

The Purpose Driven[®] Life

Rick Warren

Discussion Guide

The Purpose Driven[®] Life, by Rick Warren (Zondervan, Copyright © 2002), takes you on a 40-day spiritual journey to help you understand why God put you on this earth. You were made by God and for God, and God created you for a particular purpose. Identifying and fulfilling your God-given purpose in life is the key to living a fuller and richer life. Designed to be read during a 40-day period, the book consists of 40 short chapters and each contains a point to ponder, a scriptural reference, and a question to consider at the end of each day's reading.

Section 1

What On Earth Am I Here For?

This section reveals why God created you and helps you begin to identify your destiny.

1. Why are you reading this book? What do you hope to learn about yourself?
2. Why should the process of discovering your purpose start with focusing on God rather than on yourself?
3. What's the difference between being successful and achieving your life purpose?
4. Explain why you don't choose your own purpose in life. Why isn't it your choice to make?
5. What decisions did God make when you were created?
6. Of the five most common driving forces in life, which one drives you?
7. What new insight did you learn about God from reading this section?
8. How does the realization that life on earth is a preparation for eternity affect the way you live now?
9. Explain what it means that life on earth is a test.
10. How do we bring glory to God?

Section 2

You Were Planned for God's Pleasure

This section reveals the first purpose in life and shows you how to respond.

1. What do you do that gives God pleasure?
2. Explain what worshipping God means and what it entails.
3. What do we learn about God from his relationship with Noah?
4. List some of the things that make God smile.
5. In your own words, what does it mean that the heart of worship is surrender?
6. What does it mean to be friends with God? What (or who) enables us to have an intimate relationship with God?
7. How do you develop a constant conversation with God?
8. Developing a friendship takes work. Discuss the building blocks necessary for developing a deep friendship with God.
9. What type of worship pleases God? Discuss what is and what is not important in worship.
10. Why do you think God seems distant at times? How should you cope with this feeling?

Section 3

You Were Formed for God's Family

This section gives you a second purpose and tells you what matters most.

1. Who are members of God's family? How do you become a member?
2. List the birthday gifts you are given when you are spiritually born into God's family.
3. Discuss the meaning and importance of baptism for identifying you as a member of God's family.
4. What's the most important lesson God wants you to learn on earth and why? What does living this out in relationship with others look like?
5. List and discuss the reasons you need a church family.
6. Discuss what Christian fellowship means and what it involves. Share what having fellowship with other members of the body of Christ means to you.
7. What is needed to cultivate community? Why is honesty such an important part?
8. Discuss the steps you can take to restore broken relationships.
9. What's the difference between reconciliation and resolution?
10. What advice does the Bible give about unity? Why is protecting your church from conflict and disharmony so important?

Section 4

You Were Created to Become Like Christ

This section reveals a new purpose and deals with truth, trouble, and temptation.

1. What does it mean to be made in God's image? What or who does this look like?
2. How is Jesus' promise of abundant life often misunderstood? What does it mean?
3. What does it take to grow spiritually and become Christlike?
4. How does God mold and shape us?
5. How do your choices determine your spiritual growth?
6. What intentional choices or commitments must you make in order to grow spiritually?
7. Why is reading the Bible so important? Do you practice daily reading and meditation of the Bible? Why or why not? If you do, share your experiences with the group. What are the benefits of memorizing Bible verses?
8. Discuss how encountering problems in your daily life can help you develop spiritually.
9. How can you grow through temptation? Discuss strategies for overcoming temptation.
10. Discuss why spiritual growth is such a long process.

Section 5

You Were Shaped for Serving God

This section provides a fourth purpose on how you can be used for God's glory.

1. Explain why service to God is not optional.
2. What does serving God mean? List some of the ways we serve God.
3. What does it mean that you were shaped for serving God?
4. What does SHAPE stand for? How do your unique talents and capabilities equip or shape you to serve God?
5. List some natural talents you were born with. How can those talents be used in God's service?
6. What six kinds of experiences have shaped your life? How can your experiences, even your painful ones, be used to minister to others?
7. List some ways you can "discover your shape" or clarify what God intends for you to be and to do.

8. What does a true servant look like? How does a true servant act?
 9. What does it mean to think like a servant?
 10. Explain how your weaknesses can be used for God's purposes.
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Section 6

You Were Made for a Mission

This section offers a final purpose and encouragement to begin serving God.

1. Explain why the Great Commission is also your commission.
2. Explain what it means that God has given you a Life Message to share.
3. Name some experiences where God has helped you. Why should you share your experiences with others? What major life lesson would you like to tell others?
4. What are the four components of your "Life Message"?
5. Why is your mission important?
6. What does it mean to be a "World Class Christian"?
7. How do you learn to think like a "World Class Christian"?
8. Name a short-term mission that interests you and explain why it does.
9. Discuss ways you can keep the five purposes of your life in balance.
10. List and discuss the elements of a "life purpose" statement.
11. What did you learn from reading this book about why God put you on this earth? How has your life been changed?