

FROM *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLING AUTHOR

RICK WARREN



THE PURPOSE
DRIVEN LIFE

SELECTED THOUGHTS
& SCRIPTURES *for the*
GRADUATE
updated edition

 ZONDERVAN
BOOKS

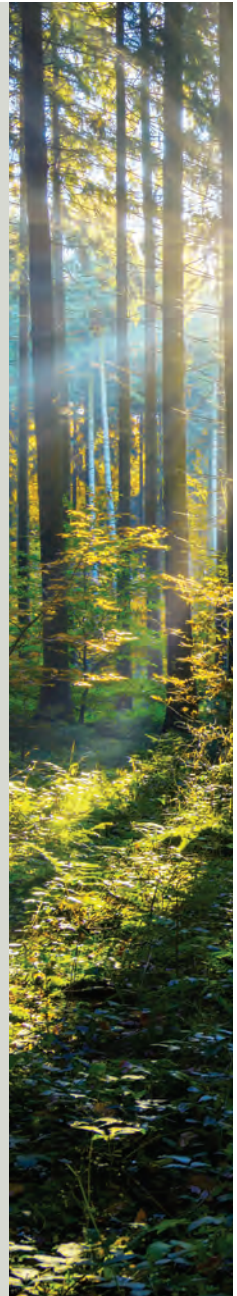
Dear Graduate,

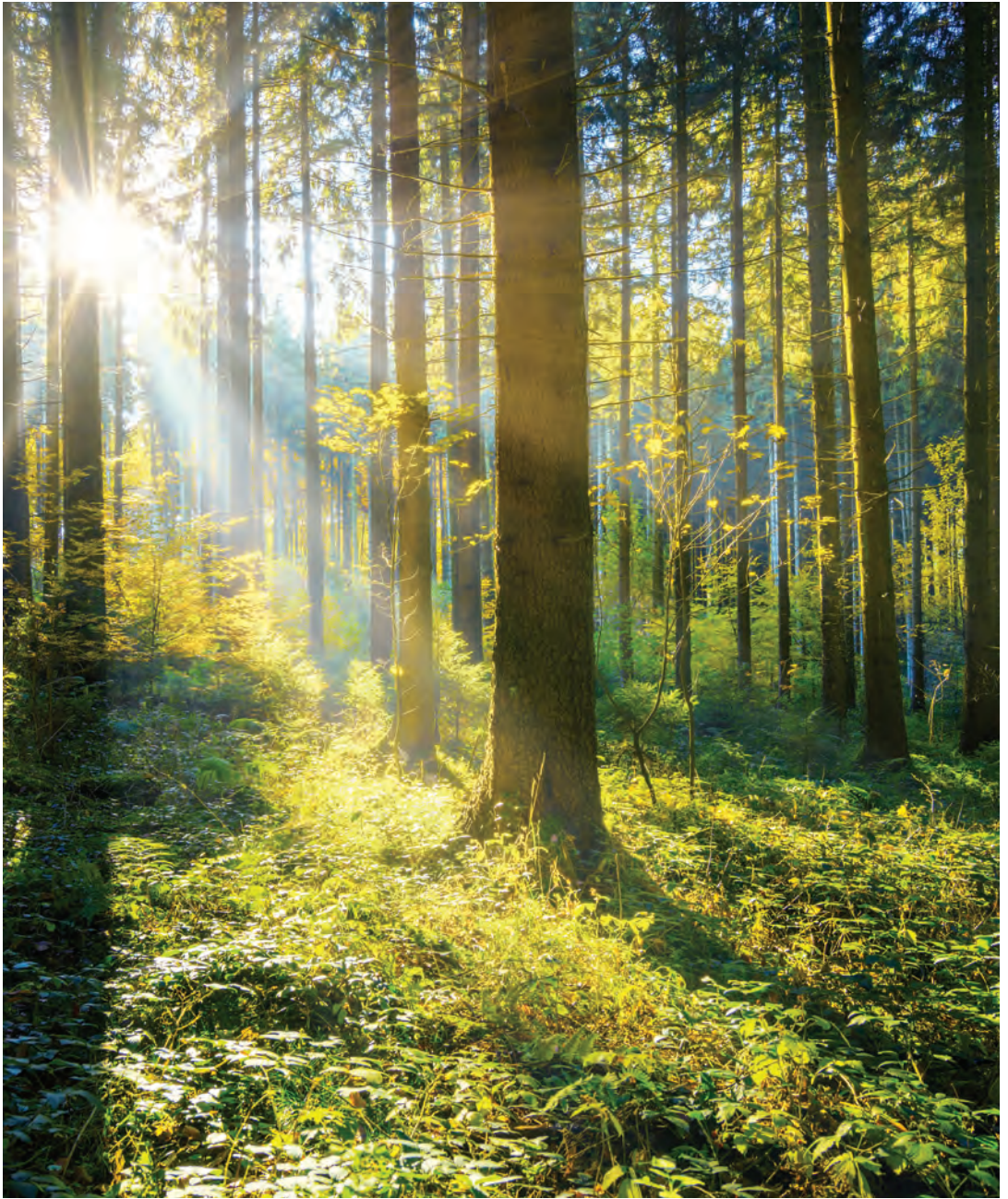
Congratulations! You made it. The papers are finished, the tests have been taken, and you are now a graduate. You're closing the chapter on one part of your life and beginning to write a new one. You're excited and hopeful, scared and unsure, all at the same time. Perhaps you're asking, "Where do I go from here? What is my purpose in life?"

In this book, made especially for you, you'll discover that no matter who you are or where you live, God has five special purposes for your life. As you seek to fulfill them, everything else will fall into place.

God has great and wonderful plans for you. So, sit back, relax, and let him speak to your soul as you read. May God open your eyes so that you can see your unique purpose in this life.

Rick Warren





WHAT ON EARTH AM I HERE FOR?

“Why do I exist?”

“Why am I here?”

“What is my purpose?”

These are the most fundamental questions you can ask in life. Have you ever asked these questions, wondering where to turn for the answer?

Contrary to what many popular books, movies, and seminars tell you, you won't discover your life's meaning by looking within yourself. You didn't create yourself, so there is no way you can tell yourself what you were created for! You must begin with God, your Creator.

*It is God who directs the lives of his creatures;
everyone's life is in his power.*

JOB 12:10 GNT

**IT IS ONLY IN GOD THAT WE DISCOVER OUR
ORIGIN, OUR IDENTITY, OUR MEANING, OUR
PURPOSE, OUR SIGNIFICANCE, AND OUR DESTINY.**

*You know me inside and out,
you know every bone in my body;
You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit,
how I was sculpted from nothing into something.*

PSALM 139:15 *The Message*

IT ALL STARTS WITH GOD

The exciting truth is that God has never created anything without a purpose. Colossians 1:16 says: “*For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, . . . everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him*” (The Message).

The very fact that you’re alive means God has a purpose for your life!

And you weren’t created for just one purpose. You were created for five special reasons that are explained in God’s Word. As you start this new chapter in your life, may you come to understand God’s wonderful plan for you and find answers to life’s most important questions.

It’s in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.

EPHESIANS 1:11–12 *The Message*

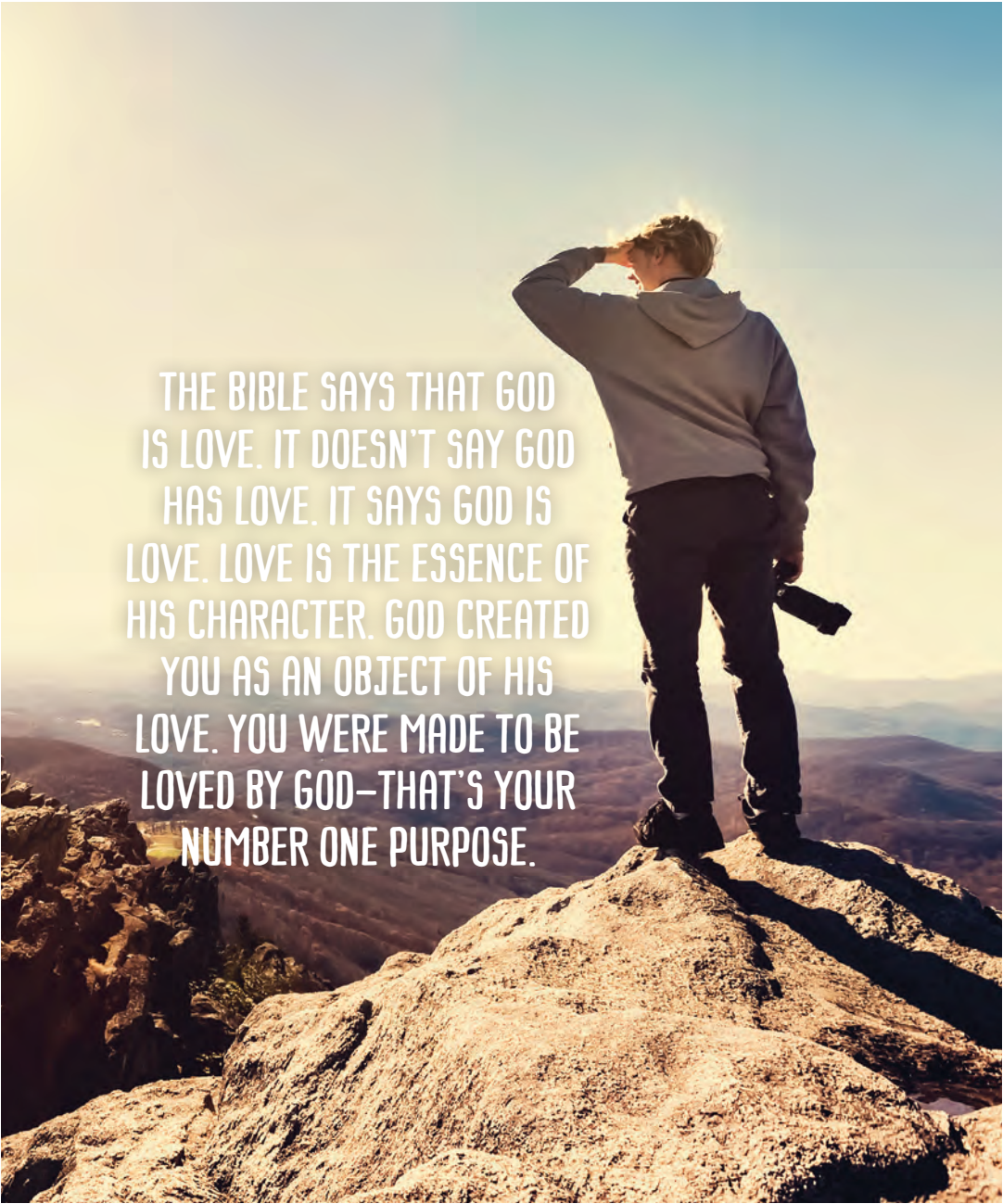




YOU WERE PLANNED FOR GOD'S PLEASURE!

*You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory
and honor and power. For you created all things.*

REVELATION 4:11 NLT



THE BIBLE SAYS THAT GOD IS LOVE. IT DOESN'T SAY GOD HAS LOVE. IT SAYS GOD IS LOVE. LOVE IS THE ESSENCE OF HIS CHARACTER. GOD CREATED YOU AS AN OBJECT OF HIS LOVE. YOU WERE MADE TO BE LOVED BY GOD—THAT'S YOUR NUMBER ONE PURPOSE.

Long before he laid down earth's foundations, [God] had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love.

EPHESIANS 1:4 The Message

Because of his love God had already decided that through Jesus Christ he would make us his children— this was his pleasure and purpose.

EPHESIANS 1:4-5 GNT

We know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

1 JOHN 4:16 NIV

The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what he does for us.

ROMANS 12:3 The Message

No mere man has ever seen, heard, or even imagined what wonderful things God has ready for those who love the Lord.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:9 TLB

The LORD be exalted, who delights in the well-being of his servant.

PSALM 35:27 NIV

*As a father has compassion on his children, so the
LORD has compassion on those who fear him.*

PSALM 103:13 NIV

**GOD DIDN'T NEED TO LOVE YOU. HE WASN'T LONELY.
HE DIDN'T NEED SERVANTS. HE WASN'T BORED. GOD
CREATED HUMANS BECAUSE HE WANTED TO LOVE
US. WE WERE PLANNED FOR HIS PLEASURE.**

The LORD takes pleasure in His people.

PSALM 149:4 NASB

*Smile on me, your servant;
teach me the right way to live.*

PSALM 119:135 The Message

*The LORD directs the steps of the godly.
He delights in every detail of their lives.*

PSALM 37:23 NLT

*God's wisdom is something mysterious that goes deep into the
interior of his purposes. You don't find it lying around on the
surface. It's not the latest message, but more like the oldest—
what God determined as the way to bring out his best in us,
long before we ever arrived on the scene.*

1 CORINTHIANS 2:7 The Message

May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD rejoice in his works.

PSALM 104:31 NIV

*[God] takes pleasure in those
who honor him; in those who
trust in his constant love.*

PSALM 147:11 GNT

*[The LORD] brought me out into a spacious place;
he rescued me because he delighted in me.*

PSALM 18:19 NIV

*The steps of a man are established by the LORD,
when he delights in his way.*

PSALM 37:23 ESV



*God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.*

GENESIS 1:27 NIV

*The God who made the world and everything in it
is the Lord of heaven and earth. . . . And he is not
served by human hands, as if he needed anything.
Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath
and everything else. From one man he made all the
nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and
he marked out their appointed times in history and
the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that
they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him
and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.*

ACTS 17:24–27 NIV

*I am your Creator. You were in my care
even before you were born.*

ISAIAH 44:2 CEV

**GOD MADE US IN HIS IMAGE. THAT MEANS WE ARE
UNLIKE ANYTHING ELSE IN ALL OF CREATION. WE ALONE
WERE GIVEN THE CAPACITY TO KNOW GOD AND TO LOVE
HIM AND TO HAVE HIM KNOW AND LOVE US IN RETURN.**

MADE TO LAST FOREVER

Right now, you're probably thinking only about your immediate future—college, your career, or maybe even marriage. And while those things are important, there is also another life waiting for you after this one. God designed you, in his image, to live for eternity.

This world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.

1 JOHN 2:17 NLT

When this tent we live in—our body here on earth—is torn down, God will have a house in heaven for us to live in, a home he himself has made, which will last forever.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:1 GNT

I am here on earth for just a little while.

PSALM 119:19 GNT

This world is not our home; we are looking forward to our everlasting home in heaven.

HEBREWS 13:14 TLB

There are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ. . . . they think only about this life here on earth. But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives.

PHILIPPIANS 3:18–20 NLT

We fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:18 NIV

Every moment we spend in these earthly bodies is time spent away from our eternal home in heaven with Jesus.

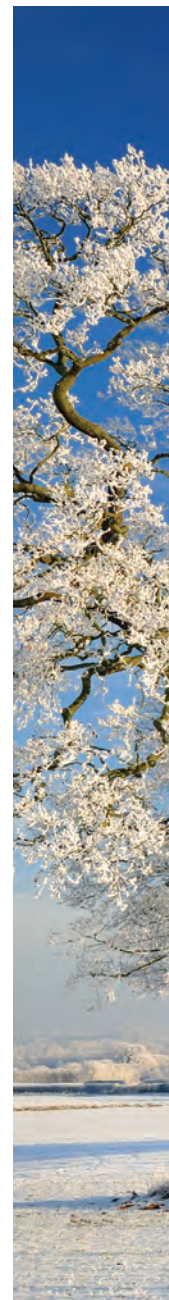
2 CORINTHIANS 5:6 TLB


Friends, this world is not your home, so don't make yourselves cozy in it. Don't indulge your ego at the expense of your soul.

1 PETER 2:11 The Message

All these [heroes of the faith] died in faith. They did not get the things that God promised his people, but they saw them coming far in the future and were glad. They said they were like visitors and strangers on earth. . . . They were waiting for a better country—a heavenly country. So God is not ashamed to be called their God, because he has prepared a city for them.

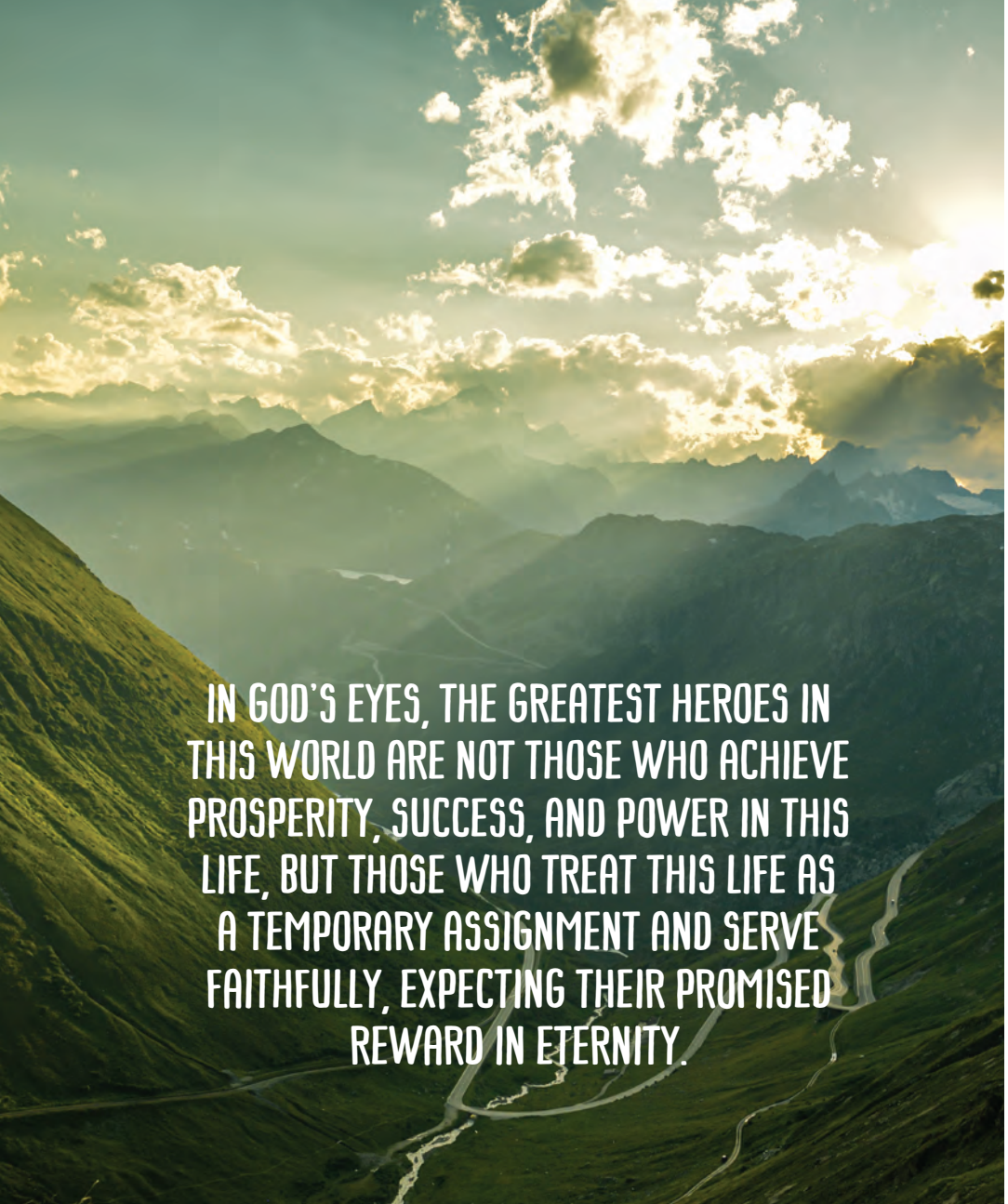
HEBREWS 11:13, 16 NCV



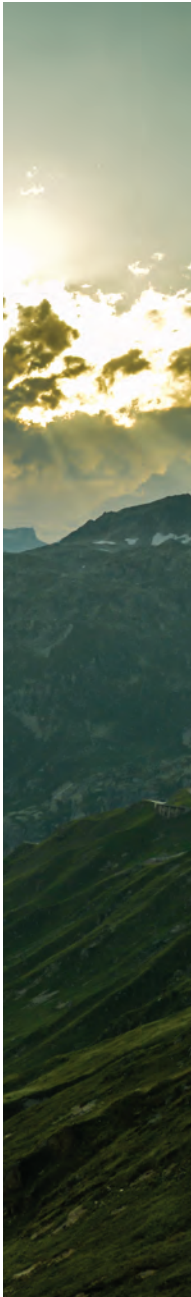


*The things we see now are here today,
gone tomorrow. But the things we can't
see now will last forever.*

2 CORINTHIANS 4:18 *The Message*



IN GOD'S EYES, THE GREATEST HEROES IN THIS WORLD ARE NOT THOSE WHO ACHIEVE PROSPERITY, SUCCESS, AND POWER IN THIS LIFE, BUT THOSE WHO TREAT THIS LIFE AS A TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT AND SERVE FAITHFULLY, EXPECTING THEIR PROMISED REWARD IN ETERNITY.



*I have loved you with an everlasting love;
I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.*

JEREMIAH 31:3 NIV

*You saw me before I was born and scheduled
each day of my life before I began to breathe.
Every day was recorded in your book!*

PSALM 139:16 TLB

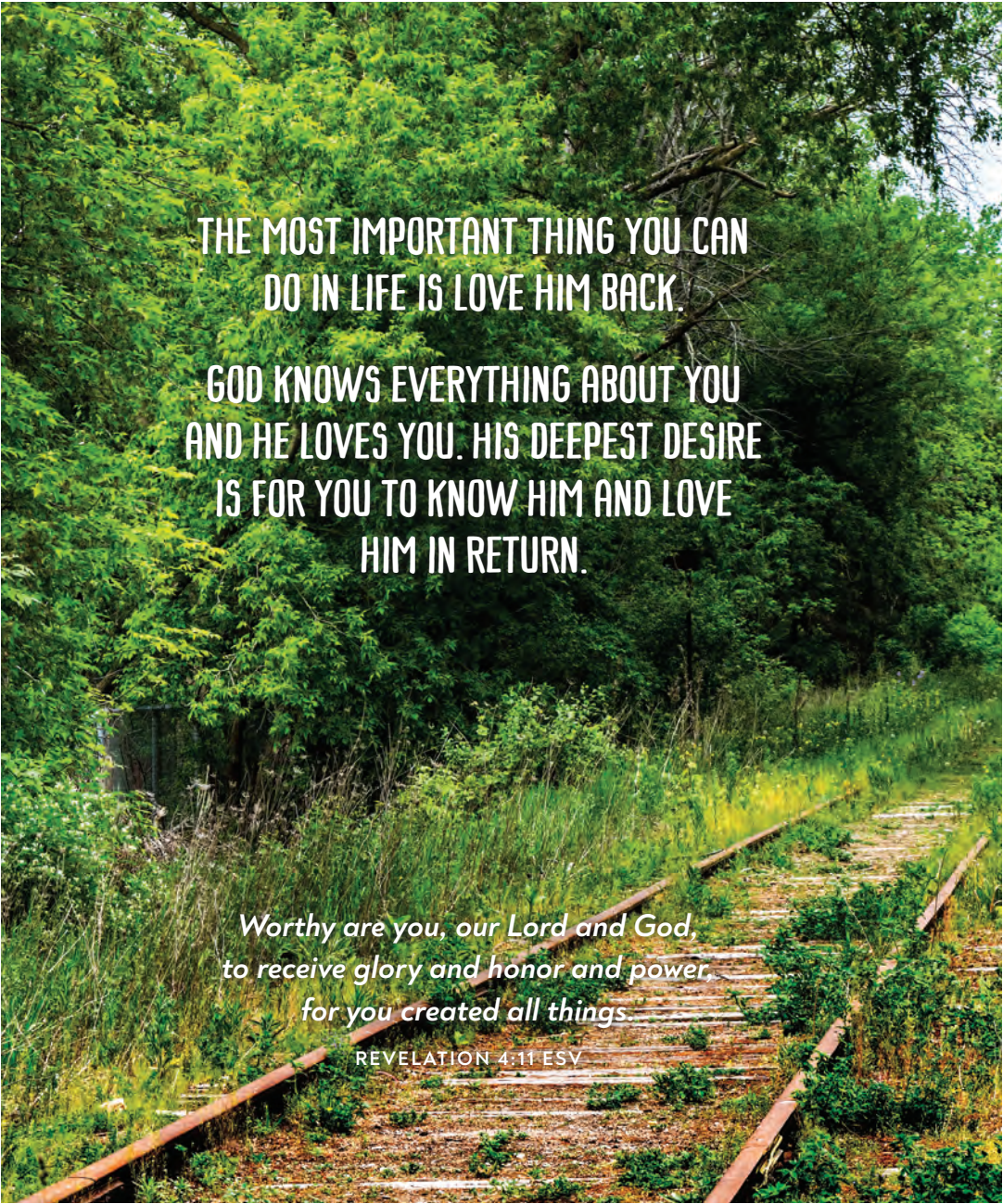
*God decided to give us life through the word
of truth so we might be the most important
of all the things he made.*

JAMES 1:18 NCV

*I have carried you since you were born;
I have taken care of you from your birth.
Even when you are old, I will be the same.
Even when your hair has turned gray, I will take
care of you. I made you and will take care of you.*

ISAIAH 46:3-4 NCV

**THE FIRST PURPOSE FOR YOUR LIFE IS TO KNOW
AND TO LOVE GOD BECAUSE THAT GIVES GOD PLEASURE.
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN
KNOW IN LIFE IS THAT GOD LOVES YOU.**



THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN
DO IN LIFE IS LOVE HIM BACK.

GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU
AND HE LOVES YOU. HIS DEEPEST DESIRE
IS FOR YOU TO KNOW HIM AND LOVE
HIM IN RETURN.

*Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things.*

REVELATION 4:11 ESV



Jesus replied, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.”

MATTHEW 22:37–38 NIV

The LORD is pleased with only those who worship him and trust his love.

PSALM 147:11 CEV

*I will thank the LORD at all times.
My mouth will always praise him.*

PSALM 34:1 GW

Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering.

ROMANS 12:1 The Message

I don't want your sacrifices—I want your love; I don't want your offerings—I want you to know me.

HOSEA 6:6 TLB

Figure out what will please Christ, and then do it.

EPHESIANS 5:10 The Message