

6 WAYS TO LIVE YOUR  
DIVINE PURPOSE

LEADER'S  
GUIDE

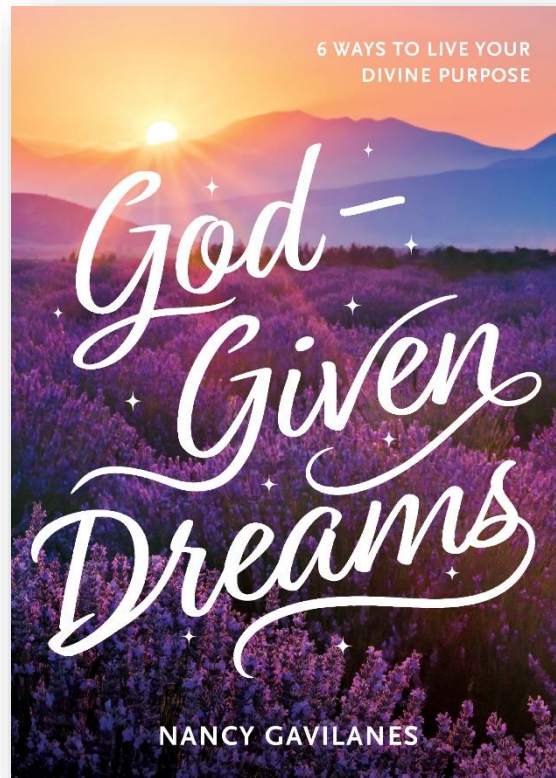


God -  
Given  
Dreams

NANCY GAVILANES

# God-Given Dreams

## Leader's Guide



NavPress is the publishing ministry of The Navigators, an international Christian organization and leader in personal spiritual development. NavPress is committed to helping people grow spiritually and enjoy lives of meaning and hope through personal and group resources that are biblically rooted, culturally relevant, and highly practical.

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# DEAR READER,

I wrote *God-Given Dreams: 6 Ways to Live Your Divine Purpose* for women who desire to have more courage, confidence, and clarity as they discover and dare to live God's call on their life. This book is designed to inspire and encourage and empower Christian women of diverse backgrounds as they live for Jesus and walk by abounding faith, hope, and love.

*God-Given Dreams* is for the woman who is struggling to find her purpose and battling with feelings of insecurity, doubt, or fear of being unqualified or unworthy. *God-Given Dreams* offers hope and encouragement through six transformative truths—that we are Created, Called, Chosen, Conformed, Clothed, and Commissioned—which will help women break free from the chains of doubt and fear. *God-Given Dreams* is filled with Scripture and includes reflection questions to help readers dig deeper, activity ideas to help readers take actionable steps, and prayer prompts to help readers connect with God.

I'm praying that women near and far are inspired by *God-Given Dreams*. My hope is that this book is not just read in solitude but that women read it together with others—their friends and family, small group members, or Women's Ministry members.

I've tried to make it as easy as possible so people with busy lives can find a way to gather around this message. This Leader's Guide is for any leader, even if it's your first time. There are helps for planning and getting started as well as questions for discussion and reflection.

If you'd like to learn more about me, visit [AboundingFaith.com](http://AboundingFaith.com) and connect with me on [Instagram](#), [X](#), or [Facebook](#). Search #GodGivenDreams on social media.

Thank you for your willingness to help empower women as they live their divine purpose, and thank you for your own work in advancing God's Kingdom in this generation.

Together, may we dare to live our God-given dreams!

**Nancy Gavilanes**

# OVERVIEW


God’s beloved, blessed, and beautiful daughters have a divine purpose, but many women seem to struggle to find their purpose and battle with feelings of insecurity, doubt, or fear of being unqualified or unworthy. Regardless of age, race, ethnicity, or background, many women seem to share a similar struggle of not having the courage, confidence, or clarity to pursue their God-given dreams. It’s as if they’re afraid or are waiting for permission to proceed. Many feel their dreams are only daydreams. Their goals seem unattainable or impossible for various reasons.

In *God-Given Dreams*, Nancy Gavilanes takes readers on a journey to discover, embrace, and celebrate who we are in Christ by using the Six Cs of Transformation—that we are Created, Called, Chosen, Conformed, Clothed, and Commissioned—which will help women break free from the chains of doubt and fear. This empowering book will help women uncover just how precious they are to their heavenly Father and will help them become the fabulous, fierce, and fruitful women God has called them to be.

*God-Given Dreams* has the following features built into the book, making it ideal for group use.

- Reflection questions to help you dig deeper
- Activity ideas to help you take actionable steps
- Prayer prompts to help you connect with God

*God-Given Dreams* is available at your favorite bookstore. Bulk discounts are available at [navpress.com](http://navpress.com). Free shipping on orders over \$50. Based on \$17.99 retail price. Email [csresponse@tyndale.com](mailto:csresponse@tyndale.com) for ministry and retail discounts.

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# PLANNING

# FORMAT

As you think about hosting/leading these discussions, here are a few tips to help you.

- **Start by praying about who to invite to your group.** Consider women who may be new to your church, women who are going through a career transition, and women of diverse backgrounds, nationalities, and races. How can you love your sisters in Christ through this group? You never know where women are at; many just want to be invited. Be brave and ask women of different ages and life stages to join you!
- **Decide on a regular place and time** for your gathering and how many chapters you'll discuss in each meeting. There are six chapters, so your group could choose to do one or more chapters per week, depending on how many weeks you'd like to meet for. You could also choose to do it "book-club style" and have everyone read the whole book before having a discussion. Decide what works best for you in your season of life and for those who are joining you.
- **Consider that, if needed, the group could meet over Zoom** or on another virtual platform, which could also give those in the group the opportunity to invite friends and family who may be living in different states or abroad to join the group.
- **Communicate the details** to your group. Include
  - Dates and times (start and end)
  - Location (or link if meeting virtually)
  - Expectations of commitment (how much time outside the group will be needed to prepare for each week?)
  - The facilitator(s)
- **Consider planning a fun gathering** so that people can get to know each other prior to your first session together.
- **It is helpful to have two facilitators**, whether you share duties equally or one person leads and the other serves as the backup in case the lead facilitator can't make it. Two facilitators also provide a sounding board for support and to troubleshoot issues that may arise.
- **Consider a post-group activity** to share reflections, memories, and updates after those in the group have done some of the suggested action steps. Group members can also share prayer requests and praise reports. Feel free to use the hashtag #GodGivenDreams if your group posts any photos online.

# TIMELINE

There are a variety of ways to structure your group experience. A book club could discuss the entire book in one night. Below are two options for more in-depth study.

## Seven Week-Week Format

DATE	PURPOSE	DETAILS
Eight Weeks Prior	Initial leaders' meeting	Choose dates, times, location; create online registration
Four Weeks Prior	Announce group	Encourage sign-ups
Two Weeks Prior	Order books (on their own or in bulk; the best bulk discounts are at <a href="http://navpress.com">navpress.com</a> )	
One Week Prior	Email group	Provide details of group
Launch Week One	Intro: Get to know you and the book	Hand out books (if buying in bulk) Play a short ice breaker (optional) Read from the Introduction
Week Two	Created	Discuss chapter 1
Week Three	Called	Discuss chapter 2
Week Four	Chosen	Discuss chapter 3
Week Five	Conformed	Discuss chapter 4
Week Six	Clothed	Discuss chapter 5
Week Seven	Commissioned—Final Night	Discuss chapter 6 What have you learned? How have you changed?

## Four-Week Format

DATE	PURPOSE	DETAILS
Eight Weeks Prior	Initial leaders' meeting	Choose dates, times, location; create online registration
Four Weeks Prior	Announce group	Encourage sign-ups
Two Weeks Prior	Order books	Arrange pickup spot or have group members buy on their own
One Week Prior	Email group	Provide details of group
Launch Week One	Introduction	Hand out books (if buying in bulk) Play a quick ice breaker (optional) Read from the Introduction
Week Two	Created, Called, and Chosen	Discuss chapters 1–3
Week Three	Conformed, Clothed, and Commissioned	Discuss chapters 4–6
Week Four	Final Night	What have you learned?



# PREPARATION

# STRUCTURE YOUR TIME

There are so many ways you could structure your time together. Here are a few ideas.

- Welcome and fellowship. You might share a meal or a snack.
- Allow an open-ended sharing time for people to discuss anything that stood out in that week's assigned reading.
- Introduce which of the Six Cs of Transformation you'll be discussing and select a section in the chapter that you'd like to share with the group. Perhaps read the Bible verse at the beginning of each chapter or the "Bible Beauty" for each chapter.
- Select a few "Reflection Questions" from the end of the chapter you are discussing. Then discuss! You can pick and choose questions based on your group's interest or time limit.
- Read the chapter's "Action Step" idea. Encourage participants to try it during the week and then share how it went at the following week's meeting.
- Read the "Prayer and Praise" section and spend a few moments in private reflection and prayer.
- Share any prayer requests. If your group is large, consider having prayer partners.
- Ask participants what, if anything, they would like to take from this material into their lives, communities, or churches.
- Close in prayer.

# MAKING AN IMPACT

Everyone has a story. Some women are more comfortable than others in sharing about their journey. Sharing hopes, dreams, worries, and fears will be very challenging and vulnerable for many. But healing can come when we're part of a loving, supportive, and trustworthy community.

You'll want to create a safe space for those who come, and you'll also want to keep the conversation moving forward. Inviting people into this challenging conversation is vital for a healthy and redemptive community, and oh—the hope that you can experience together!

Here are practices we recommend.

- **Make humility a non-negotiable and avoid judging others** (while missing the plank in our own eyes!). Remember that not everyone will be coming from the same background or share the same assumptions or starting places. Each of us needs to ask God to search our heart as we consider what following Jesus looks like.
- **Make a group covenant.** It needs to be articulated clearly, but it doesn't need to be formal. Consider spending a few minutes at your first meeting discussing some guidelines for your time together, such as confidentiality in what is shared and being a safe space free of judgment.
- **Ask everyone to read the chapter(s) you will be discussing in advance.** When people come prepared, it's easier to stay on topic and make the most of your time together. (That said, sometimes life gets crazy and people will not have read in advance. Encourage them to still come!)
- **Make sure everyone knows to share the talking time** (no talking-dominators, please), and gently redirect someone who may be preventing others from participating in the conversation.
- **Keep the discussions on topic by moving through the questions.** Encourage those who may not have had a chance to talk by asking them what they think.
- **Remember to ask participants if they're trying the "Action Step" during the week.** Allow the content to move from your mind into your heart, hands, and feet. God's Kingdom impacts not only how we think but also how we live in the world together.

Living our God-given dreams includes much prayer, patience, and persistence. We're all called to love and serve and worship God. But God also has unique calls and good works for each of us to do to help make an impact in our own families, communities, or among our circles of influence. We're blessed to be a blessing. Instead of feeling jealous or intimidated by each other's gifts and talents, participants can be there to encourage and pray for one another as they discover God's unique call on their life and experience breakthroughs. As God's beloved, blessed, and beautiful daughters, we're all valuable members of the same body of Christ and are precious in God's sight.

# KEY SCRIPTURE

These passages are at the start of each chapter and may be helpful to share with the group or to encourage group members in follow-up emails or texts. These Bible verses help us remember God's divine purpose for us and also encourage us as we walk by abounding faith, hope, and love and dare to live our God-given dreams.

Chapter 1: Created by Almighty God—Psalm 139:13-16

Chapter 2: Called to Honor God—Ephesians 2:10

Chapter 3: Chosen to Bear Fruit—John 15:16

Chapter 4: Conformed to the Image of Christ—Romans 12:1-2

Chapter 5: Clothed with Purpose—Ephesians 6:13-17

Chapter 6: Commissioned to Shine and Soar—Matthew 28:18-20

## READER AND LEADER

**Together, may we walk by abounding faith, hope, and love and dare  
to live our God-given dreams.**

Nancy

**#GodGivenDreams**