

2022 Fall Spiritual Renewal

Redeemer Lutheran Church

Got Purpose?

Week 3

You Were Planned for God's Pleasure

Opening Questions

1. What, if anything, really struck you from this week's sermon or Scripture reading?
2. What have been some of your most meaningful worship experiences? Talk about what made them that way.

Observation/Interpretation/Application

Read Psalm 86:1-17

3. This week we will learn from David, a seasoned worshipper of God. As you read Psalm 86, what components of worship can you find? What is the motivation for worship, and what verses in this Psalm highlight that motivation? Read Romans 5:8 and talk about how it connects to this psalm and to your reason for worship.

Read Psalm 95:1-8

4. At the end of this amazing song of worship, the psalmist challenges us: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts ..." What obstacles do you face in making your life an act of worship? What interferes with your relationship with God?

There is no "one-size-fits-all" approach to worship and friendship with God. One thing is certain: You don't bring glory to God by trying to be someone he never intended you to be."

The Purpose Driven Life; pg. 103

5. *The Purpose Driven Life* lists nine ways people draw near to God.
- Naturalists ... inspired to love God out-of-doors, in natural settings
 - Sensates ... love God with their senses and appreciate beautiful worship services that involve not only the ears, but all the senses
 - Traditionalists ... draw closer to God through rite and ritual, liturgy and symbols, and unchanging structure
 - Ascetics ... love God in solitude and simplicity
 - Activists ... love God through confronting evil, battling injustice, and working to make the world a better place
 - Caregivers ... love God by loving others and meeting their needs
 - Enthusiasts ... love God through celebration
 - Intellectuals ... love God through study

What way/ways best describe your worship personality? What insight does this give you when it comes to discussions about worship styles and preferences?

Read Psalm 96:1-13

6. How does this psalm reinforce the sentiment, “God wants all of you”? Find specific words, phrases, and actions that describe a life of total worship.
7. Verse 5 mentions the worship of idols. What do you tend to make an “idol” in your life?
8. Worship means life transformation

We are often challenged to do ‘great things for God.’ Actually, God is more pleased when we do small things for him out of loving obedience. They may be unnoticed by others, but God notices them and considers them acts of worship.

The Purpose Driven Life; pg. 96

Talk about these “little things” that add up to meaningful worship:

- How can you regularly serve God by admitting your limitations;
- The current status of your prayer and devotional life (reading God’s Word), and how you can grow in those areas;
- Ways you are serving God and others with your offerings, the way you treat your body, and the volunteer service you participate in.

Read Psalm 99:1-9

9. A significant part of this psalm is the recalling of what God has done. Share one way that you clearly saw God working in your life. How does that action of God affect your trust in Him for the future?

Friendships are often tested by separation and silence; you are divided by a physical distance or you are unable to talk. In your friendship with God, you won’t always feel close to him.

The Purpose Driven Life; pg. 107

10. How do you cope when you don’t FEEL like God is close to you? What is the difference between faith and feeling?
11. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: “The most common mistake Christian make in worship today is seeking an experience rather than seeking God.” Is that true of Lutheran worship?
12. How does the Bible verse for this week apply to our discussion? Mark 12:30

Close by sharing one way that God has led you to more meaningful worship through this study. Close in a circle prayer.