



My Purpose Will Stand

Scope & Sequence

My Purpose Will Stand is a study for children on the providence of God. The study begins by helping children understand the definition of providence and sovereignty and then goes on to examine various ways in which God is working in the world to accomplish His purposes. Throughout the curriculum children will retrieve pieces to a puzzle that at the end of the study will reveal a picture of the beauty of sovereignty. The aim of this curriculum is to urge children to see God's hand in their lives and to trust His providential care.

Lesson 1: There is None Like God

The Lord Answers Job (Job 38-39)

No one compares with God.

- ▶ The curriculum begins by challenging children to think about the vastness of God. Children will do a number of activities throughout the lesson that will point them to the immensity of God. By examining Scripture passages, primarily those in Job, students will see what God has to say about Himself and the things that He does.

Memory Verses: Isaiah 46:9b; Isaiah 40:25

Lesson 2: The Providence of God

Various Passages

God is watching over the universe, and He is at work in the universe.

- ▶ In this lesson children will learn the definition of providence: God's eye is watching and His hand is working in the universe. Students will examine several biblical stories (e.g., Ishmael and Hagar in the wilderness, Noah and the flood, and Nehemiah and the rebuilding of Jerusalem) to better understand this concept of God watching and working in the world.

Memory Verse: Psalm 103:19

Lesson 3: God is Never Surprised

Various Passages

God foresees all things because He has already ordained all things.

- ▶ This lesson expands on the idea of God watching and working in the world by teaching students that God is never surprised. Throughout this lesson, students will look at biblical passages to realize that God has unlimited foreknowledge. (Various passages include: Jeremiah 1:5; Isaiah 42:9; Genesis 3:15; Genesis 6:12-14; Genesis 41:25-27; Exodus 3:19; John 16:28; Luke 18:31; and John 13:21-26.)

Memory Verses: Psalm 174:5; Isaiah 42:9; Psalm 139:1-4; Psalm 139:13-16

Lesson 4: God is Active in the World

The Healing at the Pool (John 5)

God is actively involved in the universe.

- ▶ God is not passively observing the universe, but is active in it at all times. Students will learn that God has already been working for things that will happen in the future, but He also is currently at work in the world to bring about His purposes. Students will also briefly examine other examples of God's active providence in the world throughout this lesson.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 64:4

Lesson 5: God Acts in Order to Be Seen

The Defeat of Midian (Judges 7)

God acts in order to be seen.

- ▶ This lesson builds on the foundation set by previous lessons to help children better understand the “why” of providence. Students will review that all things are ordained by God and because He has ordained all things, He also foresees all things, and He is able to bring about all that He has ordained. They will then look at a few examples from the Bible where God did all of this in order to be recognized or seen (e.g., Israel versus the Philistines, Naaman cured of leprosy, etc.).

Memory Verse: Psalm 77:13-14

Lesson 6: God Acts for His Glory

The 10 Plagues (Exodus 7-12)

The purpose of all of God’s acts of providence is to show His glory.

- ▶ The previous lesson showed students that God acts in order to be seen. This lesson shows students that not only does He act in order to be seen, but in order to receive glory, so that He can display His greatness and worth! As the students examine the 10 plagues, they will discover that God did not have to send 10. He could have delivered the Israelites without any plagues at all, but through the plagues He displayed His glory.

Memory Verses: Psalm 95:3; Exodus 15:11

Lesson 7: God Acts in Sustaining the Universe

Various Passages

God created and sustains the universe.

- ▶ Lesson 7 begins by having students briefly look at the creation story to see that God spoke the universe into existence. The lesson goes on to show that He is the one who sustains and keeps all that He created going. Without Him creation would cease to exist.

Memory Verses: Psalm 19:1; Nehemiah 9:6; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 1:3a

Lesson 8: God Acts in Sustaining Life

Various Passages

Without God’s sustaining providence we would die.

- ▶ This lesson focuses specifically on God sustaining life. God provides food, safety, and all that we need in order to live, but He also is the One who keeps our bodies functioning. Students will see through this lesson that God is good, gracious, and merciful.

Memory Verses: Acts 17:28a; Romans 11:34-36; Acts 17:24-25; Lamentations 3:22-23

Lesson 9: Everything God Does Has a Purpose

Various Passages

All things serve God’s plans.

- ▶ Nothing happens by chance. Students will examine biblical passages and explore various situations to help them see God’s purposes in events that often seem negative. In this lesson, students will develop a timeline of several events that seemed to be bad but were necessary to fulfill God’s good plan of the cross.

Memory Verses: Psalm 103:19; Proverbs 16:9; Isaiah 55:11

Lesson 10: God Will Accomplish All His Purposes

Story of Jonah (Jonah 1-4)

God will accomplish all His purposes.

- ▶ Unlike people who are often unable fulfill our desired purposes, God will always fulfill His purposes because He is not limited as we are. They will see that sometimes, “detours” in our lives are necessary in order to fulfill God’s purposes. This is also the first week the students will receive a puzzle piece, to be assembled throughout the duration of the study.

Memory Verses: Isaiah 46:10; Psalm 33:11; Isaiah 14:24

Lesson 11: All God’s Purposes are Right

Portions of Job

All of God’s purposes are right.

- ▶ In this lesson, children will not only learn that all of God’s purposes are right, but that questioning the rightness of the purposes of God is sin. They will examine different parts of Job’s life, and see God’s response to those who might question His plan. Students will understand that God’s purposes are right because it is God’s very nature to be righteous.

Memory Verses: Deuteronomy 32:4; Genesis 18:25b; Jeremiah 32:18b-19

Lesson 12: All Things Work for Good for God’s Children

Portions of Job

All things work for good for God’s children.

- ▶ This lesson shows students that God is wiser than we are, and He knows exactly what we need. Students will continue to study the story of Job to see that in the end, Job’s suffering was good for him. It showed him that he had been proud and self-righteous. It was through his suffering that Job was able to see the greatness of God.

Memory Verses: Romans 8:28; Jeremiah 29:11

Lesson 13: Nothing is Outside of God’s Providence

Satan Allowed to Test Job (Job 1-2)

All things are controlled by God.

- ▶ Students continue to explore the story of Job by looking at the beginning when God allows Satan to test Job. Students will learn that Satan’s power is limited by God and that Satan is subject to the will of God. Students will also briefly look at Jesus’ encounter with Pilate in John 19. Jesus knew that God was in control of the situation, not Pilate.

Memory Verses: Romans 11:36; Psalm 103:19

Lesson 14: God’s Plans Work Together Perfectly

Various Passages

God’s plans work together perfectly.

- ▶ By examining Jesus’ family tree, students see how God worked all the pieces of Jesus’ ancestors lives together perfectly so that Jesus would be the fulfillment of several Old Testament promises. The students will then look at some instances in creation where God created things to work perfectly, and see how, if they were any different, creation would not be sustained. The lesson also includes a story about a modern-day man, John Aker, and an experience in his life that shows the perfection of God’s plans.

Memory Verses: Psalm 40:5; Isaiah 14:24

Lesson 15: God's Timing is Perfect

Joshua and the Amorites (Joshua 10)

God created time and perfectly times His purposes.

Philip and the Ethiopian (Acts 8)

- ▶ This lesson further explores the perfection of God's plans by examining the timing of events. Through the story of Joshua and the Amorites students will realize that God controls time. Later in the lesson, they will study Philip's encounter with the Ethiopian and see that God's timing is perfect.

Memory Verse: Psalm 90:2

Lesson 16: God's Plan Cannot Be Thwarted

Herod Hunts for the Messiah (Matthew 2)

God's plan cannot be thwarted.

Balaam's Donkey (Numbers 22)

- ▶ Throughout history people attempted to rebel against God's plan, or were reluctant in submitting to the purposes of God. Students will learn that it is foolish, arrogant, disrespectful, and fruitless to try to oppose God. They will see that absolutely nothing and no one will hinder God from accomplishing His purposes.

Memory Verses: Job 42:2; Isaiah 14:27

Lesson 17: God's Providence Over Nature—The Forces of Nature

Various Passages

Nature is subject to the will of God.

- ▶ This is the first in a series of lessons that shows God is sovereign over nature. Students will look at a number of events in the Bible where God controlled nature to display His glory. Events include the earthquake releasing Peter from jail, parting the Red Sea, Sodom and Gomorrah's destruction, and several others. Students will also learn about a village in China and how God displayed His providence there.

Memory Verses: Psalm 135:5-6; Isaiah 40:25-26

Lesson 18: God's Providence Over Nature—Animals

God Sends Ravens to Elijah (1 Kings 17)

Animals are subject to the will of God.

- ▶ This lesson emphasizes that God is in control of animals. Students will examine several examples of this in Scripture, including the ravens sent to Elijah, and the 10 plagues. Students will also study a modern story that took place in England where God displayed His sovereignty over animals.

Memory Verse: Psalm 104:24

Lesson 19: God's Providence Over Man's Heart

The Proclamation of Cyrus (2 Chronicles 36)

Man's heart is subject to the will of God.

- ▶ This lesson shows students that God is sovereign over the hearts of man. They will see that it is God who put within Cyrus a desire to rebuild the temple. God worked in the heart of King Darius to bring about the events to re-build the temple. The students will also study the story of medical missionary, Ida Scudder, and see how God worked in her heart to bring about His purposes.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 21:1

Lesson 20: Saving Providence—Seeking and Saving the Lost

Jesus and Zacchaeus (Luke 19)

God seeks and saves lost people.

- ▶ The previous lesson demonstrated that God is sovereign over man's heart. Lesson 20 takes that concept further by showing students God's providence in salvation. God is at work in the world seeking to save lost people. The lesson closes with a story about a young man who was converted through an experience at Charles Spurgeon's church. The story emphasizes that God was in control of the events of this man's life that led him to salvation and repentance.

Memory Verse: Luke 19:10

Lesson 21: Saving Providence—Calling the Lost

Conversion of Saul (Acts 9)

The saving providence of God calls men to be saved.

- ▶ This continues a series of lessons showing the providence of God in salvation. As students examine the story of Saul's conversion, they will see that sometimes God calls the lost in dramatic ways. However, it is not always so dramatic. They will also hear a story about a modern man whom God called to Himself, for the glory of His name.

Memory Verse: Romans 8:29-30

Lesson 22: Saving Providence—God's Gift of Salvation

Various Passages

Salvation is a gift of God.

- ▶ Continuing the series on how God works to save men in His providence, this lesson asks students to explore the conversions of several different people, both biblical characters and a few people from more recent history. God will bring circumstances to turn people to Him. (Biblical characters studied include: the Philippian Jailer, the Woman at the Well, and Nicodemus.)

Memory Verse: Ephesians 2:8-9

Lesson 23: Guiding Providence—God's Providence Over Man's Way

Isaac and Rebekah (Genesis 24)

God controls the way of man.

- ▶ In this lesson, students will see that man's way is subject to the providence of God. They will look at how God directed Abraham's servant to find a wife for Isaac. In the Bible, students will see other examples of God providing direction for people to fulfill His purposes. The lesson also studies the stories of modern characters and the way God directed their ways.

Memory Verses: Proverbs 3:5-6; Isaiah 48:17

Lesson 24: God's Providence Over Rulers and Nations

God's Rejection of Saul (1 Samuel 15)

God controls rulers and nations.

- ▶ Rulers and nations are subject to the providence of God. Students will see that it is God who determined to anoint Saul and then remove him as king when His purpose for him had been accomplished. Students will also review Nebuchadnezzar's reign and God's providence over kingdom. The lesson also challenges students by asking them to look at Adolf Hitler and think about how God was sovereign through Hitler's evil actions.

Memory Verse: Daniel 2:20-21

Lesson 25: God's Providence Over Circumstances

The Birth of Jesus (Luke 2)

God is sovereign over all circumstances.

- ▶ Some of the things that we see as mistakes are actually the ordering of circumstances by God to fulfill His purposes. Students will look at the lives of Augustine, Mary and Joseph, and an Australian missionary to Ethiopia to see that God orders the universe and makes no mistakes in His design.

Memory Verse: Deuteronomy 3:24

Lesson 26: God's Providence Over Circumstances—Divine Connections

Various Passages

God directs circumstances to accomplish His purposes.

- ▶ The previous lesson demonstrated that God orders all circumstances to fulfill His purposes. This lesson continues by examining how God directs circumstances. Students will look at biblical characters (Jonah, Moses, Esther, Pharaoh's cupbearer, and Joseph) to see how God accomplished His purposes in their lives. Students will also explore modern individuals such as a young man living in communist Russia, and two Hungarian women who were separated during World War II and were reunited by God's providence.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 19:21

Lesson 27: God's Providence Over His Word

Nathan Rebukes David (2 Samuel 12)

God sustains His Word.

- ▶ The aim of this lesson is to show students that God's Word accomplishes His purposes. The lesson focuses on the Bible, and how God worked providentially for the Bible to be recorded and preserved over the years. Students will study the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls and the work of William Tyndale to translate the Bible. They will also see that God's Word always accomplishes God's purposes, such as bringing repentance, as was the case with David when confronted by Nathan.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 55:11

Lesson 28: God's Providence Over Evil

Various Passages

God not only permits evil, but He even ordains evil.

- ▶ This lesson shows children that God does not merely permit evil—He also ordains it. The lesson challenges students by asking the question, "What does it say about God if He does not have providence over evil?" Students will look at a number of passages where evil things happen in order to see that God is the ordainer of these things.

Memory Verses: Job 2:10b; Lamentations 3:37-38; Isaiah 45:7

Lesson 29: God is Sinless in His Providence Over Evil

Various Passages

God is sinless in His providence over evil.

- ▶ The previous lesson introduced students to the concept that God ordains evil in the world to accomplish His purposes. This idea is developed further by explaining to children that although God decrees evil, He does not directly perform morally evil deeds. Moral evil is directly done by sinful men, Satan, and demons. It reinforces the idea that Satan is only allowed to do what God will allow him to do.

Memory Verses: Job 1:21; Deuteronomy 32:3-4

Lesson 30: Evil Serves the Purpose of God

The Life of Joseph (Genesis 37-39)

Evil serves God's purposes.

- ▶ This lesson continues to discuss God's providence over evil by exploring how evil serves God's purposes. Students will look at the events in the life of Joseph and see how these circumstances worked into God's plan. The lesson is designed to encourage children by teaching that evil intended against them is all planned and controlled by God.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 16:4

Lesson 31: God's Providence Over Pain and Suffering

Various Passages

God's providence extends over pain and suffering.

- ▶ The lesson begins by asking students to review the events of Joseph's life from the previous lesson, and then demonstrates how God uses the evil intended against His children for their good. God turns the suffering of believers into good. Students will also study a variety of passages to examine the benefits of suffering.

Memory Verses: 2 Corinthians 4:17-18; Romans 8:18

Lesson 32: God Takes No Pleasure in Evil

Jesus Raises Lazarus (John 11)

God takes no pleasure in evil.

- ▶ Continuing on the theme of evil and suffering, Lesson 32 shows that though He ordains it, evil grieves God. Through exploration of Jesus' response to Lazarus' death, students will observe that God is happy in demonstrating His glory, but that He also weeps with those who weep.

Memory Verse: Lamentations 3:31-33

Lesson 33: God's Providence Over Calamities

Korah's Rebellion (Numbers 16)

God's providence extends over calamities.

Israel Has Not Returned to the Lord (Amos 4)

- ▶ This lesson deals with the topic of disasters and calamities. Children will learn that 1) Calamities often come directly from the hand of God; 2) God uses calamities to call His children to repent; and 3) God often pronounces judgment on evil men and nations through calamities.

Memory Verses: Lamentations 3:37-38; Psalm 33:5; Deuteronomy 32:3-4

Lesson 34: God Alone Has the Right to Govern the World

God's Sovereign Choices (Romans 9)

God alone has the right to govern the universe.

Abraham Pleads for Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18)

- ▶ The aim of this lesson is to show students that God alone has the right to govern the universe, and He is very able to govern the world well. God governs justly and does not always show us His purposes, nor does He need to. Students will examine parts of Romans 9 and also study God's conversation with Abraham to see that God will always do what is right.

Memory Verses: Genesis 18:25b; Psalm 9:8

Lesson 35: Hidden Providence

The Birth of Moses (Exodus 2)

God's providential works are often hidden from man.

- ▶ In this lesson, children learn that even though we cannot always see God working, He is working actively to accomplish His purposes. During the lesson, students will develop a timeline of Moses' birth and the early part of his life to see that God orchestrated many mysterious events in order to fulfill His purpose to deliver the Israelites from Egypt. Though there were many

circumstances in Moses' life that seemed to be unknown, in retrospect we know that God was actively working in Moses' life for the good of His people.

Memory Verses: Isaiah 55:8-9; Jeremiah 33:3

Lesson 36: God's Purposes are Far-Reaching

God Delivers Israel from Egypt (Exodus 2-12)

Man's understanding of the purposes of God is limited.

- ▶ Students will continue to examine the life of Moses to see how God used these events to bring about the deliverance of Israel. They will see that often God's works of providence are far-reaching. They have a greater purpose than just the present seeable purpose.

Memory Verse: Job 37:5

Lesson 37: Trusting in the Providence of God

Psalm of Asaph (Psalm 77)

Faith is trusting God's heart when you cannot see or understand His providential hand.

- ▶ This lesson encourages students that when they can't see God's hand they can trust His heart. Students will examine Psalm 77 and learn that when Asaph felt lost and didn't understand what God was doing in his life, he reflected on how God had been faithful to him in the past. Remembering the past faithfulness of God reminds us that God is working for us, not against us.

Memory Verse: Psalm 145:17

Lesson 38: Submitting to the Will of God

Jesus Calls the Disciples (Luke 5)

Trusting in the providence of God means submitting to His will.

- ▶ Submitting to the will of God is part of trusting in His providence. Students will see that when we act like we know better than God we are questioning what God is doing—even though He knows exactly what He is doing. Students will study the obedience of the disciples and see how their obedience showed that they trusted Jesus to do what was best.

Memory Verses: Deuteronomy 10:12-13; Luke 22:42

Lesson 39: Believing that God's Purposes are Right

Healing of Naaman (2 Kings 5)

Faith is believing that all God's purposes are right.

- ▶ This lesson explores what it means to trust in the providence of God. This lesson specifically examines why it is important to believe that all God's purposes are right. As students look at the healing of Naaman in 2 Kings they will observe the attitude of the Israelite servant girl and see how her heart showed that she was trusting in the providence of God.

Memory Verse: Psalm 145:17

Lesson 40: Looking for the Providence of God in All Things

Various Passages

If we have God, we have everything.

- ▶ The curriculum ends by encouraging students to look for the providence of God in all things. They will learn that in everything that happens to them, they should see the hand of God—they should see Jesus! During this lesson students will complete the puzzle to see that Jesus is behind everything that happens to them. The lesson spends time reviewing the character of God and praising Him for who He is.

Memory Verse: Psalm 73:25-26