

Week 1: Introduction, Day 1-3

Week 2: Day 4-7

Week 3: Day 8-10

**Week 4: Day 11-13**

## **Introduction**

### **I. The Purpose Driven Life**

#### a. This Teaching

- i. Based on a bestselling book written by Rick Warren, lead pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, CA.
- ii. The book is written as a 40 day series of daily devotionals.
- iii. The number 40 was selected because of its biblical significance
  1. Noah's life was transformed by 40 days of rain.
  2. Moses was transformed by 40 days on Mount Sinai and 40 years in the desert.
  3. The spies were transformed by 40 days in the Promised Land
  4. David was transformed by Goliath's 40 day challenge.
  5. Elijah was transformed when God gave him 40 days of strength from a single meal.
  6. The entire city of Nineveh was transformed when God gave the people 40 days to change.
  7. Jesus was empowered by 40 days in the wilderness.
  8. The disciples were transformed by 40 days with Jesus after his resurrection.

#### b. The Goals for this teaching

- i. Promote personal devotion and understanding of our individual purposes for life.
- ii. Strengthen the desire of individuals to serve the fellowship of believers through each partner discovering his/her divine calling.
- iii. Create opportunities for small group leaders to share this information in a small group setting with their un-churched friends and family.

## II. Becoming Best Friends with God

- a. God desires a friendship with us
  - i. Adam and Eve enjoyed a continual communion with God in the Garden.
  - ii. Moses and Abraham were called friends of God.
  - iii. David was described as a man after God's own heart. (Acts 13:22)
  - iv. We are invited into a friendship by Christ himself. (John 15:15)

**15:15** Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

- b. Through constant conversation
  - a. Friendship with God requires more than regular church attendance. We have often anesthetized ourselves with the opiate of religion while missing the mark of a deeper relationship with our heavenly father.
  - b. The secret of cultivating this intimate conversation with God is to include God in everything, not to simply carve out time with him.
  - c. Short prayers are a good way to have a continual conversation with God.
    - i. "You are with me..."
    - ii. "I'm depending on you..."
    - iii. "Lord have mercy..."
    - iv. "The Lord is my light and my salvation..."
- c. Through continual meditation
  - i. Meditation is simply focused thinking – a skill anyone can learn and use anywhere.
  - ii. Psalm 1:1 illustrates the blessings of meditating on God and his word continually.

## III. Developing Your Friendship with God

- a. I must choose to be honest with God
  - i. We must be honest about our faults and failures.
    - 1. Christ is still the friend of sinners. (Matthew 11:19)
  - ii. The interactions between Moses and God while in the wilderness demonstrate an intimate relationship.
  - iii. Jesus requires that we actively demonstrate our love for him by doing what he instructs us to do.
    - 1. Obedience is preferred above sacrifice. (I Sam. 15:22)

- b. I must choose to value what God values
  - i. God's top priority is the salvation of his people.
    - 1. [1Ti 2:4](#) Who will [have all men](#) to be [saved](#), [and](#) to [come unto](#) the [knowledge](#) of the [truth](#).
    - 2. Our priority should be to share God's message and love with as many people as we can.
- c. I must desire friendship with God more than anything else.
  - i. David desired to know God intimately. (Psalm 63:3)
  - ii. Paul also desired to know Christ beyond a superficial interaction. (Phil. 3:10)
  - iii. Jacob wrestled all night in order to have a closer walk with God. (Gen. 32:26)

*I am weak, but Thou art strong;  
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;  
I'll be satisfied as long  
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.*

*Refrain*

*Just a closer walk with Thee,  
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,  
Daily walking close to Thee,  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

*Through this world of toil and snares,  
If I falter, Lord, who cares?  
Who with me my burden shares?  
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.*

#### **IV. Worship That Pleases God**

- a. He desires all...
  - i. "A Samaritan woman once tried to debate Jesus on the best time, place, and style for worship. Jesus replied that these external issues are irrelevant. Where you worship is not as important as why you worship and how much of yourself you offer to God when you worship."
  - ii. There is a wrong way to worship.
- b. Characteristics of God pleasing worship
  - i. God is pleased when our worship is accurate. – Worship must be based on the truth of Scripture, not our opinions about God.
    - 1. Jesus clears that with the Samaritan woman. (John 4:23)

- ii. God is pleased when our worship is authentic. – Worship is your spirit responding to God’s spirit.
  1. God doesn’t want or need our showmanship.
  2. “God pleasing worship is deeply emotional and deeply doctrinal. We use both our hearts and our heads.”
  3. “The best style of worship is the one that most authentically represents your love for God, based on the background and personality God gave you.”
  4. Forms of praise mentioned in the Bible: confessing, singing, shouting, standing in honor, kneeling, dancing, making a joyful noise, testifying, playing musical instruments, and raising hands.
- iii. God is pleased when our worship is thoughtful.
  1. Jesus’ command to “love God with all your mind” is repeated four times in the New Testament
  2. If worship is mindless it is meaningless.
  3. Clichés can hinder our worship experience; whereas, they promote a mindlessness in our worship practice.
  4. Make a list of God’s names as they are listed in the Bible and learn what they mean. Then praise God for His acts and attributes.
  5. Paul expressed the concept of thoughtful worship to the Corinthians.
    - 1 **Cor. 14:40** Let all things be done decently and in order.
- iv. God is pleased when our worship is practical.
  1. In worship we are to offer our bodies a living sacrifice.
  2. Real worship is costly.
    - a. David believed in costly worship. Demonstrated in 2 Samuel 24:24.
  3. Worshipping God requires hard work and dedication.