Andy Wood ([00:00](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/kSV9E5UnIUr1_48sLeYAxJgUmUsj6z4WI43JPJbB5aXaYifJPxlcI6zcfNHhg0H_gvPuEohRD_T55NFX3hlJs7JEYb0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=0)):

We're so thrilled that you're with us today. We are in a journey that we've been in together as a church now. This is our sixth week. It's called the Anchored Life Challenge. And there are many of you have said yes to read through the New Testament, and we're making progress, five out of eight weeks. And I just want to encourage you, if you're in that journey with us, stick with it. Last week I said this, catch up, kind of jump to where we are and journey with us. So this week we'll be in the book of Matthew, reading through that book together over the five days this week, and I'm excited about that.

([00:36](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/dKLnDyAMFWXx6SfrpcAsMCiRkkFYqW0jRBfDXmt_msFWNPJjoQOPmWfz5Ak-uyWx837p72Jq1QuVlgkgm4XONB0W7Z4?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=36.63)):

Today's message is going to be all pretty much pulled from the message of Matthew and his teaching found in the Gospel of Matthew. And I want to look at Matthew's teaching and his life through the angle of purpose. And I want to focus in today on discovering God's purpose, his design for our lives.

([00:56](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/E6ApMBA1EuCbVkHJJPUpFZN1E8l2aByaBvVwKGgSv1sVK7VwDITmGGF_QwWkIi_zGaLhnuDLrbTHKKKwCnVLJ040SFQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=56.49)):

When you look back over the history of our church, there was a book, if you don't know this, written by Pastor Rick Warren called The Purpose Driven Life. And it came out of Saddleback and literally has blessed tens of millions of people all over the world. But so many people, even with a wonderful book like Purpose Driven Life, so many people live without purpose. So many people never come to a conclusion of why they exist here on planet Earth. And deep within our souls, deep within us is tucked this deep desire to know, "Why am I here? Why am I breathing? Why am I on planet Earth?" And we try so hard, looking so many different directions for our purpose and our meaning. And that pursuit that all of us are on from our childhood, if we go to the wrong place, if we look to the wrong place, it leads us empty, it leaves us frustrated, it leads to brokenness in our lives.

([01:49](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/jZX4uECHgxfOJi0LRlli54dCoAnWVsY85ClGujTFaYYrCc8yaBjjDxWKBwvTnSfsVebufQ1Ln-xmcQ3B953fqomBj_Y?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=109.02)):

Some of the places that we look for our purpose in our lives, you're going to see some of these come on the screen and they'll also be in your notes, we tend to look for purpose in our pleasure. So maybe something that I can do to enjoy my life. This is also known as hedonism, that if we just somehow, if I can live life to the fullest, then I'll find purpose. Maybe some people do extreme sports to find pleasure, go on great vacations or have more money in their bank account and use it to spend on themselves and their friends. Pleasure is an area that we look to. Often progress, and this journey of achieving more, that if I could progress, build things that make a difference, start companies that make a difference.

([02:34](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/CNZRUDx5-Q-Sopir-OE_1PIJ0bKbpo8CLaPzrMeTlvh-b4KqO12bh9VvN1VPMazgDBjKY_qVxgqaIWsWvwDr35h4yk0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=154.05)):

Performance is another one. Some people live their lives trying to find their value and their significance, their meaning through performance with school, with grades that they get. "If I can get into this school, my life will find meaning."

([02:47](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/EjLBeMH7lXNUiK_tSsrm_oK1ABPRWL2j4d5KBBLKUaOXsUm83WU-tqYLab0ZFcQ4jOMPtJklN4VRHORdp-p2Aq0ATzU?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=167.13)):

Other people are on a journey of looking for their purpose in security. Like if they can just be comfortable and not have to worry about the future, then finally, they'll discover purpose. Others are on a journey to find purpose looking in success, that if they could accomplish something, somehow they'll feel meaning and purpose and some with significance. That if other people would say things about them, if they could be an influencer on social media, then they'll find purpose.

([03:14](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/h3e2m4erpjM_iigOwP0VeGz06gMc3A8oHNsV36B9LSQHNNUaCF2DgdWmLT2DTKdBTBIeO6h5U8lFchLWRBwJcttvHoE?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=194.43)):

And this journey of looking for purpose in so many different places and not discovering it, going back and forth leads to so much chaos in our lives. And today we're going to discover from Matthew that we were designed by God for a purpose. We're going to discover from his life that we were made for more. And the invitation that we're going to see from Matthew is to live into that more that God has for us.

([03:44](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/qugtIBy_u6obu28EBsisrqFGE3Oadg5TkVnVDwN9Zg0TfPaeIsE-8vC_g7hupmxAJ7btkQbSM6VIsg6GcZoKsH9Klho?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=224.1)):

Now, this famous quote, both by Pastor Rick Warren and Mark Twain, I'll let you decide who gave it to us first, but this is the quote, The two most important days of your life are the day you were born and the day you find out why." And some of you, if you're honest today, you don't know why you're here. And I'm praying today would be a day for you that changes your life, that you discover your eternal purpose from God. Others of you, maybe you know your purpose, but you're not living into it. It's not clear in your mind. And my hope is today that you would get activated into God's purposes for your life.

([04:22](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/bMdW1MeZ3toQr1K5Kdy-tg0ntIj-g6mwVGPZeMg_SNom0nuDZ_j-5eZREPgnUR-6EVYTTxde0_fNFIidPPqYejobCVM?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=262.5)):

Now, before we jump into some of the words from Matthew around purpose, I think it's good for us to know a little bit about Matthew. Matthew was a tax collector. Tax collectors in the first century, this is good to know, were looked down upon by the religious leaders. In fact, they were categorically called unredeemable. Religious leaders wanted to have nothing to do. Like if you were a friend of a tax collector, you could yourself be cut off from the community.

([04:56](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/7F_2AKkX9khzVduBEA6H2MVrgj_20H6fYFDTBgk2kjawuge1x5e5CfyF-OmgGvH-5jvKi2cBG1TNDT3yBd0CTjoPfjU?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=296.73)):

So here is this guy Matthew, who's Jewish. He's a tax collector, so he wouldn't have been liked by his Jewish brothers and sisters because he's representing the Roman government, but the Romans would've looked down on him because he was Jewish. So he would've seemingly been isolated and felt like he had no value and worth. But somehow in his encounters with Jesus, somehow in this journey of following Jesus, his life finds meaning, so much so that he writes one of the four gospel accounts that we have today, the Book of Matthew. Now some of the beautiful things that come out of Matthew the tax collector, there are parables that he writes about, from the parable of the wise and foolish builders to the parable of the unmerciful servant, to the parable of the Pearl of great price. These beautiful stories that Jesus would deliver and Matthew would write them down. He would give us the Lord's Prayer that Jesus would speak. When the disciples were trying to figure out how to pray and when Jesus did the Sermon on the Mount, he gives this beautiful prayer called the Lord's Prayer, and Matthew writes it down. And I think it'd be fun for us at all of our campuses to say this prayer out loud together.

([06:10](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/QsdU1NtSUa-T_d6xV9O7BY_QRthbzRaskAQ8lI1Kmh4x7YK9vpp5xjkOB1V6ygJAHnObKFL8YDv1baOIyPn-8TpVgWI?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=370.62)):

Our Father, which art in heaven... I don't know if it's on the screen, but there are four people at Lake Forest journeying with me through this. So I'll stop. I'll go back to the top. And I'm presuming at all of our campuses, you're reading it as well. So let's try again.

([06:27](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/6QAJauEnoy1h-dDLgRiBzYwro8yAYoxKgTrUR94Ejp_2lAlCyAnFwpLcJEHxpFKeSeAj8TAwyAgOZLd44ni35QxyxpU?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=387.48)):

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

([06:58](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/Hgm0XmcarMhL3qi-N6DkqP0DaVXH_e4V2Ojsnm4nBzQphVj3w-v4FalSc_K6oATSbn_xx4Mb_KHAvzYIL9J0OzKVj5M?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=418.86)):

Beautiful prayer that's been prayed through the ages from Matthew the tax collector. In addition to this, he gave us the Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount. One that strikes deep in my soul because it gives me hope, it says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit.' Those who are broken. Matthew would've understood what it would've been to be poor in spirit because he was cut off from society. "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." From Jesus, he received and then delivered the Sermon on the Mount. So there's so many beautiful things that Matthew would say like, "Do not worry about your life, what you eat or drink or about your body, what you will wear. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you." He wrote Jesus beautiful sermon down.

([07:44](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/qiAlKFw5Fp8b6NO5LMPw1spZXxV2wQH6OFy7YD49-4nqXJTYq_7MCg3WUakbTOkSjGh7kJzH6KG7fSoEu3g8zIvmCg4?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=464.01)):

He also wrote down the phrase that Jesus spoke that said, "You are the salt of the earth and you're the light of the world." Matthew was the only one to write down this invitation from Jesus in Matthew chapter 11 28 and 30, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me. For I am gentle and humble in heart, and you'll find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Those beautiful words from Jesus, Matthew understood them. He experienced them.

([08:20](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/GkgogNpgHexsZgiKYbE7rUaDzeBztBPQRhMJ1Vgib53xM7rPXmo7db8Qiv8uW45hqM29g1GevBahN-hQS3CdC85n140?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=500.82)):

He was so convinced that Jesus was the fulfillment of everything that the Israelites had been waiting for. In fact, he would've been familiar with the Old Testament. And everybody who received his gospel account, he was writing in particular to Jewish people who would've been waiting for a Messiah. And Matthew was trying to point them to Jesus to say, "This is the one we've been waiting for. This is the one we've been praying for, the Messiah the Savior is here."

([08:49](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/jwVpq02WwTcLC4mJ_hGnskX3j4PLBhaVkrJQC4M53_PNmBf53TZXvx0h08GDVZAKFKzD3-ZxjmB0dliJ5zVGwdKMm_g?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=529.98)):

So he writes these words down from Jesus when Jesus said, "Don't misunderstand why I've come. I didn't come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish to fulfill their purpose." Now, Matthew looked to Jesus for his purpose. And he would tell us so many things that Jesus said through his writing. And I want us to notice in Matthew chapter 9, verse 9, there was a moment for Levi who became Matthew. This moment changed him as he's sitting at his tax collecting booth. It says, "As Jesus was walking along, a man named Matthew was sitting at his tax collector's booth." A religious leader should have moved on by. A religious leader would've called him the scum of the earth, but Jesus was different. The Messiah was here. And he looks at Matthew and says, "Follow me and be not just somebody who hangs out with me, but be my student, be my disciple. Come and follow me." Jesus said this to him.

([09:53](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/RhfiD61Lu7s3xEtseuismQqMBPASPEU9gthA92ZDS3BQn4ZDdigSXwkx3tsoSiOp1zjIQHor7Ud17Jbu3OclFCA3yWU?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=593.01)):

So Matthew got up and followed Jesus. It changed everything for him. This man who had been rejected by society is one of the greatest disciples who ever existed, who gives us the whole book of Matthew. And he gives hope for us to have purpose in our lives. He wants us to know that Jesus said, "Whoever finds their life will lose it. And whoever loses their life, for my sake will find it."

([10:20](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/Lg5NwJVHUvWZVDRkCmAHYkm3W9qgwBq7reoxJWoThpzfF1RmXwLL4r05T6dWALqqnUTtGEUx7e3ppYrwH7sn61EDHco?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=620.34)):

And most importantly for our conversation today, he gives us the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. And I love these two passages of scripture. The Great Commandment and the Great Commission are truly a synthesis, an overarching point of view on God's purposes for our lives. And I love how Matthew describes these purposes in such clarity and I want today for us to be able to receive them from Matthew.

([10:46](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/aAtBrRGQtZ6divsJpsvmjv1ePZ1GMYL_EdpfPfvE0IVEaxtNImn539ykbjZ94gSIdaS86F_wlRQ7TnFclFvMjzTSfs8?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=646.98)):

Before we go there though, I want to just help us understand why knowing our purpose from God is so important. There's a couple things in your notes that you might want to write down. First of all, when we discover, and as Matthew did his purpose, and we discover our purpose, our days start to-

Andy Wood ([11:03](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/hWvLB4gJTChd9SLsy5Hz0EzUpeqSKlWaOCDmw6Bjv72XrWCUcwpaOY22Vdp5yu31rTvDhwfGT9HYIKlcdnAofsPg53I?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=663.6)):

Matthew did, his purpose, and we discover our purpose. Our days start to take on new meaning. So every day when you wake up, there's a new sense of meaning. If you know God's purposes, if you can activate God's purposes in your life, there's meaning that your days are filled with. There's energy that starts to get focused. So if there's so many things I can do with my life, but if there's only five things with God's eternal purposes that he wants me to give my life to, it takes all my energy and it focuses it on the few vital things that matter most. And most importantly, it stabilizes my future. So my future is stabilized when God's purposes are the reason why I live my life. It's what I focus on. So you can say to me, "What are you going to be doing 10 years from now?" "God's purposes?" "What are you going to be doing 20 years from now?" "If I'm still here, God's purposes." That's the future. It stabilizes our life so we don't have to be in chaos going back and forth.

([11:56](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/e9rtbuYEGm2zyEjijrirGR4ZwT9nvltoSsN-nRC-fJ9848deUKcKTqmuTqxVUieVyTo7AxxklqnY3oQm_7Q2ibA1mek?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=716.55)):

So let's look at these five eternal purposes that are all throughout scripture and that also are in the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. Matthew 22, beginning in Verse 34. When the Pharisees heard that he, Jesus, had silenced the Sadducees with his reply, they met together to question him again. One of them, an expert in the religious law, tried to trap him with this question. "Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses? There's like 600 of them. So you got to boil it down and tell us what's the most important one." And Jesus looks back and gives the great commandment, and he says this, "You must love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul and all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. If you get this, you get it all. If you understand that at the core of God's purpose for your life is to love him, then you get the rest of it.

([13:02](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/7VXEdpZDOLcN9W9gUla8MkGf9xK61Tjo-cODGVKYOkr7pbofAEnA8-3tQD6XGzaEnhwgE8T0Cs_LmJyIzx1stwA5rP0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=782.82)):

And then he continues his thought. He says, "A second is equally important, love your neighbor as yourself." Now, the entire law and demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments. Another version says, "All the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments." It reminds me of my closet at home. So I got this really long bar that all of my clothes hangs on, and unfortunately there's three anchor points on this large bar. And if the bar moves one inch, the whole bar falls and everything on it comes off. So I wish I could say this only happened once. I wish I could say it only happened twice. I wish I could say it only happened three times. It's happened to me a lot. All my clothes fall off. The bar moves a little bit and everything comes undone. And it's a great picture of how these two commandments hold together. Everything in the prophets, everything that Moses spoke, all of the Old Testament hangs on loving God and loving people.

([14:07](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/MS07FISBeWng7slwDjfeON-pk8p4A3HzCx_CUg-69lPvfbkyEfmxIamY2AkYy0Ay8S1N_B57jkOMmCZpmC5NK-4xsoM?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=847.74)):

When you wake up every day and your reason for existence is to know and love your Creator, it changes your life. You were made to know and love God. And this is what the Bible calls worship. You are made for God, you're made for friendship with your Creator. Relationship changes everything. This book, the Bible, was written as a relational book. It was written from God so that humanity could experience and encounter him for who he is. And worship, knowing him, loving him changes our lives. And when relationship with God is the true focus of our life, all the things that we do come into focus, and the things that we do for God, they don't feel like a weight. They feel like a privilege.

([14:56](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/T93ckMavpK0zffGx0CbHoJK-5-1nqGuXXs1rXrmHsQx855MvmrJEfofxEMJJ0aTN-omuqXun96I390FoOU2ZyXQoDRE?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=896.52)):

So this last week, speaking of relationship, we had a party at my house on Friday night for a couple of friends for their birthday. And this is the first big party that we've thrown, Stacey and I together. And I should give her credit, because it was pretty much her who put it together. And I want you to see this wonderful table decor that she put together. And she works multiple days, getting ready for the party, planning the menu. I mean, she's just phenomenal. She's truly got the gift of hospitality. And she says to me, " Okay, I'm not going to ask you to do a ton. You can work with me, help me out, but you got one assignment. You got one thing that you have to do." And I wonder if you can guess what it is? I'll show you a picture. This is it. The meat. "That's all you got to worry about is the meat."

([15:48](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/jmvShKTKWBiNwtZiXUw3XJrUkdVAcNN9mftdpglZHhzHPQOyVJBiQOHAEhhYkp_5_xi0w-JwiERpRd5_g2sc_7dDdi0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=948.3)):

So I went and I got some top sirloin caps. For those of you at our Buenos Aires campus, I know I never will be able to compare to you, but this piece of meat is wonderful. It's beautiful. So, I've got a smoker at home. I got a smoker about a year ago because there was a guy on staff who smokes meat. His name's Ramel, and he's unbelievable. And so I'm like, "Okay, well, I want to be like Ramel, so I'm going to get a smoker." A couple of times in the last year, I've actually smoked some meat. It's gone okay, but this time I'm committed to not fail. So, I call Ramel. I have a conversation with him, I ask him all the information, and I text him about 40 more times throughout the course of the day. So I got my phone, I got my smoker, I've got my temperature inside the meat. And friends, I felt like I was babysitting these three pieces of meat all day long. It's every few minutes I'm checking the temperature, changing it. I could not leave the smoker. I mean, I was there all day long. But as I'm there, I'm delighted and I have a smile in my soul, because my heart is filled with joy. Because I know at the end of this, I am making this meet for my two buddies that are both celebrating their birthday.

([17:03](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/-we_VQlMd9_NV3fXl5cK_nBqju0LkGmBorbQYLXPwXNQ_0gu7PjGHERjeGK_s-54eCgQCcw1aLhVrIvWn4hKj1G_swc?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1023.93)):

And relationship, it changes everything, like the joy that comes when you're doing something. It's for somebody you love. It changes, it shifts your perspective. And what Jesus is saying is if you live your life at the core of who you are, to know and love God, it gives meaning to your days. It changes everything. And some of you, you're living your life disconnected from God. You're trying so hard to fill that part of your soul with so many other things. You put career in there, you put relationship in there, you put money in there, and you're still empty. The only thing that will truly satisfy you is God. And when you discover your purpose, to know God, Jesus came to make a way so that you and I can have that relationship with God. Because of the cross of Jesus and the empty tomb, we can know our Creator. And this is the beautiful message of the gospel that Jesus taught and Matthew wrote. You were made for worship. You were made to know God.

([18:06](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/mZDfmjuOH4FY_KCS1RQYq4PPgofRGtbwhYKxJ_agw1LW8s3ummgxwUbJkJft2LBQuJ1CEkNEB5hjKL6LDfjmdIzE9I4?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1086.12)):

The other thing that Jesus says in the Second Commandment is that you were made to serve others. And this is what the Bible calls ministry. So God has a ministry for you. Jesus said the Second Commandment is to love your neighbor as you love yourself. And it's not really hard to think about ourselves. We live in a way that our mind constantly is about our next meal, and what am I going to do to take care of my day? All the things that I have to do to take care of me. And what Jesus does is he flips that on its head and he says, "What if you lived to serve others? What if you live to bless others?" And when we live this way, there's more joy and there's more peace in our hearts. And I'll say it like this. The happiest member of my family is the one who loves people the most. Undoubtedly, the happiest member in our household is the one who cares most about people.

([19:01](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/G4k0HXsqXFjLhno-_wJ-29jgJdwg-N-21ZCOb_ETnhzU99dRiyN51XuQVeDTNIWl2SLIEQ1fsjBDUPb7ql0L3-vvZZg?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1141.23)):

And I want you to see a picture of that family member right here. She is happy all the time, and she's always excited. She loves and she's filled with that joy. And this would be a great opportunity for me to knock and make fun of cats, but I'm not going to do it. I just promised myself I'm not going to do it, because we have wonderful people here at Saddleback that love cats. And I still don't understand, but I'm not going to do it. Okay? But I will just say cats are not as happy as dogs. That's all I'll say. That's it.

([19:31](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/Jxxs3hRUqNUInIElaRU-ZHnCPRE4UFUbxm1v5aiwPGe9E-XQ2FiuXtrTDocgClSl82DYAPrL_nlPaD-uXR8j0qeI4ys?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1171.8)):

So, you are made, though, to love other people and to care for other people. That's the Great Commandment. Love God, love people. And then he gives us at the end of the Book of Matthew, he gives us the Great Commission. So Matthew is going to give these sending words from Jesus. That is, Jesus is about to go back to heaven after the resurrection. These sending words are to clarify our reason for staying here on planet Earth. Jesus wanted the disciples to understand he's going back to heaven, but he's leaving them here and he has an assignment, he has a mission for them, and it's tucked within. There are three verbs tucked within the Great Commission I want us to see. It says, "Jesus came and told his disciples, 'I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.'" Now, why has Jesus been given all authority? Because he died on a cross and he rose again from the dead. And if you ever do that, you can have all authority in heaven and in earth. So he's got all authority. He's the king of the universe, and he's commissioning his disciples.

([20:31](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/KlSBlrARsXpW-rcgdn60mfDf4YCedFgc8iMhxX_HPh3h439wxw4qEXixTELg0qKNnmwReB7-S7fegeAmPd6VHRuTqsM?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1231.8)):

He says, "Therefore, because of my authority," Jesus says, "go and make disciples, make followers of all nations." Now, this is important because, remember, Matthew is a Jewish man writing primarily to a Jewish audience, and he's trying to lift their vision. He's trying to help them understand God's end game was never Israel. God's end game was the whole world. God was after people from every nation, every tribe, every tongue knowing him. And I'm so grateful that this was at the heart of the Great Commission, because unless you're Jewish, you wouldn't be here today if they didn't embody and embrace this message, take it to the whole world, take it to every nation. "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commandments I've given you. And be sure of this. I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

([21:29](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/QTnefIq19vLJ1QxFadqv52rl9TPYhKWbZe0BAWs_e6S6amZTinLt8uH-4YC9wEjaGI8X1JMJPqzQ4XKkA1TkAuil5Ss?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1289.22)):

This is the Great Commission. This is how the Gospel of Matthew finishes. And there are three verbs I want us to see. The first one is when he says, "Baptize them." And he's emphasizing the fact that we were made to belong for fellowship, that we were made to be a part of a spiritual family. So whenever a person is baptized, it represents, one, their old way of life going away. When they come up, it represents the new life that they have in Jesus. And it also represents the fact that they're coming into a spiritual family. There's something that is-

PART 1 OF 3 ENDS [00:11:04]

Andy Wood ([22:03](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/-cdez9rUMKoqoTEL_IeephFGbqjedIXUrVc1xNsujNx6zjaYPsVlhZ3jZtQhbMNmOMfuuoh71jiioev7FqLb6N-uNZk?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1323.87)):

... coming into a spiritual family. There's something that is shifting and changing. They're now a part of God's family. They're now a part of the church. And I love this, for our international campuses, you won't understand this illustration, but it's so worth me sharing because I'm sure you have a very similar one. But here in the United States of America, in Southern California, there has been a very big shift. And that is that Jim Harbaugh will now be the coach of the San Diego Chargers. And I never liked the Chargers before, but now I do. And this is true, some of you with your soccer team, your football team overseas, every team you cheer for, when somebody shifts that you like and now they're on the team, it changes everything. Well, that jersey literally is a shift. Everything changed for Jim Harbaugh and everything changed for the Chargers when he came.

([22:53](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/pGXBIXzTufldXJap9UmZN-5biI0m4jhj1PTr3QK5z9AxqZcBjc5wSt_TPEOzuN0myUhT543fILvlyEQXovtInDkd-o4?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1373.07)):

And when it comes to following Jesus, there is this invitation into a family that, that baptism is literally saying, "You are now in this new movement, in this new family." It's called the family of God. And the invitation is to live a life of fellowship, of doing life with other people who are part of God's family. Number four, he says, is to go and make disciples of all nations. And this is the invitation or the challenge to share God's good news. And we call this, or the Bible calls this, evangelism. The word good news also translated Gospel. The Gospel message is proclaimed. To proclaim the Gospel message is literally called evangelism. And so followers of Jesus, when we come into relationship with God, there's a purpose that God has for our life to share his good news with the people around us.

([23:48](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/GuAfXVhTuUmmku9a-FOGG8KOwjCbQOnt6SXBEU9Enc0Sebh6xjj28QyPXfmkJpO0Szd2YXsGItu292T3qEU5V4RgY6Y?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1428.33)):

And I'm so thankful that I had a student pastor when I was in middle school who said, "Andy, there are people at your school I'll never be able to impact. There are people on your wrestling team and football team that God put you at your high school for a purpose. There are people who are next to you on the left and right where your locker is and they are there on purpose from God and he has a mission for you to share his good news." I embodied that. I wholeheartedly embraced the reality that God had called me, given me a purpose to share his good news. The challenge is, over time, if you are a follower of Jesus, the natural drift for Jesus followers is when they come to faith in Jesus, they have a bunch of friends who don't know the love of God, but over time all of their friends are Christians.

([24:41](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/8rx4lHvGe7QVRI_6Eg2ux3DEdtyHzKCZR6tjZ5IjU4PnULVluMzFMIBUqIuULAf-z9sC5-hMGBVPk46RFq7yZ0QTZKk?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1481.01)):

You see this happen. And sometimes the challenge to love people who don't know the love of Jesus is this invitation to pull ourselves away from our comfort and pull ourselves away from a life that is insulated. Even personally, moving here, I think back on my journey and the easiest times for me to share God's good news was, one, when I was in high school and all my friends didn't know the love of Jesus, and then when we started two churches, because there was no church. It was like everybody around us, if you want a church, you got to meet a lot of people, and everybody in our apartment complex where we lived. We were meeting so many people who were exploring faith and didn't know the love of Jesus, and that's all we did all day long. It was a wonderful time.

([25:25](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/1HAlDOdZdg-X_lESZoqru09_4WlPrr79MJEPC0ZkhCqIqIM5_RqZof7SjNDoPGIxhT9qDJqCncZqs79gkLlyg2TNf38?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1525.44)):

And what happens sometimes, even as you get more integrated to the life of the church, sometimes that heart for people outside the church, it starts to diminish. But God's heart is always after his lost kids. God's heart is always for those who don't know him yet. And Jesus tells us at the end of his life, he says, "Go and make disciples of all nations." This is one of God's five eternal purposes for your life. And the number five, you were made to become like Jesus, which the Bible calls this discipleship. It's to grow. It's to change over the course of our lives. And Jesus says this, he says, "Teach these new disciples to obey all the things I've commanded you." So obedience is at the core of discipleship. These five eternal purposes from God, we can live out our entire lives and every day we can wake up thinking, how do I live these purposes out?

([26:19](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/te_kBUZgKDwNE6jmnxfhYo0KYDKCPpppCqnqpFBST4Fy8chjyDIQbP6-59oLOIYzV__qs_gXAVHjtZPvApLie2eMoe8?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1579.62)):

But a challenge often is that we get stuck. And if I were to guess, most of you would say, "Yeah, I want to live with more purpose. Yeah, I want to experience God's purposes in my life," but there's often an activation challenge. It's like when I went to get a new phone. I had this deep desire to get a new phone because I had, had the same phone, worked with the same company, been with the same company for years, and they just kept locking me into new contracts. Every time you want a new phone, "Two year contract, two year contract." I'm with the same company and the prices just keep going up. So I watched this little video that said, "We will only charge you $15 a month for your phone to be activated." So I decided I'm going to go with this company.

([27:09](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/PCndjVM4qtAsbqJUBcabwRq74RZvpF-TyCxk2T9YrJmJMISc0zhNj3bQE_D4Xm8xe-FUeF-h7g_pkjLnXRXHFWHF8I0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1629.48)):

They don't have a building anywhere. You just call them up. And so I called them up, I won't say their name, but they said yes to letting me be a customer, and they gave me an activation code. So I took that activation code for the four phones in our household and I was able to activate one of my phones, but not three of them. So I called and I got back on the phone with this company and after spending another hour on the phone, I got the second phone activated. But once I got the second phone activated, the first phone was deactivated. So now we had one phone. So then we got another set of codes, and then we started to try to activate the third phone, but then all the phones were deactivated, so we couldn't call anybody.

([27:53](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/5w8oR40FDdX2vEeVpv08VnmCLwj9qySJUamKxajezzLIfS43ZaMeoQE6betk-ok0a3co8lP_25ftrjfDZ3qO_Hr1wOU?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1673.73)):

So we called back and we got on the phone, and I am not kidding you, we spent over 40 hours trying to get our phones activated. My anger, the love of Jesus was not flowing from within me. It wasn't. I was not becoming more like Christ. It was the opposite of purpose. I was being de-purposed by this experience. And so at the end of it, I'm like, "I'm done with this company. I don't care if they're minty. I can't do it." So I went into another company, and I'm not kidding you, within 30 minutes I had signed a contract and I walked out with all of our phones activated. It was beautiful. It was beautiful. And it made me think, how often is this true in church? How often is it true in our journey spiritually that we want to get moving, but we try to take a step and it doesn't move, We try to live into God's purposes and we feel stuck?

([28:56](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/EcTcpRNrB8yECRJAPf2Qzpjdw-vf32Fpz0MI1NKoEHx7_-0gQ3zu1864g_S5C_MeTMsTvyUrcDotAntzhNZniE9wVI0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1736.88)):

And a part of the job of the church is to activate you and God's purposes for your life. That's why we're here. If we're not helping every person that encounters Saddleback to live into God's purposes for their life, then we're not doing what God's asked us to do. So what we're going to be doing in this next season is we're taking these five purposes and we're taking fresh activating language to say, "How do we move into God's purposes?" And I'm so thrilled. Our team has been working and praying and asking God to give us this fresh language for this generation. Not changing the purposes, but giving new language to help us move into it. So here are the five activating phrases with the five purposes from God.

([29:40](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/gPJAJG5XATPJcplh_GQncrGfHHTDg-RpqymG24JH4G7tIwM-yW80WbummZZFKcd9Kv8lJaOWm8nQpQPArnP9Ob0hlzY?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1780.5)):

The first one around worship, it's all about knowing God. God made us to know him. And we as a church, we want to help you know God. This is why spiritual disciplines are so important. This is why we're doing the Immerse Challenge. Because every time you open the Bible, you get to know God more and understanding this purpose through the language of getting moving in my journey to know God. Secondly is to find belonging. The church is a place that exists to help those who are disconnected from community to find a home, to find a tribe. It's called the body of Jesus, the hands and feet of the creator to bring love to pockets of the earth where people are disconnected. And I want you to consider this, all over the world this weekend, there will be tens of thousands of people who are spiritually orphaned and they come to church and they find a home.

([30:41](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/2XlZCdAd4Noxk0ZLAsg0TrRGUpK2ZhHIN3VVLo11G0lRI-SU7dfMzvkAfb-NA1iSdPVkNCnSLPcE9MffncbYSOBpSU8?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1841.28)):

They find a family that loves them. They find somebody that gets their name. They get a hug for the first time in months. This is the beauty of the body of Jesus. I love the local church. I'm so grateful for people in my life that would welcome me into a local church. I remember so vividly being in eighth grade, being made fun of, all these weird names that kids had for me, like crusty and chunky, and really bad stuff that kids would call me in middle school. My kids like to call me that now. And I remember on Wednesday night I would walk into this basement at the Presbyterian church that my dad had picked in the community and there was a student ministry where the student pastor and other volunteers knew my name and they put me in a small group with a group of guys. And these guys are still some of my good friends to this day.

([31:36](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/8_IJfYhp-VSnwrLv5UZ4RaWhCZ_NqOn7g0kfnfid_cAT7UKGcb8EnEVItIPvOE8JWelZaABjVv6_fE4B_SOl9j0sy78?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1896.21)):

The local church has changed my life and being planted in a church, when you find belonging, when you find a family of faith to do life with, it changes you. And there's so many moments where my kids, when we started a church, you had to drag them to everything. They didn't get a choice. It's like, "No babysitter for you. You're going." And I remember one time on a weekend, we had four services and kids are there all day, and somebody said, "Do you ever feel guilty for your kids being at church all day long?" And in a moment it's like, there's no guilt because I know my kids are growing up being planted in the church. And there was a moment about a decade later when my family and about three other families whose kids were always, anytime the building was open, anytime we were doing stuff, they're there.

([32:29](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/VIR2Ai0aMKwd-nZ0q9GRTvslreULGooyu8mwW48rzbw-55DnHUAG-7wgvn0jYCAzxp_VqNA6OTdU6xlfmMureWyN2Tk?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1949.64)):

And there was a moment about a decade later in these few families, and I looked up one day as I was leaving and I saw all of these kids serving, saw them using their gifts to serve as 13, 14, 15 year olds. And I thought, oh, I'm so glad that I got to be a part of planting my family in a local church. The church is a place of belonging where you find a tribe. The third activation phrase is to pursue growth. So the church is a place that helps you pursue who God...

PART 2 OF 3 ENDS [00:22:04]

Andy Wood ([33:03](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/EEG8ssWxO1ayfdOuNVadm2FHme3uK5-w4JcXJHSQN0l0nV916mhaQanLdGcuXOotvlTsAUaNH5-p9oYwKMaZXoUnDSE?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1983.42)):

Church is a place that helps you pursue who God created you to be, to become more and more like Jesus, to discover your design, and then to be formed and shaped into the image of Jesus. This is what the Bible calls discipleship. That as you pursue Him, you become more like Him. Romans 8:29 says, "For those God foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters." So God wants us to pursue growth. Number four is to make a difference. This is also what the Bible calls ministry, that there are gifts and talents that God has placed inside of you. We call this a shape. God gave you spiritual gifts, a heart, ability, passion. He's given you experiences, to be used to bless and to serve the world around you.

([33:52](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/UOAn6KiTq3C4q0nFXIo6QR8-tHuysnnQrpUjJ4fT2ibtsJyuLTLi6k2EXF4C1wDrmTYvNGYcvtAQlbV8iih-4Fg9tFI?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2032.8)):

Finally, when it comes to evangelism, the phrase that we're rolling out is to change the world. Saddleback has always been a place that's had a dream to impact and change the world. God wants you to know Him. God wants you to find belonging. God wants you to pursue growth. God wants you to make a difference, and God wants to use our lives together to change and impact the world.

([34:19](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/aHFvG46CA5CfXB0keakSi4lFofSC0ojB8ROxv7xdjXcS66nHqieHzIn3sVu1ni4mFUvXoj89VMretko2sVhB7VrcEpA?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2059.14)):

Now, the question is, how do I get activated in that? How do I move into God's eternal purposes for my life? So much of it comes from within. It's a desire that the Holy Spirit puts inside of you to want your life to count, to want to move forward. I had a moment a couple of weeks ago. I was on the patio at the Lake Forest Campus, and a guy walks up. He's got seven of these Immerse Bibles. He's walking like this out of the service, and I think partly he felt guilty. So he told me his story. But I walked up and his name's Bruce, and he says to me, he says, "Hey, I almost didn't do this challenge. I was on a journey myself wrestling through how does God want to use my life? And I had the thought, 'I'm a mortgage broker. I have over 100 friends.' And that's a lot of friends. I thought maybe God wants to use me to invite people to read the Bible."

([35:17](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/e-s8SPpSPzREJo2aNj-pFUutL852s17h2s4R50Yftj11-snDHdIPE4zcy8rc7jvygfiLV-RY3-junXqKrTBUOfHxSns?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2117.55)):

So he started a test and he invited three of his friends that are not followers of Jesus. They all said yes. He's like, "Wow, okay. Maybe God's saying something to me." So he starts going through his list. Finally, he gets to 27, and he's like, "God, I'm at my capacity. I can't do anymore." But now he's keeping up with, he's praying for, he's investing in 27 people who are doing the Immerse Challenge together. I want you to see a picture of Bruce here and just the joy and all the Immerse Bibles under his arm there. This whole weekend is really designed for us. Even as we're talking about Matthew's book, we're talking about how do I move into God's purposes for my life.

([36:04](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/-N6lG-LOShRGuMx3xdjj8p0yJRfJiPdexLK3X-yAsqg13FnmaIrkERmtdyIMwlJPmqgzG6JcnXLUmnf-35O3tkpc4Jc?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2164.41)):

Now, I'm so excited about rolling out how we're going to take some good steps in this next season. Many of you, if you've been here for a while, you're familiar with how we've done classes, class 101, 201, 301, 401, which have all been designed to help us live into God's purposes. We started asking the question as we noticed attendance was down on those and we're saying, "Okay, how do we bring it into where we are now as a church with fresh language and do it in a way that helps more people take their steps?" And so we said, "Okay, the vision is really about activating people into God's purposes."

([36:42](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/QrLFBtmxD_W5ALMdNmSYAN0cIXytMKIkG9ETrVzXaop7um_VQoNnRq7NXc-OU1Yffdupv9FKVLInOdJLPcR1t5thDaU?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2202.9)):

So we decided, "Okay, we're going to relaunch, and now we're going to call it Activate." And what we're going to do when we launch Activate is we're going to take the eternal purposes of God and we're going to break it down and we're going to say, "Okay, Step 1 is finding belonging. That desire for fellowship. Step 2 is pursuing growth. Step 3 is making a difference. Step 4 ultimately is changing the world." And all throughout the course of this year, we're going to be rolling these out one at a time all throughout the year.

([37:13](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/MiqE2SBsn4tI_Tt00qeYrymyR9Muk6XuxgfODFTioV3tSwTUF69URf7wxVfd7nIMlMcXoE_M2pHeh5eLV8lW6nQrFJ8?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2233.05)):

Now, these Activate experiences will not be classes that not are four hours long. There'll be two-hour experiences. So there'll be some teaching and conversation, teaching, conversation, dialogue, getting to know people, building friendships, finding your place to get connected. I am so thrilled that we're going to be launching it. There's going to be free food. There's going to be childcare. You could even drop your kid off and go on a date and not even come, but that would be bad and you'd be sinning. So we won't do that. But there'll be childcare, free food, and it's going to be incredible.

([37:52](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/QW8NR3I-DrezC0VtF1P5joPV0f4DXcmUzmOIKqD8DJnc1j8tJKv7v-BN-Q4c_xC3eakbvW3ja4_2FYuS5VuMglSZiKU?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2272.95)):

I am so, so thrilled and anticipating what God is going to do as this rolls out, the lives that are going to be impacted, the number of people that are going to get activated, and God's purposes for their life. I'm so thrilled to say that in the month of March we'll be launching Step 1, coming up in just a couple of weeks. Here in the United States, it's going to be launching on March 17th, the week of March 17th, and then for our international campuses the following week. God's going to use it in a powerful way.

([38:23](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/fwSPaEyRlJXTaxdjH4YMHzUm4weoKg6AYGQZbMdtVXmChbO8NV_sWknfvqz3LobR4bjAxNpUQ3sNWr_cizVwcLukDNg?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2303.49)):

Now, I want to say, there are already 2000 people that have signed up for Step 1. Some of you, you're like, "Man, I haven't taken that step to sign up for Step 1." And today, you can take a step to RSVP for Step 1 at your local campus, coming up in just a couple of weeks. But the ask I have for you, in addition to coming to Step 1, is, I want you to consider, when Step 1 launches, there's going to be a group of about 1,000 people from Saddleback that are going to be a part of that launch team that literally, for decades to come, will look back and say, "I was a part of launching Activate at Saddleback to move us into the next era." And God's places gifts inside of you, talents inside of you. There's going to be a group of people that are trained, equipped to be a part of that thousand once-in-a-lifetime beginning moment to get this Activate off the ground. I want to ask you to be a part of that team.

([39:26](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/fsF3j1KJ9vb57ESXNi76SNb4IcQRswv7ejv5-foU7k0QCiApJVEdCvnNpf_kBwcUD1zne9ZuISi7LbhmUTG5IjpigD8?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2366.43)):

Now, somebody said to me, "You shouldn't do this on the weekend because it's going to be chaos and too many people are going to respond." And we love holy chaos around here. So I want to invite you to be a part of that training here in the United States. It's going to be one massive training at the Lake Forest Campus. The international campuses, your campus pastor will tell you how to be a part of it. I'm anticipating that it's going to be packed out and we might run out of space, but it's going to be a whole lot of fun. That group of people is going to get the Activate Step 1 before the rest of the church gets it. Then they're going to be trained and equipped to be table hosts and greeters and be a part of that tribe of people that launches Activate. I'd love for you to be a part of it.

([40:13](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/cLEjo5gbhcZmBbtkWdT_pUk3iliiaklAhts54oJcsFpyMOUiI8sDLe72DzI4TQ7XLzqhRyZtMUAQqFY_I-Zzhy18lVw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2413.17)):

So here's how you can be a part of it. If you'll go ahead and pull out your phone for just a moment, and as you're pulling out your phone, don't text your neighbor. Don't send weird pictures. Just pull out your phone, take out your camera app, scan the QR code that's going to come on the screen here. When you go there, on the program, you'll see the digital program. You can also do this through your app. So as you go there, if you click on the check-in button, when you click on the check-in button, there's two things that you can RSVP for.

([40:45](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/zsCYhKMKghQKUZtN5tLOJxuEKPGN-o4oxskU4Fn2iz7fe6iETy3E2KsyoNtAUjJFsANz2_kzPpc4Ook7nL7ZkeN1_5c?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2445)):

One, you can say, "I want to be a part of Step 1. I want to go to Step 1." Or two, "I want to be a part of the launch team for Step 1." The wonderful first ever launch team for Step 1 of Activate. So you can be a part of that. The training for that will be coming up here in the States. It'll be coming up one week from now on Sunday, March 3rd, at the Lake Forest Campus, with all of our stateside campuses joining together and then the international campuses the following week. So you can sign up for that right now and be a part.

([41:18](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/7X7E1I-Ww_0sA-A8m92EmkBWtyCxyaXeEH5IFdpYxv43RA4sOA-KzKkebVeQ7rA9wq6utm3Jz3TlqqBi1OZpJi5tZuo?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2478.36)):

But before we conclude, I want to say one more thing, and this is coming to the heart because there are some of you that are listening to me today, and you're not confident of your relationship with God. You don't know for certain that you've discovered or have stepped into that most important purpose that all of these other four purposes flow from and that you knowing your creator, and today can be the day that you seal the deal between you and God and you begin a relationship with Him. It's really by faith in Jesus, who died on a cross and rose again from the dead, and opening your life to Him, that you can begin a relationship with God. Some of you, you've been sensing that stirring, even some for a period of time, when you haven't stepped across that line of faith. I just want to say, "Why wait? Why wait to live into the purpose that God made you for? Why wait for another decade? Why chase all these other things and have all these problems in your life when the truth is in front of you right now?"

([42:23](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/JIWT7DXkOxfuvBjLQ_fVSILkKj_99FYAX7EtcgUd1iK37TpkbFLyjXyZFWsy2u7WGQu0mY62PP5VoTIirW_wMHQByn0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2543.13)):

I want to encourage you to open your heart today to the one who loves you, who gave His life on a cross for you, who conquered the grave. So with everybody locking eyes with me right now, I want to encourage you to receive the greatest gift you could ever receive, the gift of salvation, the gift of relationship with God, in this moment, right now. With every eye closed and every head bowed, if that's you right now, I want to invite you just to say to God, "God, I need You. I need you. I've been trying on my own to find meaning and significance, but I recognize that You are the one who brings salvation. I want to surrender my life to You today. Please forgive me for my past. My whole life belongs to You. Father, we thank You for every person that just prayed that prayer. In Jesus' name, amen. Amen."

PART 3 OF 3 ENDS [00:33:04]