

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 unchurched friends and family.

## II. Planned for God's Pleasure

- a. Bringing pleasure to God is called “worship.”
- i. John 4:23
    - a. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. (KJV)
    - b. "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshippers. (NASB)

- b. Worship is far more than music
- i. Actually, worship predates music. Adam worshiped in the Garden of Eden, but music isn't mentioned until Genesis 4:21 with the birth of Jubal. If worship were just music, then all who are nonmusical could never worship. Worship is far more than music.
  - ii. Even worse, “worship” is often misused to refer to a particular style of music: “First we sang a hymn, then a praise and worship song.”

*“Christians often disagree over the style of music used in worship, passionately defending their preferred style as the most biblical or God-honoring. But there is no biblical style! There are no musical notes in the Bible; we don't even have the instruments they used in Bible times.*

*Frankly, the music style you like best says more about you—your background and personality—than it does about God. One ethnic group's music can sound like noise to another. But God likes variety and enjoys it all.”*

- c. Worship is not for your benefit
- i. When we worship our goal is to bring pleasure to God and not ourselves.
  - ii. Israel was steeped in empty, vain rituals that were more traditional than meaningful. [Isa. 29:13]
    1. Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:
- d. Worship is not a part of your life; it is your life
- i. Worship should be ongoing and continual
    1. Seek the LORD, and his strength: seek his face evermore. [Psalm 105:4]
    2. From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the LORD'S name is to be praised. [Psalm 113:3]

### III. What Makes God Smile?

- a. Our goal is to make God smile
  - i. “Figure out what will please Christ, and then do it.” [Ephesians 5:10]

**6:22** Then the [LORD spoke](#) to [Moses](#), [saying](#),

**6:23** "[Speak](#) to [Aaron](#) and to his [sons](#), [saying](#), '[Thus](#) you shall [bless](#) the [sons](#) of [Israel](#). You shall [say](#) to them:

**6:24** The [LORD bless](#) you, and [keep](#) you;

**6:25** The [LORD make](#) His [face shine](#) on you, And be gracious to you;

**6:26** The [LORD lift](#) up His [countenance](#) on you, And [give](#) you [peace](#).'

**6:27** "So they shall [invoke](#) My [name](#) on the [sons](#) of [Israel](#), and I then will [bless](#) them."

- b. God smiles when we love him supremely
  - i. “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.”
- c. God smiles when we trust him completely
  - i. [Heb 10:38](#) Now the [just shall live by faith](#); but if any man draw [back](#), [my soul shall have no pleasure in him](#).
  - ii. [Ga 3:11](#) But that no [man](#) is [justified by the law](#) in the [sight](#) of [God](#), it is [evident for](#), [The just shall live by faith](#).
- d. God smiles when we obey him wholeheartedly
- e. God smiles when we praise and thank him continually
- f. God smiles when we use our abilities
  - i. God gives us abilities to use for his good pleasure.
  - ii. God is the potter and we are the clay. [Isaiah 45:9]

#### IV. The Heart of Worship

- a. Surrender
  - i. This is out of step with our modern thinking especially in the American context.
  - ii. Paul admonishes us to offer ourselves wholly over to God as living sacrifices.
- b. Can I trust God?
  - i. Fear keeps us from surrendering to God. You cannot trust someone whom you do not know.
- c. Admitting our limitations – the second barrier to total surrender is our pride.
  - i. Our unholy desire to control everything limits our ability to totally worship.
- d. What it means to surrender.
  - i. Surrendering is best demonstrated in obedience.
  - ii. The Blessings of Surrender
    - 1. You experience peace. (Job 22:21)
    - 2. You experience freedom. (Romans 6:17)
    - 3. You experience God’s power in your life. (Joshua 5:13-15)

This song gives a simple, clear explanation of living the Christian life. The title expression was used in a testimony meeting, following an evangelistic crusade in Brockton, Massachusetts, by Dwight L. Moody. A young man stood to speak, and it soon became clear he knew little Christian doctrine. But he finished by saying, “I’m not quite sure—but I’m going to trust, and I’m going to obey.” Daniel Towner, who was in the meeting, jotted down the words, and gave them to John Sammis, who developed the lyrics from them.

When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,  
What a glory He sheds on our way!  
While we do His good will, He abides with us still,  
And with all who will trust and obey.

#### *Refrain*

*Trust and obey, for there’s no other way  
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.*

Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies,  
But His smile quickly drives it away;  
Not a doubt or a fear, not a sigh or a tear,  
Can abide while we trust and obey.