

Groups

The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren

Overview: This group is designed for a 10 week semester. Each week should cover 4 chapters of the book.

Week 1: Introduction – What on Earth Am I Here For? (Chapters 1-4)

Key Themes: Understanding God's purpose for our lives and how we can live with eternal significance.

Ch. 1 – It All Starts with God

Rick Warren emphasizes that life's purpose begins with God, not with ourselves. Many people search for meaning in success, relationships, or achievements, but true purpose is found only in God. The chapter challenges readers to shift their perspective from self-centered thinking to a God-centered life.

Ch. 2 – You Are Not an Accident

Warren reassures readers that their lives are intentional—God created each person with a purpose. No one is an accident, no matter the circumstances of their birth. He highlights that our existence is part of God's divine plan, and He uniquely designed each person for a reason.

Ch. 3 – What Drives Your Life?

This chapter explores common life motivations, such as guilt, fear, materialism, and approval from others. Warren encourages readers to replace worldly motivations with God's purposes, leading to a fulfilling and peaceful life.

Ch. 4 – Made to Last Forever

Life on earth is temporary, but eternity is what truly matters. Warren urges readers to live in light of eternity, making choices that align with God's eternal plan. He explains that our time on earth is preparation for what comes next.

Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out to you from this week's reading?
2. How does knowing that "it all starts with God" change your perspective?
3. Do you feel like your life has a clear purpose? Why or why not?
4. How does realizing that we are made for eternity impact our daily choices?

Week 2: Purpose #1 – You Were Planned for God's Pleasure (Worship) (Chapters 5-8)

Key Themes: Worship as a lifestyle, not just an activity.

Ch. 5 – Seeing Life from God's View

The way we see life shapes how we live. Warren explains that God views life as a test, a trust, and a temporary assignment. Every challenge is an opportunity to grow spiritually and trust Him more.

Ch. 6 – Life Is a Temporary Assignment

Earth is not our permanent home—we are citizens of heaven. This perspective helps us focus on eternal values rather than being consumed by worldly concerns. Warren challenges readers to live with a pilgrim mindset rather than an attachment to earthly possessions.

Ch. 7 – The Reason for Everything

Everything in creation exists for God's glory. Warren explains that when we live for His glory, we find our true purpose. Worship is not just singing songs—it's a way of life that honors God in everything we do.

Ch. 8 – Planned for God's Pleasure

God delights in us! Warren highlights that we were created to bring joy to God, and worship is a natural response to His love. Worship is more than a Sunday service; it is a daily, intimate connection with God.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does seeing life as a test and a trust affect how you handle challenges?
2. What does it mean to live with a "pilgrim mindset"?
3. How can you glorify God in your daily activities?

Week 3: Purpose #2 – You Were Formed for God's Family (Fellowship) (Chapters 9-12)

Key Themes: The importance of Christian community and belonging.

Ch. 9 – What Makes God Smile?

God delights in our faith and obedience. Warren explains that simple trust and daily surrender to God's will bring Him joy. Living to please God rather than others is key to a fulfilling spiritual life.

Ch. 10 – The Heart of Worship

Worship is about surrender—letting go of control and trusting God completely. Warren encourages readers to give every part of their lives to God, even when it is difficult or uncomfortable.

Ch. 11 – Becoming Best Friends with God

God desires a personal relationship with each of us. Warren explains how to develop daily habits of communication with God, such as prayer, meditating on His Word, and constant conversation with Him.

Ch. 12 – Developing Your Friendship with God

Building a friendship with God requires trust, honesty, and time. Warren highlights the importance of sharing our hearts with God and learning to see Him as a close friend rather than a distant deity.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to bring joy to God?
2. How can you cultivate a stronger friendship with God?
3. What are some practical ways to surrender daily to God?

Week 4: Purpose #3 – You Were Created to Become Like Christ (Discipleship) (Chapters 13-16)

Key Themes: Spiritual growth and transformation.

Ch. 13 – Worship That Pleases God

True worship is authentic, thoughtful, and practical. God values honest, heartfelt worship, not empty religious rituals.

Ch. 14 – When God Seems Distant

Faith is tested when we don't feel God's presence. Warren reassures readers that God is always with us, even when we don't feel Him, and He uses those seasons to strengthen our trust in Him.

Ch. 15 – Formed for God's Family

God created us to belong in His family, the Church. Christian community is essential for spiritual growth, accountability, and encouragement.

Ch. 16 – What Matters Most

Love is the greatest commandment. Warren emphasizes that life is about relationships, and loving God and others is our highest calling.

Discussion Questions:

1. How can you worship God in everyday life?
2. What helps you trust God during spiritually dry seasons?
3. Why is Christian community essential for growth?

Week 5: Purpose #4 – You Were Shaped for Serving God (Ministry) (Chapters 17-20)

Key Theme: We were created to serve God and others through our unique talents and abilities.

Ch. 17 – A Place to Belong

God created us to be part of a spiritual family—the Church. We were not meant to live in isolation, but to support, serve, and grow with other believers.

Ch. 18 – Experiencing Life Together

Authentic Christian community means sharing joys, struggles, and faith journeys with others. Fellowship is about deep relationships, not just surface-level connections.

Ch. 19 – Cultivating Community

Real community requires commitment, honesty, and love. Warren challenges readers to be intentional in building relationships that reflect Christ's love.

Ch. 20 – Restoring Broken Fellowship

Conflict is unavoidable, but God calls us to seek reconciliation rather than avoid difficult relationships. Learning how to handle conflict God's way strengthens spiritual maturity.

Discussion Questions:

1. How has belonging to a church impacted your spiritual growth?
 2. What are some ways you can experience authentic community in your church?
 3. How can we practice true fellowship rather than just casual interactions?
 4. Why is reconciliation important in Christian relationships?
 5. What is one step you can take this week to strengthen your church family connections?
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Week 6: Purpose #4 – You Were Shaped for Serving God (Ministry) (Chapters 21-24)

Key Theme: God designed you with specific gifts to serve others and fulfill His mission.

Ch. 21 – It's All for God

We were created to serve, not just be consumers. Our lives should be used to glorify God through acts of love and service.

Ch. 22 – Shaped for Serving God

God uniquely designed each person with abilities, passions, and experiences to serve in a way that fits them perfectly.

Ch. 23 – How Real Servants Act

True service is about humility, selflessness, and faithfulness, not recognition or praise.

Ch. 24 – Made for a Mission

Every believer is called to make a difference, whether inside or outside the church. Living missionally means serving daily with intentionality.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are your spiritual gifts, and how can you use them to serve?
2. Why is humility essential in serving others?
3. How does serving God bring fulfillment to your life?
4. How can you shift from being a "consumer Christian" to an active servant?
5. What are some practical ways to live on mission daily?

Week 7: Purpose #5 – You Were Made for a Mission (Evangelism & Outreach) (Chapters 25-28)

Key Theme: Our purpose includes sharing God's love and making disciples.

Ch. 25 – God’s Global Mission

Every Christian has a role in spreading the gospel. Evangelism is not optional—it’s a calling.

Ch. 26 – A World-Class Christian

Instead of thinking locally, we are called to have a global mindset about sharing Christ.

Ch. 27 – Defeating Your Fears

Many believers struggle with fear of sharing their faith, but God gives courage to those who step out in faith.

Ch. 28 – It Takes Time

Spiritual growth and fulfilling our mission take patience and persistence. Warren encourages long-term commitment.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does your life reflect the mission of Christ?
2. What are some obstacles that keep you from sharing your faith?
3. How can we shift from self-focused faith to a global Christian perspective?
4. How does patience play a role in growing spiritually?
5. What step can you take this week to share God’s love with someone?

Week 8: Living With Purpose (Chapters 29-32)

Key Theme: We are called to live with eternal significance.

Ch. 29 – Accepting Your Assignment

God has entrusted us with a unique calling that only we can fulfill.

Ch. 30 – Shaped for Eternity

Our purpose is ultimately about preparing for eternity with God.

Ch. 31 – Understanding Your Role in God’s Family

Every believer has a specific role in the Church and should actively participate.

Ch. 32 – Using What God Gave You

God expects us to use our talents to serve Him and others.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you feel God’s assignment is for your life?
2. How can you be more eternally focused in your decisions?
3. What role do you play in your church community?
4. How do you use your gifts to serve others?
5. What is one way you can live more intentionally this week?

Week 9: Staying Focused on God’s Plan (Chapters 33-36)

Key Theme: Staying faithful to God’s calling despite challenges.

Ch. 33 – How Real Servants Act

Faithful service comes from a heart fully surrendered to God.

Ch. 34 – Thinking Like a Servant

A servant’s mindset focuses on helping others, not personal gain.

Ch. 35 – God’s Power in Your Weakness

God often uses our weaknesses to show His strength.

Ch. 36 – Made for a Mission

Living on mission means aligning our life with God’s purpose every day.

Discussion Questions:

1. How can you develop a servant’s heart?
2. What are some weaknesses that God has used in your life for His glory?

3. Why is faithfulness in small things important?
4. How do you handle challenges in serving God?
5. How can you stay focused on your God-given mission?

Week 10: Living a Purpose-Driven Life (Chapters 37-40 & Conclusion)

Key Theme: Finishing strong and living fully for God.

Ch. 37 – The Great Commission

God's final instruction is for us to make disciples and spread the gospel.

Ch. 38 – Becoming a World-Class Christian

We are called to live for God's kingdom, not just personal success.

Ch. 39 – Balancing Your Life

Purposeful living requires balancing worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, and mission.

Ch. 40 – Living With Purpose

Warren concludes by encouraging believers to live daily with intention and passion for God.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you plan to live a purpose-driven life moving forward?
2. What was the most impactful lesson from this book?
3. How do you balance all five purposes in your life?
4. What practical steps will you take to make disciples?
5. How can you keep God's mission at the center of your daily life?