

2022 Fall Spiritual Renewal

Redeemer Lutheran Church

Got Purpose?

Week 2

What on Earth am I Here For?

Opening Questions

1. What, if anything, really struck you from this week's sermon or Scripture reading?
2. Think about your life in terms of a metaphor. What is it? A roller coaster? A dart board? A peaceful lagoon? Share why you chose your specific metaphor.

Observation/Interpretation/Application

Read John 17:1-5

3. This is a prayer of Jesus as He prepared for His suffering and death on the cross. According to these verses, what was most important in Jesus' life? How does the starting point in Jesus' life impact your life? What metaphor would you use to describe Jesus' life?

Read John 17:6-19

4. Jesus talks a lot about the *word* He gave to His disciples. What does that have to do with their preparation for His death, resurrection, and ascension?

While there are illegitimate parents, there are no illegitimate children.
Many children are unplanned by their parents, but they are not unplanned
by God.

The Purpose Driven Life; pg. 23

What did Jesus pray specifically for his disciples in vv. 6-19? What do these prayers tell you about God's purpose and plan for every human being – yourself included? What do these prayers tell you about Jesus' attitude towards you?

Read John 17:20-26

5. In this section of the High Priestly Prayer, Jesus shifted His prayer to all people who would believe in Him (that includes you!). What is Jesus' primary request? What stands in the way of that request (include the condition of the world and the condition of YOUR HEART)?
6. What do you struggle with that can drive your life in a negative, destructive, or unity destroying direction (ex. anger, resentment, fear, materialism, guilt, the need for approval, etc.)
7. In his book, Rick Warren talked about your life purpose:

Living to create an earthly legacy is a short-sighted goal. A wiser use of time is to build an eternal legacy.

The Purpose Driven Life; pg. 33

Warren also lists the benefits of purpose driven living (*The Purpose Driven Life*, pgs. 30-33). Warren states these benefits are:

- Knowing your purpose gives meaning to your life
- Knowing your purpose simplifies your life
- Knowing your purpose motivates your life
- Knowing your purpose prepares you for eternity

Do you agree or disagree with these benefits Warren lists? How do you need these benefits in your life?

8. In John 17:24 Jesus makes an eternity oriented request of His Father. What is it? Look back at v. 2. Why was Jesus so focused on our eternal life? What new perspective does that give you for your life?

9. Read these quotes from *The Purpose Driven Life*:

When you fully comprehend that there is more to life than just here and now, and you realize that life is just preparation for eternity, you will begin to live differently.

The most damaging aspect of contemporary living is short-term thinking.

The Purpose Driven Life; pg. 33

10. Think about the metaphor you used to describe your life. What changes is God calling you to make? What new goals that are in line with Jesus' words in John 17 and the chapters you read in *The Purpose Driven Life* can you outline for yourself today?

11. How does the Bible verse for this week apply to our discussion? Jeremiah 31:3b

Rick Warren asks, "It's time to settle the issue. *Who* are you going to live for – yourself or God?" (pg. 58) Close in a circle prayer. Make one commitment to God about how your life will glorify Him in a new way.