

Chapter 1 : Philippians The Purpose Driven Life |

My church is getting ready to start the Purpose Driven Life study in Sunday school classes. I teach the middle/high school group. Does anyone know of a good approach for how to teach this to the younger crowd?

We are all travelling inevitably towards the end of our lives. We will either coast through life with no sense of direction or we will live lives of purpose and fulfilment. The race is on. Where are you going and what are you doing about it? God wants us to be purpose driven people, driven by His plan, His purpose for our lives. Before God even planned the world, He planned you. When He planned you, He planned your purpose even before you were born. When you fulfil your life purpose it brings honour to God and it brings satisfaction to yourself. Jesus was a purpose driven person. He said in John How do you do that? You do that by completing the work God gave you to do. The first level, the lowest level is the survival level. Most people live in the survival mode. They get by in life. They put in their time, punch the time clock and live for the weekends. They never really have any major goals or major drive in life. Most people are in the second level, a little higher level called the success level. Focus is on paying off the mortgage or establishing a comfortable lifestyle. Yet this level does not satisfy. You have a purpose for your life. You know that your life matters. We need to move from success to significance. Values effect everything we do. Where do you get your values from? We pick them up from our parents, peers, magazines, books, the music we listen to, from society in general. Today, one of the ways we pick up our values is through the media, especially television. The Bible tells us that the values of the world are very well known and they have not changed. You will get your values in life from either culture or Christ. Pleasure is one of the three primary values in this world. I want to be happy - I want to feel good. One of the largest industries today is now entertainment. The ambition to buy everything that appeals to you. Our society is consumed with consuming. Clothes, cars, homes, jewellery. We base our self worth on our net worth. Or power or position or popularity. In our world, image is everything. We want people to look up to us. Think about your values and where they are going to lead you. When the millionaire dies, how much does he leave? He leaves it all! Ever see a trailer of goods following a Hearst? This is the first and greatest commandment. God the Father has called you to Himself. He desires an intimate relationship with you. You are called to be a part of His family. You are His son or daughter. He wants to love, care, provide for and protect you. He wants to spend time with you. This is our highest purpose or calling and it is to be the foundation for any other "ministry". He wants a personal relationship with you. What will be the contribution of my life? In other words, what am I going to do with my God given talents? You were put on this earth to make a contribution, not just to take up space. You were put on this earth to leave it a better place, to make some kind of contribution with your life. God planned you before you were born. You were made for a purpose. This is the key to true greatness. Jesus was a servant. He came as a servant to serve and to give to his life for us. Jesus told the disciples that they were also called to serve. His mission was that of a servant and so is ours Mark Each person is a member, has a gift and a job to do. The health and growth of the church is dependent on your contribution. We will be rewarded for the contribution we make. To Influence Your World Mark He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. He moved around different parts of society - religious leaders, tax collectors, children, needy people, sinners, all kinds of people from all walks of life and different sections of society. He spent time with them. They saw his life, heard his words, felt his heart. He was comfortable around them, yet he did not compromise his lifestyle or his character. Three areas reflect our values: Our schedule - where do you spend your time? Daily quiet time, church meetings? We all have the same amount of time each week - hours. Everybody in this room has the same amount of hours - hours a week. Our budget - where do you spend your money? Our relationships - who do you run with? A sense of purpose makes daily decisions easier. A sense of purpose gives you a reason to get up in the morning. A sense of purpose enables you to focus and avoid distractions. A sense of purpose attracts other people to your life to help and get involved. It Prepares me for Evaluation. Your life, your opportunity, your time, your energy? Did you just spend it on yourself or did you use it for the purpose on earth I created you? What did you do with what I gave you? If you could share one thing that happened since

we last met, what would it be? Discussion Questions Take no more than 5 minutes to give the group a quick overview of this lesson How much are Christians influenced by the values of the world pleasure, possessions and prestige? Often God will bless us with these things as a by-product of our serving him Matt. Do you think most Christians understand their purpose? If not, why not? If so, why is it hard to fulfill it at times? If so, why do we get distracted at times? Can you define your purpose in a few sentences? What do you believe is your unique contribution to the world? Ask others in the group to share what potential they see in you. How can we help each other achieve our purpose and live at the significance level? What does God want us to do this year?

Chapter 2 : The Purpose Driven Life

Purpose Driven Youth Ministry is a Gold Medallion award-winning book that has been translated in 20+ languages and is used as a textbook in colleges and seminaries throughout the world. Easy to follow.

Everyone has their own story but there were a few experiences that were common amongst people who had discovered their purpose: Traveling abroad Spending extended time in the natural world Getting involved in a meaningful social change project Establishing a contemplative practice Each of the four experiences listed above has components of at least two of the three purpose-seeking experience factors. Each of these experiences could be a significant life event. A trip abroad and service trip often combined focus on serving others in a meaningful way. A contemplative retreat and wilderness trip intentionally change life circumstances for youth, giving them the space to create an opportunity for finding their purpose. One other critical point is the role of technology. All of these trips give young people a chance to take a break from their constant use of technology; this alone is a powerful force for young people to re-connect with themselves and seek connection with their peers. Young people do not usually develop a specific purpose and then go become an expert in that thing. Rather, they are exposed to something new that helps them develop their own sense of purpose. In short, in most cases experiences lead to developing purpose, not the other way around. This is why summer experiences that introduce young people to new ways of seeing the world and themselves are so valuable. If young people are exposed from years olds to events to seek purpose, they will increasingly seek them out on their own until the end of their adolescence, giving them a higher likelihood of discovering their own sense of purpose. Finding yourself, making meaning Contemplative Retreat There are many religious based camps that are available to teens from all different backgrounds. Inward Bound Mindfulness Education is the leading secular organization introducing mindfulness and contemplative practices to teens. There is also a well-regarded program called Summer Search that helps low-income high school students to take part in contemplative practices as well as service learning, travel, and wilderness trips. It is a time to seek new activities and experiences. Dan Siegel says, teens seek novel experiences. This helps young people try something on for size, see if they like it, and then decide if they want to make it part of their life. Unfortunately so many young people today are not actually able to exploreâ€”teens are often either disillusioned from the banality of school or over achieving students are on the treadmill and cannot step off for fear of falling behind. We have managed to create high school experiences that give students little time for self-reflection, meaning making, and diving deeply into what makes us come alive. I know so many friends and family members that felt like most of their high school was meaningless for them. Why are we in school? Why am I learning algebra? These are straightforward and educators often try to answer them. But most school settings fail to address the even larger questions: Why was I put on this earth? What do I want to do with my life? Why am I having trouble figuring out my identity? Have your teen stay in touch with others from the trip. Give your teen space and time to actively reflect on their experience. Seek out mentors that can help your teen reflect and integrate their experience. Reflection is a critical part of the whole process. If your teen is going to a potentially transformative experience, as a parent or educator, it is important to ask the why question: Why is your teen motivated to do this? What do you hope to get out of it? Or why is your teen not motivated at all? Of course there is no guarantee that if your teen goes on one of these trips, they will come back with a greater sense of purpose. Research shows that some teens that go on potentially transformative experiences change, others do not. It is good remember as a parent and educator: But what you can do is give them the experiences to help discover their own sense of purpose. You never know how these experiences will shape them down the road. So where do you turn if you wanted to send your teen on one of these experiences this summer? How can my teen attend one of these programs if I am from a middle or low-income background? Although these experiences started off mainly for privileged teens, many programs have made a huge push to make themselves accessible to teens of all backgrounds. Ask about scholarships and sliding scales. Greater Good wants to know: Do you think this article will influence your opinions or behavior?

Chapter 3 : Purpose Driven Life - Study Guide Resources - Ministry

Purpose Driven Youth Ministry will do for youth ministry what Rick Warren's Gold Medallion award-winning, The Purpose Driven Church is doing for pastoral ministry. It's an indispensable guide to creating and maintaining youth ministry for the long run.

In fact, we simply do not talk about salvation and the afterlife much in my Christian circles. But I remarked and this is no observation unique to myself that it really is not a story about the afterlife. It is a story about life in the here-and-now. I think Christianity has a great deal to say to us about the present life. But if pressed as a pastor to say anything about "the next life," I really would have very little to share, other than I trust that as God cares for us now, God will care for us eternally. Nor do I think worrying about it should preoccupy our time. I do not believe that the primary focus of Christianity should be a concern about the afterlife. The primary focus of Christianity should be our relationship with God through Christ right now, and the possibility of that relationship to heal and transform the world. With all that in mind, I started wondering just what we might say the purpose of youth ministry might be. For some who read this blog, it may very well be the salvation of souls from eternal damnation. But for those of us who do not ascribe to that brand of the Christian faith, what other possibilities motivate us? To Introduce Youth to the Christian Faith: Becoming a disciple of Christ is more than taking an oath because, as Marcus Borg often says, this would be "salvation by syllables". Becoming a disciple takes a journey. It takes a willingness to sacrifice, walk through some fire, and struggle. Many youth have yet to give themselves over to this sort of commitment to faith. To help them be, in a sense, interns for Christ. In this way, we are perhaps preparing teens to become the disciple they will be later in life. To Help Youth Build Community: The Christian faith is built upon community. It is built upon compassionate relationships that recognize all as beloved of God. One goal of youth ministry should be to help youth learn what it means to live in radically open and loving community. Youth ministry should offer opportunities for youth to experiment with what this sort of community might look like. It should provide youth a glimpse of what it means to be loved unconditionally. It should help youth struggle with loving others even when it is difficult. Teens are bombarded with messages that tell them that their self-worth will ultimately be tied to the size of their paycheck and their ability to consume within our capitalist economy. Youth ministry can help youth see that they have God-given gifts that cannot be measured in dollars and cents. These gifts could include, among others, mission, prayer, teaching, healing, and hospitality. To Be Spiritual Companions to Youth: Being a teenager is tough. Not many of us would relive those days even if we could. Teens struggle with issues of self-worth, confusion about identity, and worries about fitting in. Youth ministry programs can offer youth the mentorship of faithful adults who will love them just as they are, walk with them on their spiritual journey, and help them navigate the challenges of adolescence. Many teens have lived so long with the idea that God lives "up there" or "out there" that they find it difficult to figure out where God is in their lives.

Chapter 4 : Purpose Driven Life for youth? | Baptist Christian Forums

Purpose Driven Total Youth Ministry Dan Goddu This paper proposes a vision of total youth ministry. It is based on the USCC's Vision of Youth Ministry, and Renewing the Vision, , as well as Rick.

A spoon A cup How to Play: Split the group into two teams and give them each a bowl of ice and a towel. The point of the game is to make the ice completely vanish. Players must take turns doing this—they each get thirty seconds with the bowl of ice before they have to pass it to the next player. They can do anything they want to melt the ice—they can blow on it, rub it in their hands, use the towel, or even crush it with their feet. The first team to make their bowl of ice completely vanish wins! Teach — Purpose Have you ever wondered what your purpose in life was? Those are really big questions, right? Those are questions that can make you feel really small and scared, and questions that can drive you absolutely crazy until you answer them. Yep, you heard that right. Those questions that seem so big and important? Not on your own, anyway. Why do you think that is? God knit you together. Not on accident, not on a whim, but with a purpose. God knit you together at the very beginning of your life, before you even knew you existed. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time. And then it says something really cool. It says that the grace of Jesus was given to us before the beginning of time. Not before the beginning of your life, but the beginning of time. We get sad about maybe having to give up our own purpose. God, the creator of the universe, the creator of you, has a purpose for you. Do you really think you could beat that? Okay, I need a volunteer to come up here. Get out the two bowls, one with water, and the fork, spoon, and cup. I need you to do something for me. I need you to transfer the water from this bowl to the empty bowl using one of these things. Which one do you think would be the most helpful? They will say the cup. Okay, well, I actually have other plans for the cup. So what else could you use? Okay, I kind of wanted to do something else with the spoon. Let them try to use the fork for a few seconds before sending them back to their seats. A fork is a really great thing. We all use them pretty much every day, right? But a fork is absolutely terrible at getting water from one bowl to another. The cup would have worked so much better! Sure, God has a purpose for you. He knows time from beginning to end. He knows what you want and what you need. He knows your talents, your heart, and what your purpose truly is. In the game you played, you had to hurry to melt the ice away. It took a little bit of effort, but you were able to make it vanish. They may seem strong and sturdy, but just like that ice, they soon vanish. Do you spend a lot of time questioning what your purpose is? Do you believe that God has a purpose for you? Do you think His is better than your own? Have you ever really thought about how God intricately knit you together before you were even born? How does that make you feel? When you think about how God knows everything, does that make you feel any differently about His purpose for you? God loved you so much that He sent His only Son to die for your sins. Since you know how great of a love that is, do you think that His purpose for you is a good one? Why or why not? Can you say the same thing about your plans? Did you know that God gave you grace before the beginning of time? Teach Wrap up — Purpose Have you ever bought someone you loved a really great gift before? One that you picked out just for them, and that you knew they would love because you knew them so well? You hid it under your bed, wrapped it, and excitedly counted down the days to their birthday so you could give it to them. Ask Him about His purpose for your life. So open your Bible this week. Look at it as God revealing your purpose to you. He knows you and what you need. He gave you the incredible gift of His Word. So open it up and start living!

Chapter 5 : PURPOSE DRIVEN YOUTH MINISTRY | dougfields

The Purpose Driven Life Devotional for Kids includes devotions that tie to the themes and ideas found in the bestselling The Purpose Driven Life by pastor Rick Warren.

All these years later the truths that I learned still resonate within me. Now I have eight grands and I want them to learn the same principles that we did all those years ago. I want them to know that they were created for a purpose. Thei Way back in our whole church body from the youth group to the senior adults spent 40 days studying The Purpose Driven Life. Their existence was never a mistake but rather a God ordained blessing bestowed upon their parents and their grandparents! The book is broken down into daily devotions that cover the same six purposes in the original book. The language is designed for nine to twelve year-olds but we are finding that the younger kids are doing well with listening in. I have to tell you about one other thing that caught my eye. The very last chapter is entitled Why So Many Translations? Of course I had to flip back there and read it. Pastor Rick gave three reasons to answer that question but it is the second one that really stood out to me: We think we know the message of a verse because we have read or heard it so many times. Then we find it quoted in a book, we skim over it, and miss the full meaning. In my personal studies I like to look things up in different translations so I was pleased to see this same technique employed in this book. I received a copy of this book to facilitate my review. This is broken up into daily devotions to do in a year. Losing my Dad this summer the kids have had their first close up experience with death and it has brought out a lot of questions, for them and for me. I think the timing of doing this book is perfect and hopefully they will come away having a lot of their questions answered. I knew from Day 1 that this was going to be a good one. It starts with a Bible verse, then questions and discussion and ends with a prayer. The first day asked "Do you ever wonder: What do I want to be when I grow up? What should I do with my life? What are my dreams? I can see how putting these things in their mind will develop into deeper discussions about the purpose of life. What I really liked and connected with in addition to the close-knit family discussions it brought out was that these same questions can be asked of adults. I found myself asking some of these questions, thinking about the answers and analyzing how perspective changes from when you are a child. Sometimes you need to hear things from the point of a view of a child to remember your own hopes and dreams and how far you have come and what has changed. I cherish the family time with my kids and this has made it even more endearing to my heart. I look forward to the ensuing growth in my kids and family in the coming year as a result. Written at a third to fourth grade level, each devo includes a Scripture, short message, and prayer or thought for the day to help kids discover who they are in God s eyes. Capturing the hearts of the new generation means ensuring they know their purpose and grow up confident of their value in God and their relationship to Christ. God About the Book: God created each of his children with a purpose in mind the time is now to, thoughtfully and prayerfully, start the incredible journey to finding that reason. Becoming who God meant for you to be is suppose to be the goal of every Christian man or woman on this huge planet, why should it be any different for our children? The Purpose Driven Life Devotional for Kids, is a devotional that is filled with one devotion per each day of the year. It is part of a larger series to engage your child into seeking what God has put into place for that particular child. It is very awe inspiring and encouraging. We all want to know what our purpose is and this author has many books that will help lead us in the right direction.

Chapter 6 : CityLife Church Melbourne Australia

Rick Warren, author of The Purpose-driven Life, downloads his thoughts for college students. "God is more interested in who you are than what you do," says this pastor of Saddleback Church. "God is more interested in who you are than what you do," says this pastor of Saddleback Church.

The Purpose Driven Life I recently bought myself the latest must-have luxury in-car accessory – a travel mug. Vacuum sealed, I could enjoy my favourite hot drink for an entire journey. Knowing I would be driving quite a bit that week I decided to give it a whirl on my way to a day conference at Oak Hill College. I decided to baptize it with some really strong Arabic coffee with cardamom seeds purchased in Jerusalem. High in caffeine there is nothing that will kick-start you faster in the mornings. The aroma itself is quite intoxicating – in an entirely legal sort of way. In the stop-go traffic of the M25 I began to enjoy the fragrant aroma of my Arabic coffee with cardamom seeds. With around a hundred or so other clergy attending from right across England I had decided that on such an important day I should wear one of my nicest jackets, a white shirt and brown trousers. I did indeed make quite an impression. Unfortunately I discovered belatedly that the momentum of driving in one direction can cause liquid refreshments to drive in another direction. While I did indeed enjoy the taste of some of the coffee, some of it also left me with really quite impressive coffee stain down my white shirt as well. It could easily have been mistaken for dried blood from a wood chopping incident had it not been for the fragrant aroma of Arabic coffee with cardamom seeds. My lesson for the day? Everyone could tell I had been driving, and not very well. Everyone of us is driven by something. Is it as obvious to everyone else as a coffee stain? What is driving your life? The desire to please? The accumulation of possessions? A few years ago we examined what the scriptures teach about the Purpose Driven Life. Rick identifies five main purposes that God intends to be a driving force in our life. We were created to become like Christ – with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control; 4. We were shaped for serving God – with a unique mix of talents, skills and passion; and 5. Without a God-given purpose to shape our life, we become driven by destructive influences for we are all motivated by something. Here are three of the most common forces that drive people. Driven by Guilt and Fear Many people are unable or unwilling to forget what lies behind. They are unable to hide from their past. The Apostle Paul had every reason not to forget his past either. He had hunted down Christians, he had supervised their arrest. He had prosecuted them and even approved their execution. His purposes are not neutralized by the mess we make of life. God is concerned with your future not your past. We must forget the past and look to the future. Secondly, many people are: Driven by Anger and Resentment Holding on to hurts is incredibly destructive. Paul writes with sadness about some who were once friends: If we do not forgive, Jesus warns, God will not forgive us. Forgiveness is at the heart of the gospel – it is the purpose of the cross. To not forgive is to turn our backs on Jesus and what he has done for us. Those who have hurt you in the past cannot continue to hurt you now unless you hold on to the pain through resentment. Your past is past! Nothing will change it. You are only hurting yourself with your bitterness. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. Instead of crying out against others in rage, give them over to him. He can take it. Seek him and you will find him. Forgive and you will be forgiven. For to forgive is also to forget. It means He forgives our past as if its forgotten. That is why we should not keep looking back. When Paul urges us to forget the past, he means that we are to break the power of the past by living for the future. We cannot change the past, but Jesus has changed the consequences of our past. Driven by guilt and fear, driven by anger and resentment. Thirdly many people are 3. Driven by Wealth and Materialism The desire to acquire can so easily become a consuming passion. The truth is the very opposite. Possessions only provide temporary happiness. But at least I told myself that my half was the visible half. It was a metallic blue Nissan Prairie, with sliding doors. And it drove like a van. Your value is not determined by your valuables – God says the most valuable things in life are not things – Real security can only be found in that which can never be taken from you – your relationship with God. What is the driving force of his life? What ambition dominates and directs him? Ultimately there are only two controlling ambitions, to which all others may be reduced. What is more, I

consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ. His life had become purpose driven. Three destructive things that drive many people: People driven by guilt and fear, driven by anger and resentment; driven by wealth and materialism. In Philippians 3, Paul offers a much more worthwhile motivation: This is how he describes it: Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus. Knowing your purpose gives meaning to your life Paul writes: The greatest tragedy is to live without a purpose. That is a life sentence. We were made to have meaning. The initiative is all from God. Jesus had shown Paul love and forgiveness in friendship. Jesus had given Paul meaning and hope, a new purpose for living. You need hope to cope. Hope comes from having a purpose. Only one thing matters. No athlete succeeds by doing everything. They succeed by specializing. Josh is the director of fitness at Wentworth. He has a physique many men would die for. The secret is exercise. Paul is single-minded about his ambition. This does not mean he neglected every other area of his life. Rather it means that all else was subordinated to his goal. Without a clear purpose we lack the foundation on which to base our decisions, allocate our time, or use our resource. Life becomes cluttered with choices made based on circumstances, pressures, and emotions. Not knowing our purpose leads to overwork, to stress, fatigue and tension. Knowing your purpose simplifies your life 3. Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead.

Chapter 7 : Purpose Driven Life - What On Earth Am I Here For?

Forged around the fundamental purposes of evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, ministry, and worship, Purpose-Driven Youth Ministry uses the experiences of Saddleback Church in California to illustrate what a healthy youth ministry can be.

The section on small groups was good. And I took some notes and learned some things here and there throughout the book. But this book just does not connect to my situation at all. I work with a small youth group at a small church, the author worked with a mega-church youth group. His youth ministry has dozens of programs and volunteers, etc. Sure purpose plays a big part of the ministry, but the ministry is built on and around programs. He lists tons of programs in this book, each with a snazzy name and an acronym that sums up the "core values" and "target audiences" and so on. In my experience, programs wear people out, keep them too busy, and make them falsely feel like they are getting closer to God because they can check off a list of "Christian events" they attended that week or month. Ministry needs to be gospel-driven, not purpose- or program-driven. A better book would also be gospel-focused in that it would consider what the Bible and experiential wisdom teach us about human nature and how the gospel applies to and satisfies those needs, all through the lens of contemporary youth culture. Someone write that book. And my youth group small as well. The few chapters did a very good job at explaining how to write a purpose statement and gave good Biblical explanations as to each part of a "good" purpose statement. As I was reading the beginning on this book I was inspired. I felt that "my" church could actually take some of this information in the book and apply it to the youth group. However, as I read on the information clearly was written for a church with a youth group with at least 50 youth, with possibly new youth a year. Unfortunately there was no "alternate" version supplied or modification of the program given in the book. Jul 27, Daniel Alvers rated it it was ok Great but gets extremely tedious. Borders on performance based ministry in my opinion.

YOUTH MINISTRY LEAVEN 49 mental calendrierdelascience.comng on developmental assetsclearlyputsallofusontherightpath-as researchers, policy makers, funders,community leaders.

Churches love its message and are willing to pour everything they have into doing it. There is Purpose-Driven attached to just about everything. There are some problems that we cannot afford to ignore. I describe it like a scale with all the good things said on one side and instead of putting one or two large weights representing the things wrong on the other side, its numerous small marbles put on one by one until the scale tips. You can ignore some of the marbles but not all of them; you have to deal with the sheer weight of things that are wrong in his model of Church and the book Warren begins the book by saying this is 40 day spiritual journey. An interesting number to pick to represent the time to read his book; one is to read a chapter a day for the next 40 days. I have heard that some have gone through it twice or more. By doing this we impose time limits on how God wants to work with us as individuals. Not everyone has the same learning curve, nor is God on the same time schedule with us all. Can we expect him to reveal what he will do with our lives before he has shaped us in our life? I wish it were true that we can find our purpose within 40 days, but it simply is not true. So the promise of his book to change your life in 40 days is flawed. It took Moses 40 years out in the desert to find his purpose. It took Paul 3 years being personally taught by the Lord in the desert before he was fit for ministry. How can we think that we can do in 40 days what is needed, without going through our trials and tests that forge us for our purpose we are to have in God. What about the principle of new believers being grounded in the faith, knowing the core doctrines first before they find their purpose? God first prepares us for the ministry and the ministry for us. David served as shepherd to the sheep before he was prepared to be king of Israel, and even that took many years to transpire. But to tell people they will know their purpose in life in 40 days by reading this book is hardly reasonable. Can we do the work of God correctly without understanding the word of God first? Does God prepare people for their purpose and ministry using the same method? Everyone God used always had a time of preparation, sometimes as long as the purpose God used them for. Warren states on p. Maturity is produced through relationships and community. This is the beginning of his premise of community in the church as necessary for finding purpose in ones life. At Saddleback every Church member signs a covenant that includes a promise to protect the unity of our fellowship. As a result, the church has never had conflict that split the fellowship. Just as important, because it is a loving, unified fellowship, a lot of people want to be a part of it! This is how this book is being interpreted and used by some. Covenant participation was employed by the Congregationalist church in early America as a reaction to the Catholic priesthood. In this covenantal agreement every believer was to do their share and participate in church activities. This can be a good thing if not brought to the extreme. As the Scripture teaches we are all part of the priesthood and gifted to serve. Who can argue with seeing more participation? Is this a good thing, what would be the standard like this for someone being active or not. This seems to imply a forced participation. This certainly bring this to practice to the extreme. Saddleback members are required to sign a membership covenant and join a small group in which they study good Christian habits necessary for growth such as having a daily quiet time. Otherwise you are causing conflict that splits the fellowship. This is why Jesus commands us in Matthew 5: Do we need to sign on the dotted line to prove or commitment or our faithfulness? The New Testament does not impose any obligation for agreements like this nor promote it. Where is this found in the Bible? Our word is to be yea or no, we are to be people of our word. Warren tries to find a connection with 40 days and begins his premise on p. Warren begins his book on an assumption that is not right. Lets look at what he uses. Not a good thing. In fact, because of the spies except Caleb lack of faith Israel stayed in the wilderness for 40 years and failed, Num. He mentions David - 1 Sam. It means 40 days to repent, or judgment was coming. And it did not take Jonah 40 days. He was led into the wilderness to be tempted Mt. Yet Warren overlooked Moses who was in the wilderness being trained in humility for 40 years not 40 days. Warren makes the number 40 days a method to reach a goal which it is not. It appears that the book is written mostly to non-believers Where Warren states p. You discover your identity and purpose

through a relationship with Jesus Christ. But then I ran into another problem. The Purpose-Driven Life, cites over 1, verses of Scripture with an excessive use of paraphrases, and some that are extremely liberal in their writings. While the intent may be to be helpful in bringing the meaning to our modern culture, many times they can hinder the meaning. Out of hundreds of verses quoted you can count the literal translations used on 2 hands, near one percent. We should be pursuing to move closer to the original texts meaning, rather than further away by using a thought for thought translation in paraphrases. Before you apply Scripture you need to understand it correctly. The principle is to seek its correct meaning then give it application. A paraphrase is more like a loose commentary and many are not nearly accurate to the literal word of God. To understand the Message translations flaws and weaknesses compare these Scriptures and see how explaining statements of Christ and Christian living are being changed. The Father is greater than I. The Message translation completely distorts the meaning. Neither the Spirit n or the flesh mentioned in the Message. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion. Sexually confused, they abused and defiled one another, women with women, men with men - all lust, no love. And then they paid for it, oh, how they paid for it - emptied of God and love, Godless and loveless wretcheds. Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture: Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. This is poor scholarship with the translations. His application may often be correct on much of what he says on Christian living but he at times uses the wrong passage to get his point across. I find Warren has a talent to communicate his message of application of Scripture but not always Scripture itself. The truth is eclipsed with the overuse of paraphrases and at times the Scripture is not communicated well, especially for non or new believers. There are many errors but to recognize them requires tedious work, most do not have the patience to look up each Scripture quoted in the Bible, read them in entirety in the context that they are written and look to a literal translation. Overall I find it hard to describe this book. There are portions I really liked and I know would be helpful and then there were other portions that were a real concern, appearing detrimental. But there are some points and explanations that one must disagree with if they are to side with the Bible. Some of his insights are very practical and clear common-sense ideas seen throughout the book. Warren writes some very good practical comments: Warren puts down seeking experiences and affirms knowing God by his word. He does mention the cross p. He speaks against earthly prosperity and controlling God with prayer. There are contradictions within the book itself and the Bible. The way Warren advocates certain scriptures is weak as he tries to attach them to the same basic premise he is presenting throughout his book, even when they do not fit. It is these types of free interpretations used in the paraphrases that show us Bible translations do matter if one wants to get to the accurate meaning of a verse. Yet Warren opts to use the paraphrases over the literal word translations. Purpose Driven While there are numerous good portions said on this subject there are other portions that are incorrect and muddled. The men and women who have made the greatest difference in history were the most focused. For instance, the apostle Paul almost single-handedly spread Christianity throughout the Roman Empire.

Chapter 9 : How to Help Your Teen Find Purpose in Life - Mark Gregston

The Purpose-Driven Life takes the groundbreaking message of the award-winning Purpose-Driven Church and goes deeper, applying it to the lifestyle of individual Christians. This book helps readers understand God's incredible plan for their lives.