

**Week One: “It All Starts With God”**  
**Day One: “It’s Not About You”**

**Read:** Pages 17-18 in *Purpose-Driven Life*

**Read:** Colossians 1: 15-18 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 1374)

**Reflect:** What cultural themes and messages can you think of which tempt you to live your life as if its purpose were all about you?

**Dig:** What does Colossians 1:15-18 say about the purpose of Creation?

What are the descriptions of Christ given in this passage?  
(hint: there are five of them...see if you can list them all)

What is the definition of “pantheism” and what does that have to do with our current cultural situation?

You can visit [www.pantheism.com/homepage](http://www.pantheism.com/homepage) for a website that explains this view of life. You may also find the definition of this term in a dictionary.

How would this passage in the Bible answer the question: “What on earth am I here for”?

**Apply:** The *Purpose-Driven Life* book states on page 18, “...you cannot arrive at your life’s purpose by starting with a focus on yourself. You must begin with God, your Creator.”

In light of that truth, what must change in your thinking for you to be in the center of God’s purpose for your life?

Close with a prayer asking God to give you the right focus for your life and your day.

**Week One: “It All Starts With God”**  
**Day Two: “One Holy Obsession”**

**Read:** Pages 18-19 (from “Many people try...” to close of paragraph which reads “This is not a self-help book”).

**Read:** Romans 8:5-8 (Freedom in Christ Bible p.1290)

**Reflect:** Is your life characterized by a focus? If you could do only one thing well, what would that one thing be?

**Dig:** Read Romans 8:5-8 and substitute “self-actualization” for “sinful nature.” How does that help you to understand the passage?

What two options are presented in this text?

Do you think that there ought to be other options?

According to the author, what is the difference between “self-actualization” and “finding your purpose in life”?

Look up Matthew 16:25 (p. 1099) in as many versions as you can. Compare your version to the one quoted in the *Purpose -Driven Life* book: “Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to finding yourself, your true self.”

**Apply:** Ponder the language you use to talk about your life and finding your purpose. Now compare that with the Bible’s way of speaking about your purpose. How will you have to change in order to line up with God’s way of thinking about your life?

**Week One: “It All Starts With God”**  
**Day Three: “Speculation or Revelation?”**

**Read: Romans 12:1-2 (p. 1295 Freedom in Christ Bible)**

**Read: Purpose-Driven Life (middle of page 19-bottom of page 20)**

**Reflect: What habits of thought do you engage in that are only speculation?**

**What ideas of our culture seep into your mind through media (TV, movies, songs) which cause you to speculate as to your purpose?**

**Dig: Read the last verses of chapter 11 (verses 28-36) to understand the “therefore” of chapter 12. What impresses you in this climax of the first 11 chapters of Romans?**

**Romans 12:1-2 is a conditional sentence. What must you do in order to know and delight in (approve of) the will of God?**

**How does 2 Corinthians 3:18 (p. 1330) shed light on how this transformation takes place?**

**Apply: What area of your life is still under the old way of thinking and acting? What is God calling you to quit conforming to? Ask him for the power today to take one more step to overcome and begin thinking new thoughts.**

## **Week One: “It All Starts With God”**

### **Day Four: “Identity Through Relationship”**

**Read:** Ephesians 1:11-12 (p. 1356 Freedom in Christ Bible)

**Read:** *Purpose-Driven Life* (Bottom of p. 20-close of chapter)

**Reflect:** How do your relationships help define your identity? (For example, your relationship to your mother defines you as a child.) Think of other relationships and list how they define who you are.

**Dig:** According to this passage (Eph. 1:11-12), answer the following questions:  
Through WHOM do you discover your purpose?

How long ago was God thinking of you and planning for your arrival?

Into what larger purpose does God fit your life’s purpose?

What does it mean to be predestined?

How does Jeremiah 29:11 (p. 862 Freedom in Christ Bible) add to your understanding of what it means to be “predestined”?

**Apply:** How does your life begin to look different if you think of your identity and purpose being wrapped up in what Christ is and what he is doing?

**Week One: “It All Starts With God”**

**Day Five: “Thinking About My Purpose”**

Using the “Lectio Divina” method of Bible study, (see page 2 of this booklet), meditate on this scripture:

**“Everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him.”  
Colossians 1:16b (Message Version)**

*Lectio divina* (a Latin expression which means Sacred reading) is done in three stages:

- **reading:** you read the passage slowly and reverentially, allowing the words to sink into your consciousness; after you have memorized the text, write down one word which strikes you and draws your attention and note why you chose that word.
- **meditation:** you allow the passage to stir up memories within you, so that you recognize in it your own experience or that of people who have touched your life; write down memories of events or conversations or other scripture passages.
- **prayer:** you allow the meditation to lead you to prayer - thanksgiving, humility and petition. Write out a prayer based on the passage.