everyone's trashing somebody. Bringing God glory online might mean posting differently, texting differently, not hiding your faith, not acting like two different people. **I believe the greatest and most memorable sermon you'll ever preach to others is your life.** One of my favorite quotes is, "*Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if necessary.*"

Point #2: Your purpose is bigger than yourself.

The world tells us our lives are all about OURSELVES. What matters to the world is your happiness, your success, your platform, your dreams, and your image. But the Bible teaches something completely different. It tells us that life was created for God's glory. Again 1 Corinthians 10:31 says:

³¹ So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31, NIV)

Whatever you do means sports, school, jobs, friendships, gaming, music, dating, social media, everything. You don't have to become a pastor or missionary to glorify God. You glorify Him by living for Him right where you are. God can use a student athlete, a musician, a mechanic, a teacher, a nurse, a business owner, or a stay-at-home parent. The question isn't, *"What job should I have?"* The bigger question is... *"How can I make Jesus known wherever God places me?"*

When you're at practice, do people see Jesus in the way you compete? When you're at work, do people see honesty and integrity? When you're at home, do your parents see kindness and respect? How about when you're at school? Do people know you truly care about them? Your purpose is bigger than getting likes and surviving high school. Your life has been designed by God to point people toward Jesus.

Honestly, you have two choices with your life. You can spend your life chasing what everybody else is chasing; the popularity, attention, relationships, parties, followers, approval, and status, where the world constantly tells you, *"If people notice you, then your life matters."* But Jesus warned us there's another voice behind that way of thinking. John 10:10 says:

¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10, NIV)

Jesus was talking about Satan. Satan's goal is to distract you, empty you, and convince you to waste your life chasing things that never truly satisfy. He wants you to believe your purpose is all about yourself. But Jesus offers something completely different. Jesus says He came to give you real life, a full life, a meaningful life, and a life with purpose that goes beyond

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