

RICK WARREN



**WHAT ON EARTH  
AM I HERE FOR?**



**A SIX-SESSION VIDEO-BASED STUDY FOR GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS**



## *What On Earth Am I Here For? A Six-Session Video-Based Study for Groups or Individuals*

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Note to Small Group HOSTS ..... vi

Understanding Your Study Guide ..... vii

Small Group Sessions

**SESSION 1:** You Matter to God ..... 1

**SESSION 2:** Worship–You Were Planned for God’s Pleasure ..... 11

**SESSION 3:** Fellowship–You Were Formed for God’s Family ..... 21

**SESSION 4:** Discipleship–You Were Created to Become Like Christ ..... 31

**SESSION 5:** Ministry–You Were Shaped for Serving God ..... 41

**SESSION 6:** Evangelism–You Were Made for a Mission ..... 51

Small Group Resources

Helps for HOSTS ..... 64

Frequently Asked Questions ..... 67

Circles of Life ..... 69

Small Group Guidelines ..... 70

Small Group Prayer and Praise Report ..... 72

Small Group Calendar ..... 73

Purpose Driven Spiritual Health Assessment..... 74

Purpose Driven Spiritual Health Plan ..... 77

Purpose Driven S.H.A.P.E. Profile ..... 78

Answer Key ..... 83

Daily Reading Plan ..... 84

Small Group Roster ..... 86

# A NOTE TO SMALL GROUP HOSTS

This video-based study is designed to be used with a small group of friends at home, at work, or at a church. If you're not already in a small group, start one of your own! It's easy.

## How to Start a Small Group

You don't have to be a teacher. You don't need any formal training. You don't even need any experience in a small group. Just keep these four things in mind, and you'll succeed as a small group **HOST**:

**H**ave a heart for people.

**O**pen your home to a group of friends who want to study with you.

**S**erve them a snack.

**T**urn on the DVD. The six video sessions by Rick Warren provide the teaching for each week of the study.

If you can do those four things, you can host a small group of your own. All of the material and instructions you need are provided in this study guide. There's no experience necessary, so enjoy the journey!

Please don't feel pressured to discuss every question in every session. There is no need to hurry your way through the material. If your group only has time to talk about what they are learning in *The Purpose Driven Life* book and watch the video lesson together, that's fine. What's most important is that your group members have the time to let God work in their lives. So feel free to select the questions that seem right for your group.

For more information and advice on hosting a small group, see the **Helps for Hosts** section on page 64.



# UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDY GUIDE

Here is a brief explanation of the features of this study guide.

**Catching Up:** You will open each meeting by briefly discussing a question or two that will help focus everyone's attention on the subject of the lesson.

**Memory Verse:** Each week you will find a key Bible verse for your group to memorize together. If someone in the group has a different translation, ask them to read it aloud so the group can get a bigger picture of the meaning of the passage.

**Video Lesson:** There is a video lesson for the group to watch together each week. Fill in the blanks in the lesson outlines as you watch the video, and be sure to refer back to these outlines during your discussion time.

**Discovery Questions:** Each video segment is complemented by several questions for group discussion. Please don't feel pressured to discuss every single question. There is no reason to rush through the answers. Give everyone ample opportunity to share their thoughts. If you don't get through all of the discovery questions, that's okay.

**Living on Purpose:** We don't want to be just hearers of the Word. We also need to be doers of the Word. This section of the study contains application exercises that will help your group apply the things you are learning. Be sure to leave time each week for this material.

**Diving Deeper:** This section contains your weekly reading assignment from *The Purpose Driven Life*. It also refers you to additional resources that will help you grow deeper in your understanding of the purpose you are studying.

## WHAT ON EARTH **AM I HERE FOR?**

**Prayer Direction:** At the end of each session you will find suggestions for your group prayer time. Praying together is one of the greatest privileges of small group life. Please don't take it for granted.

**Small Group Resources:** There are additional study materials and small group resources in the back of your study guide.



# **YOU MATTER TO GOD**



# SESSION 1

# YOU MATTER TO GOD

## CATCHING UP

- If this is your first time to meet together as a group, or if you have any new members, be sure to introduce yourselves.
- Before you jump into this study, we recommend that you review the **Small Group Guidelines** on page 70 of this study guide.
- What are you hoping to get out of this study of *What on Earth Am I Here For?*

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## MEMORY VERSE

*“I am your Creator. You were in my care even before you were born.”*

Isaiah 44:2a (CEV)



Watch the video lesson now and follow along in your outline.



# YOU MATTER TO GOD

## The Question of Existence: Why Am I Alive?

*Why was I born? Was it only to have trouble and sorrow, to end my life in disgrace?*

**Jeremiah 20:18 (TEV)**

You were made by God and for God's purposes, and until you understand that, life will never make sense.

*The Lord has made everything for his own purpose.*

**Proverbs 16:4a (GW)**

- God created me to \_\_\_\_\_ .

*Long before [God] laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love . . .*

**Ephesians 1:4 (MSG)**

## The Question of Significance: Does My Life Matter?

*My work all seems so useless! I have spent my strength for nothing and to no purpose at all.*

**Isaiah 49:4 (NLT)**

## WHAT ON EARTH **AM I HERE FOR?**

*“I am your Creator. You were in my care even before you were born.”*

**Isaiah 44:2a (CEV)**

You are not an accident. There are accidental parents, but there are no accidental births. There are illegitimate parents, but there are no illegitimate children. There are unplanned pregnancies, but there are no unpurposed people. God wanted you in this world. You are not an accident.

*You, [God], saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe. Every day was recorded in your book!*

**Psalms 139:16 (TLB)**

*His plans endure forever; his purposes last eternally.*

**Psalms 33:11 (TEV)**

Life is preparation for eternity.

- **I was made to** \_\_\_\_\_ .

*When this tent we live in—our body here on earth—is torn down, God will have a house in heaven for us to live in, a home he himself has made, which will last forever.*

**2 Corinthians 5:1 (TEV)**

## **The Question of Intention: What Is My Purpose?**

*Why did you create us? For nothing?*

**Psalms 89:47b (NCV)**

The only way to know your purpose is to ask your Creator.

## SESSION 1 • YOU MATTER TO GOD

*Knowing God results in every other kind of understanding.*

**Proverbs 9:10b (TLB)**

- I find my purpose \_\_\_\_\_ .

*For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible . . . everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him.*

**Colossians 1:16 (MSG)**

Life is not about you; it's all about God.

*It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for . . . part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.*

**Ephesians 1:11–12 (MSG)**

If you live to be seventy years old, you will live 25,550 days. Don't you think it's worth just forty of those days to find out what you're supposed to do with the rest of them?

*"It makes no difference who you are or where you're from—if you want God and you are ready to do as he says, the door is open."*

**Acts 10:35 (MSG)**



**Discovery Questions**

- “God created me to love me.” When did you first hear about God’s love?

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- “I was made to last forever.” How does that statement strike you? Are you encouraged, puzzled, disappointed, surprised?

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Please don’t feel pressured to discuss every discovery question. It’s okay to choose the questions that are right for your group. The point is not to race through the session; the point is to take time to let God work in your lives.



## SESSION 1 • YOU MATTER TO GOD

- “I find my purpose in God.” As you embark on this journey of discovery, how ready are you to explore the truth about God’s purpose for your life?

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- “Life is not about you; it’s all about God.” What difference could it make if I acted like life is all about God and not about myself?

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## WHAT ON EARTH **AM I HERE FOR?**



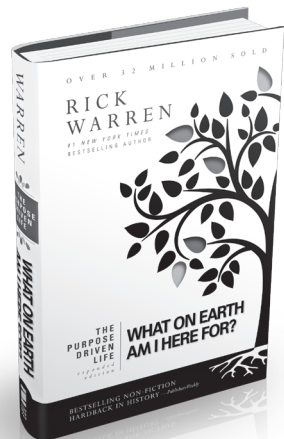
### Living on Purpose

- **Reading Partner:** A central component of this study is the daily reading of *The Purpose Driven Life*. Take a moment to pair up with someone in your group to be your reading partner. A little encouragement and friendly accountability can help you stay on your reading schedule. We recommend that men partner with men and women with women. Check in with your reading partner throughout the week or at your group meetings to share what you are learning, and to encourage each other in your progress through the book.

Now turn to the **Daily Reading Plan** on page 84, and decide as a group the date you will start reading **Day 1** of *The Purpose Driven Life*.



We don't want to be just hearers of the Word. We also need to be doers of the Word. This section of the study contains application exercises that will help your group apply the things you are learning. Be sure to leave time each week for this material.





## Diving Deeper

- **Spiritual Checkup:** Most people want to live healthy, balanced lives. A regular medical checkup is a good way to measure physical health and spot potential problems. In the same way, a spiritual checkup is vital to your spiritual well-being. The **Purpose Driven Spiritual Health Assessment** was designed to give you a quick snapshot or pulse of your spiritual health. Take three to four minutes alone to complete the **Purpose Driven Spiritual Health Assessment**, found on page 74 of your study guide. After answering the questions, tally your results. Then, pair up with another person (preferably your reading partner), and briefly share one purpose that is going well and one that needs a little work.
- Read chapters 1 to 7 in *The Purpose Driven Life* before your next small group meeting. Share with the world what you are learning by placing a favorite quote from the book on your Facebook page or by tweeting with the hashtag #PDL.
- Read the **Memory Verse** on page 2 every day this week as part of your daily devotions. See if you can have it memorized before your next group meeting.
- Visit **www.purposedriven.com** to find suggested next steps in living a life of purpose.
  - Discover **Purpose Driven Leadership Courses** designed to help you learn to fulfill God's purposes in your personal life, small group, and in your church.
  - Sign up for Pastor Rick's free *Daily Hope Devotions* by email.
  - Receive access to 42 audio sermons by Pastor Rick to supplement the message of *The Purpose Driven Life*.

## WHAT ON EARTH **AM I HERE FOR?**



### **Prayer Direction**

- Pray for your group's prayer requests. Be sure to record their requests on the **Small Group Prayer and Praise Report** on page 72.



### **Before you go . . .**

- Turn to the **Small Group Calendar** on page 73 of this study guide. Healthy groups share responsibilities and group ownership. Fill out the calendar together, at least for next week, noting where you will meet each week, who will facilitate your meeting, and who will provide a meal or snack. Note special events, socials, or days off as well. Your Group Host will be very appreciative and everyone will have a lot more fun together.
- Also, start collecting basic contact information like phone numbers and email addresses. The **Small Group Roster** on page 86 of your study guide is a good place to record this information.