



**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?*

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!

Psalm 139:16 (TLB)

His plans endure forever; his purposes last eternally.

Psalm 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?

Psalm 89:47b (NCV)

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

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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)

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



Discovery Questions

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

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



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.

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- “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?

- “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?

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



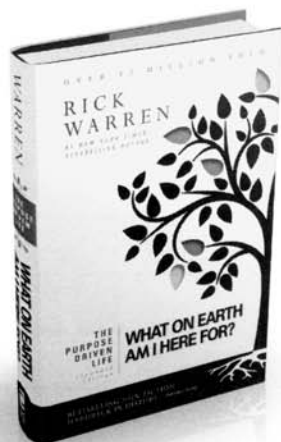
Living on Purpose

- **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*.

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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.