



**Reaching,
Restoring,
Raising Up**

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L.I.F.E. Group Questions—What on Earth am I Here For?

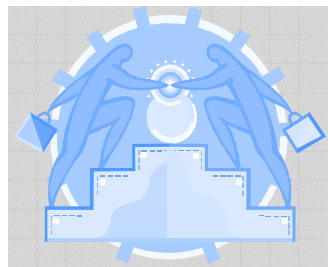
Our L.I.F.E. Groups that meet in homes use the following questions from the sermon for discussion and application. To find a group pick up a L.I.F.E. Group brochure in the Welcome Center.

1. Which of the philosophies of life—survivalist, naturalist, hedonist, materialist, self-help, or atheist—have you most naturally tended to follow?
2. At which of the 3 levels are you living life right now (survival, success or significance)? What is keeping you from going to the highest level?
3. Since God created us for eternity, how should that make a difference in the way we live life this very day?
4. Why must we begin with God if we are to understand the meaning of life? How can we do this on a practical level?
5. According to George Herbert “it’s never to late to be who you might have been.” Why is this true, and what action does it call for on our part?
6. Talk about anything else that impressed you from the message if you have time.

We're on the Web!
Www. Celebrationnet.com

**You Can Join an ABF Anytime — Find
Yours Below and Join Us!**

**40 Days Classes—Locations,
Times, Descriptions**



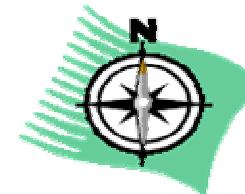
**ADULT BIBLE FELLOWSHIPS
- CONNECTING AROUND THE WORD -**

9:00			10:45		
Rm101	40s-50s	Young-Fendley	Rm 101	30s-50s	Bower-Devereaux
Rm 104	40s-50s	Christensen-Hasler	Rm 104	Open	Hixson-Sturgill
Rm 112	30s-40s	Waller-Norwood	Rm 112	Women	Byrum-Gardiner
Rm 201	30s	Hughes-Work	Rm 201	20s	Jones-Norwood
Rm 203	Singles	Knox-Graham	Rm 202	30s	Miller-Butler
Rm 204	30s-40s	Sims-Bentzel	Rm 203	Singles	Reynolds
Rm 205	20s	Hey-Lux	Rm 204	20s	Alexy-Hopkins
Rm 206	40s-50s	McBrayer-Wicks	Rm 205	Open	Regis-Hubbard
Rm 207	40s	Crary-Elswick	Rm 206	30s	Heritier-Sharp
Rm 208	Women	Knox-Anderson	Rm 207	Open	Youngman-Byrum
			Rm 208	Open	Anderson—Robertson

Jan 18, 2004

40 Days of Purpose

Celebration Fellowship



Volume 1, Issue 2
January 18, 2004

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Worship—Planned for God's Pleasure

When “Dirty Harry” Callahan said, “Go ahead, make my day”, he was hoping for an excuse to blow away the bad guy. But have you ever wondered what “makes God’s day”? This week as you read Days 8-14 you will discover that *worship* is what makes His day. There are so many misconceptions about worship, and so many forms of it, but one thing is clear: as Rick Warren says, worship is hard-wired into the very fiber of our being. We have an innate drive to worship something and God made us to worship

Him; so, this is the first basic purpose of our lives. It is also what brings God pleasure, and makes Him smile. Yet it is far more than just music, or what we do on Sundays; worship is what we do to honor God with our entire lives, 24-7-365 days a year. And, as this implies, it is not for our benefit, but for God’s; yet, as we do it we find ourselves more fulfilled and satisfied than in pursuit of any other activity of life. That’s how God made us. But how do we do it, and what does it involve? Most importantly worship



Real success comes by fulfilling God's purposes for your life.

begins with focusing on God, and developing our friendship with Him. This calls for complete surrender of our lives to Him, along with complete trust and obedience. When we do this daily, we “make God’s day”.

A Look Back—Don't Waste Your Life

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- Worship—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- Fellowship—You were formed for God’s family
- Discipleship—You were created to become like Christ
- Ministry—You were shaped for serving God
- Evangelism—You were made for a mission

It has often been said that no one on their deathbed wishes they had spent more time at the office. Unfortunately, it often takes some near death experiences or getting to what we perceive as the end of our lives to come to the conclusion that much of our life has been wasted. At this point people often take time to “smell the roses”, or begin to slow down long enough to do some of the simple, yet profound things in life, such as taking time to really listen to little children or truly enjoy a sunset. But what really keeps us from wasting our lives and making them meaningful, is to find out what God wants from our lives, and then to pursue that. The first thing we must understand is that in order to invest our lives as God wants us to do, we must give Him all of our lives. The question often asked, sometimes in fits of rage, is “God, what do you want from me?”. The answer is that God wants *all* of me. Partial obedience, or

delayed obedience, is not obedience at all. In order to have ultimate meaning in our lives, we must start by giving God all of our lives; anything less is misery. When we give God the parts of our lives that require no faith or sacrifice, we will find ourselves continually in the middle of internal conflict. We will find that neither serving God nor ourselves works well. But, when we give God all of our lives, no strings attached, we find life has joy, meaning, and purpose—the abundant life of which Jesus spoke in John 10:10. There is a second question, a very practical question, though, that follows this: “how do we really do it?”. There is a simple answer to this, the dreaded “d” word: discipline. Discipline is the way we can keep from wasting our lives once we have made the decision to give God all of our lives. In fact without discipline we find ourselves intending to do well, but rarely accomplishing that goal. When

we desire to follow God, then decide to do it, we must then take the necessary steps to actually carry out our decision. And, this leads to true freedom. Unfortunately, while this sounds good on paper, the really hard work is carrying it out over the long haul. This is where the third question comes in—“why should we do it?”. The answer to this is simple, yet profound: because of the cross. Jesus went all the way to the cross, not to simply satisfy God’s justice regarding sin, but to enable us to fulfill God’s purpose for our lives. The very point of the cross was to restore fallen humanity to God’s original design, so that we could serve Him and His purposes through our every act. But the cross also provides the motivation for us to serve God completely, because of the extent of Christ’s sacrifice. His sacrifice should compel us to give our lives to Him in every daily decision. Then we will not waste our lives.

Reading Guide for Days 8-14

Begin each day asking God for understanding, and for how to apply what you discover to your life that day.

Day 8—Planned for God’s Pleasure

- 1. Who is worship primarily for (p66), and what does our worship do for God (p64)? What difference should this make in your private and public worship?
2. How do most people view worship (p65), but what is it really about (p66-67)? What everyday task can you begin doing as an act of worship to God?

Day 9—What Makes God Smile?

- 3. Of the 5 acts of worship that make God smile (pp70-74), which one do you need to work on most?
4. Just like parents, God enjoys you at every stage of your [spiritual] development (p76). What does this mean to you?

Day 10—The Heart of Worship

- 5. Which of the 3 barriers to surrender (p78-80) do you most often struggle with? Why does it block your surrendering to God?
6. Why is surrendering to God the best and only way to live (p82-83)? How often should we do it (p83)?

Day 11—Becoming Best Friends with God

- 7. Since God wants to become your best friend, how can you treat Him that way?
8. Think of some specific ways that you can engage in constant conversation with God, and think of Him regularly.

Day 12—Developing Your Friendship with God

- 9. Why do you think God wants us to be honest with Him, and why is it often so difficult for us (pp92-95)?
10. Why is it true that “we are as close to God as we choose to be” (p99)? Practically, what can you choose to do to be closer to God today?

Day 13—Worship that Pleases God

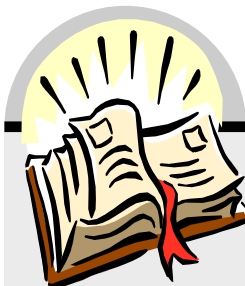
- 11. What are the 4 characteristics of worship that pleases God (pp101-105), and which one stands out to you? Why?
12. Which sacred “pathway” (p103) seems most suited for you? How can you draw near to God through this today?

Day 14—When God Seems Distant

- 13. Think of a time that God seemed “distant” to you. What do you think caused it, and how did you deal with it?
14. Of the 4 ways to deal with the feeling that God is distant (pp110-112), which would help you most right now?

Notes

Horizontal lines for taking notes.



“Surrendering to God is the heart of worship. It is the natural response to God’s amazing love and mercy.”

Table Discussion Questions for January 25

Connect

- 1. Get to know any newcomers at your table and share how your week has gone (especially with the 40 Days focus).
2. Pass out the PDL Health Assessments and ask everyone to fill them out—as a self-evaluation. After tallying the results, share with a partner one area that is going well, and one that needs some work.
3. Review memory verse (Mark 12:30). After repeating it share something God has taught you this week through it.

Video Outline

A. How Do We Live a Life of Worship, A Life Pleasing to God? (Romans 12:1-2)

I. You must _____ yourself to God. (v1)

- 1. Worship is _____ dedication of your life to God.
2. Worship is _____ dedication of your life to God. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
3. Worship is _____ dedication of your life to God.

II. You must learn the principle of _____ (Romans 12:2)

III. You must learn the principle of _____ (Romans 12:2b)

B. Three Reasons Why We Should Live For God’s Pleasure

- I. Living a life of worship is _____.
II. Living a life of worship is _____.
III. Living a life of worship is _____.

Grow

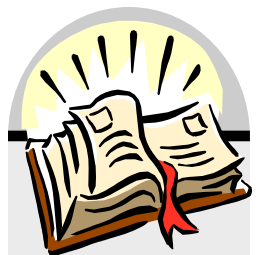
- 1. Why is the life lived for God’s pleasure “the good life”? Give specific examples of this from your own life.
2. What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you hear the word “worship”? Using Romans 12:1 how should we define worship?
3. What “picture” of God have you grown up with? The Bible says that God created you so He could love you, enjoy you, and adopt you into His family. How does that compare with your picture of God, and how does it make you feel?
4. From Matthew 22:37 what is God’s highest priority for your life and how does this relate to our worship? What other things in your life often compete with your worship of God?
5. What is one thing from your reading this week that God impressed you with?

Serve & Share

- 1. In Matthew 22:37-39 Jesus said the 2 greatest commands are to love God and love our neighbor. How does living a life of worship (loving God) help you love the people around you?
2. Name 2 people God can help you love better this week. _____
List a specific way that you can show that love to them.

Worship

- 1. What barriers keep you from dedicating your whole life to God?
2. Share prayer requests and praises with one another and write these on your Prayer and Praise sheet.
3. Pray around the table—thanking God for making you for His pleasure and asking for Him to show you areas in which you need to surrender. Pray for the requests, and for everyone in the group to live a life totally dedicated to God.



Memory Verse

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Mark 12:30 (NIV)