



Purpose Driven Life Curriculum in an ABF Setting - February 04

When the Ambassadors Adult Bible Fellowship (ABF) leadership team became aware of The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren, we decided to incorporate the material into our Sunday morning ABF meetings. We felt the Scripture-based message was powerful and would lead toward life change. Also, we were looking for a study that would be conducive to outreach and not be intimidating to someone who is new to the ABF experience. Who, at one time or another, has not wondered, "What on Earth am I Here For?" We used that question as an opportunity to talk with family, friends, neighbors and co-workers and invite them to our ABF.

We chose to kick off our study and discussion in September after Labor Day when everyone was rested from the summer break and ready to start fresh. We prepared an attractive hand-out/invitation and purchased a large quantity of books so that ABF members could give a book to our guests. Some Ambassadors put fliers in the neighbor's mailboxes, some posted the fliers in the break room at work, and many personal invitations were made.

The class leader and lead teacher prepared a schedule that would cover 38 weeks. Some might wonder if 38 weeks is too long. The overall theme of living a purpose-driven life will last 38 weeks; however, a variety of interesting and important issues are covered and will keep the group engaged. We included a number of breaks for holidays and church special events.

Since the book is so well written and organized, we chose to invite some of our ABF members to take a turn at leading a session. We saw this as a way to develop and expand our corps of teachers and offer new experience and confidence building. We have had several individuals and couples accept the challenge and teach for the first time.

To date, we are on Chapter 26 out of 40, and Ambassadors continue to express enthusiasm over the book and the wisdom it contains. We have had several members share personal testimonies about how the study has challenged and changed the way they view and live their lives.

Prior to September, Ambassadors average attendance was 24. We now average 35 and have had as many as 46 attending on Sunday morning. We have had 24 new individuals visit our group, and many have become a part of our Ambassador family.

We have been blessed with the results of this approach and the study of The Purpose Driven Life in our ABF. It has provided growth in many dimensions. We recommend it whole-heartedly.

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