

Week One: "Our Calling"

Day One: "Prisoner FOR God"

Read: Ephesians 4:1 *"As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received."*

Reflect: When has God placed you in an inconvenient situation and thus taught you something valuable?

Or, to put it another way, why have you been confined (by illness, distance, loss of electricity) and you received a surprise from God?

Dig: When and why was Paul in prison when he wrote this letter? (see Acts 28:16-30)

Why might Paul use the phrase "for the Lord" when describing himself?

What good came out of Paul's confinement?

Apply: Ask God to change your attitude about some limitation so that you give it to him to use this situation to bring good in your life.

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Day Two: "Live in a Worthy Manner"

Read: Ephesians 4:1 *"As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received."*

Reflect: How integrated is your Christian life, that is, how much are your talk and your walk consistent? Where are you most inconsistent?

Dig: The Greek word translated "live a life" is actually the word "walk."

How do we sometimes use the word "walk" to describe day to day living?

How does James 2:14-17 help you understand the concept of walking?

The New Living Translation uses the phrase "lead a life" instead of "live a life" (NIV). How does that concept of "leading" add another layer of insight into this verse?

How does Psalm 1 expand the concept of walking or living in a certain direction or trajectory?

Apply: Ask God for the power to "lead a life," not just go with the flow.

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Day Three: "A Worthwhile Life"

Read: Ephesians 4:1 *"As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received."*

Reflect: Who are you fearful of disappointing?

Dig: How is this worthiness described in verse 2?

How will Christ inspect what he expects and what words will he say over us at judgment day if we do live a life in a worthy manner? (see Matthew 25:19-21)

Look up a similar text (Romans 12:1-2); how is this "worthiness" or worthwhile living described here?

According to Ephesians 2:8-9, how is our worthiness first established?

How do grace and obedience go together in the scriptures?

Apply: How do you need to urge yourself to live today so that at the close of this day Christ can say "well-done, good and faithful servant?"

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Day Four: "Your Calling"

Read: Ephesians 4:1 *"As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received."*

Reflect: What is the difference between a calling (vocation) and a career?

Do you have a calling? What is it?

Dig: What hints do you have in the text that calling is something that discovers you rather than you discovering it?

How does Ephesians 2:10 help you understand that God has not only a calling on your life but a plan for you to accomplish specific goals?

How does Ephesians 1:1 define Paul's calling and the Ephesians' calling?

Apply: Ask God to help you pay attention to your calling today "to do good things that he planned for us long ago"?

Can you anticipate what some of those good things might be for today?

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Day Five: Memorize

Read: Ephesians 4:1 *"As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received."*

Read the verse ten times out loud.

Recite the verse out loud from memory.

Recite the verse, emphasizing each word or phrase as you recite the verse.

(e.g. As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received....then as you repeat the text again, emphasize the next significant word...this is a habit which helps you to meditate on each word of the text)

You are done for the day.