

Week 39: "A Heart for Lost People"

Day One: "Reaching Out"

Read: 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Reflect: How has the church changed its forms and habits so that it can reach this generation?

What still needs to be changed in order for us to be more effective?

Dig: According to verse 19, how does Paul describe himself in terms of how he relates to unbelievers?

What is his stated purpose?

Name the categories of people (or concerns) that Paul listed as people groups that he would want to reach:

Describe who those people groups might be for you in our present culture:

How does Romans 12:1-2 balance out Paul's wisdom in this 1 Corinthians 9 text?

What does Paul want to share in? (see verse 23)

Apply: What should change in your lifestyle in order that you might reach more people?

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Day Two: "Your Testimony"

Read: 1 Peter 3:15-16

Reflect: Do people ever ask you why you live and act the way you do? Why or why not?

Dig: According to verse 14, what are we to fear and what are we not to fear?

What are we supposed to be ready for?

What does Colossians 4:5-6 add to your understanding of how to give answers to enquirers?

What is the way that we are supposed to answer? (That is, what should our attitude be when we are talking to seekers?)

Apply: Take a moment to write out answers for the four divisions of a testimony:

1. What my life was like before I met Jesus

2. How I realized I needed Jesus
3. How I committed my life to Jesus
4. The difference Jesus has made in my life

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Day Three: "Your Testimony Includes Your Life Lessons"

Read: Psalm 119:33-40

Reflect: What saying or "proverb" did one of your parents quote that has stuck with you?

Dig: How does each verse begin in verses 33-36?

Where does the "fear" come from in verse 38?

Would that "fear" be more like terror or more like awe?

What will keeping God's laws (learning his lessons) keep you from? See verse 39.

Apply: Take a moment to write out answers to the questions posed in Purpose-Driven Life:

1. What has God taught me from failure?
2. What has God taught me from a lack of money?
3. What has God taught me from pain or sorrow or depression?
4. What has God taught me through waiting?
5. What has God taught me through illness?
6. What has God taught me through disappointment?
7. What have I learned from my family, my church, my relationships, my small group, and my critics?

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Day Four: "Your Testimony Includes the Good News"

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:11-15

Reflect: Do you feel compelled to tell others of Jesus and his love for them? Why or why not?

Dig: What are the motivations to tell others of Jesus' love that Paul mentions in these verses? See verses 11, 14 and 15.

What kind of living (see verse 15) do we want people to be released from?

What does verse 16 teach us about how we are to regard (see) people?

What is the title of this section in the Bible?

What does this word mean to you?

Apply: Answer these questions:

Is anyone going to be in heaven because of you?

Will anyone in heaven be able to say to you, "I want to thank you. I'm here because you cared enough to share the good news with me"?

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Day Five: "God Wants to Say Something to the World Through Me"

Using the "Lectio Divina" method of Bible study meditate on this scripture:

"Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you, but do it with gentleness and respect." 1 Peter 5:15b-16 (TEV)

Lectio divina (a Latin expression which means sacred reading) is done in three stages:

-- **reading:** you read the passage slowly and reverentially, allowing the words to sink into your consciousness; after you have memorized the text, write down one word which strikes you and draws your attention and note why you chose that word.

-- **meditation:** you allow the passage to stir up memories within you, so that you recognize in it your own experience or that of people who have touched your life; write down memories of events or conversations or other scripture passages.

-- **prayer:** you allow the meditation to lead you to prayer -- thanksgiving, humility and petition. Write out a prayer based on the passage.