

Our Prison Neighbors



The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren

Outline and study guide

www.OurPrisonNeighbors.org

In general this book is written to be read one chapter a day. Even if this book does not reflect your personal theology there is much to think about and learn. Some inmates have substituted Good Orderly Direction for God. It is recommended that you note where you agree with the book and where you don't. Try not to let details of belief prevent you from really feeling how this material could bring greater peace, understanding and service to the world. As recommended in the introduction, take time, keep a journal, rephrase any statements that don't fit your theology/philosophy to make them touch your life, respond deeply to the questions at the end of each reading, allow the ideas to shape your observations and thoughts throughout the day.

Week 1 A Journey with a Purpose, My Covenant and What on Earth am I Here For?

Read the introductions and one chapter each day. Answer each question.

- 1 It All Starts with God
- 2 You Are Not an Accident
- 3 What Drives Your Life?
- 4 Made to Last Forever
- 5 Seeing Life from God's View
- 6 Life is a Temporary Assignment
- 7 The Reason for Everything

Week 2 Purpose #1 You Were Planned for God's Pleasure

Read one chapter a day. Answer each question.

- 8 Planned for God's Pleasure
- 9 What Makes God Smile?
- 10 The Heart of Worship
- 11 Becoming Best Friends with God
- 12 Developing Your Friendship with God
- 13 Worship That Pleases God
- 14 When God Seems Distant

Week 3 Purpose #2 You Were Formed for God's Family

Read one chapter a day. Answer each question.

- 15 Formed for God's Family
- 16 What Matters Most
- 17 A Place to Belong
- 18 Experiencing Life Together
- 19 Cultivating Community
- 20 Restoring Broken Fellowship
- 21 Protecting Your Church

Week 4 Purpose #3 You Were Created to Become Like Christ

Read one chapter a day. Answer each question.

- 22 Created to Become Like Christ
- 23 How We Grow
- 24 Transformed by Truth
- 25 Transformed by Trouble
- 26 Growing through Temptation
- 27 Defeating Temptation
- 28 It Takes Time

Week 5 Purpose #4 You Were Shaped for Serving God

Read one chapter a day. Answer each question.

- 29 Accepting Your Assignment
- 30 Shaped for Serving God
- 31 Understanding Your Shape
- 32 Using What God Gave You
- 33 How Real Servants Act
- 34 Thinking Like a Servant
- 35 God's Power in Your Weakness

Week 6 Purpose #5 You Were Made for a Mission

Read one chapter a day. Answer each question.

- 36 Make a Mission
- 37 Sharing Your Life Message
- 38 Becoming a World-Class Christian
- 39 Balancing Your Life
- 40 Living with Purpose

Other books and writers mentioned by Rick Warren or recommended by this facilitator and the groups at MCI Concord Prison and MCI Shirley Medium prison who have done this study:

Day 3: Man's Search for Meaning by Victor Frankle - This is a book by a survivor of the Nazi concentrating camps who writes deeply about what factors helped people survive the most terrible conditions.

Walden by Henry David Thoreau. This book is Thoreau's record of his thoughts and insights while living beside the pond in Concord for two years. It's a complex book full of wisdom, sometimes difficult but worth the effort for real gems of wisdom.

George Bernard Shaw, playwright who was deeply involved in a number of social issues including feminism.

The books of Bo Lozoff: Lineage, We're All Doing Time, Just Another Spiritual Book, Deep & Simple, It's a Meaningful Life: It Just Takes Practice. Most of these books are available for free to prisoners from the Human Kindness Foundation Rt. 1, Box 201-N, Durham, NC 27705. They will also send a newsletter several times a year.

The books of Thich Nhat Hanh: Being Peace, Creating True Peace, Peace is Every Step

Jon Kabbatt Zinn – Wherever You Go, There You Are