

2022 Fall Spiritual Renewal

Redeemer Lutheran Church

Got Purpose?

Week 1

Connecting

Getting Connected

- *Talk about your spiritual story ...* What has been your spiritual journey or background?
- What spiritual interests or needs do you have at this time in your life?

This year's Fall Spiritual Renewal is based on the 2002 book by Rick Warren *The Purpose Driven Life* and a spiritual renewal written by Pastor Bill Tucker (current Senior Pastor at Concordia Lutheran Church in San Antonio, Texas) and Pastor Michael Newman (current District President of the Texas District (LCMS)). Many have read this book. Many may still have it as part of their personal library. However, it may have been a while since you've read it. Each week we will look at a different aspect of Warren's book. As disciples of Jesus it's important that we know and understand our purpose in the kingdom of God. Are you ready? Let's spend the next few weeks talking about purpose.

Opening Question

1. A major component of this season of spiritual growth and renewal is prayer. What is your opinion about prayer? Does it work? Does it change things? Does God really listen to you? Is it worth it to pray often?

Observation/Interpretation/Application

Read Luke 22:39-42

2. How do these verses show that Jesus established the discipline of prayer in His life? What might prevent that discipline from forming in your life? Share some thoughts about what has helped or harmed your practice of prayer?
3. When should you pray like Jesus did in v. 42? When don't you have to ask about God's will, but simply rely on His promises? Can you think of any of those promises in the Bible? Try to share the ones you know.

4. In his book, Rick Warren mentioned the 40-day pattern of transformation in the Bible:

The Bible is clear that God considers 40 days a spiritually significant time period. Whenever God wanted to prepare someone for his purposes, he took 40 days ... The next 40 days will transform your life.

The Purpose Driven Life; pg. 9

Have you ever encountered a period of your life that worked radical transformation? What transformation do you or people in your life need right now? What about your church? Discuss with your group specific prayers that you could pray for each other, people in your life, and for the church during this 40-day journey.

Read Luke 22:43-44

5. What happened in v. 43? Why did it happen? How does this verse give you hope in your journey of faith and life?
6. What does v. 44 tell you about the true nature of life? Share how you have experienced this. What does it mean for your life that Jesus went through struggle?
7. In his book, Warren mentioned *his* prayer for *you*:

“As I wrote this book, I often prayed that you would experience the incredible sense of hope, energy, and joy that comes from discovering what God put you on this planet to do. There’s nothing quite like it. I am excited because I know all the great things that are going to happen to you.”

The Purpose Driven Life; pg. 11-12

Take a look at Philippians 4:6-7. How do these verses reflect Rick Warren’s hopes for you? What does God’s Word promise for you as you continue to go to God in prayer?

8. Many people feel guilty as they start to pray. After not talking to God for a while, they feel as if they are hypocritical and “bad” for going to Him in times of need. Look up Psalm 50:15 and discuss God’s viewpoint about when people turn to Him in prayer. Do the same as you look at Matthew 11:28. When does Jesus tell us to come to Him? How can you support each other as a group in doing what these verses call you to do (What GOD calls you to do!)?

Close with prayer. Look at the Bible verse for this week (**1 John 4:11**). Thank God for listening to you and for loving you. Ask Him to do great things (be specific) over the next 6 weeks.