

Week Five: “Seeing Life from God’s View”

Day One: “Lifeviews”

Read: Psalm 90 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 651)

Read: *Purpose- Driven Life* p. 41-42 up to “Life on earth is a test.”

Reflect: What metaphors have you used to see your life?

What metaphors (slogans, bumper stickers, etc.) come to your mind as you think about the metaphor our culture uses to understand life?

Dig: What is the main metaphor for life in this Psalm?

What does verse 12 teach you about a “heart of wisdom?”

How might that wisdom be related to verses 8-10?

According to verse 14, what do we need in order to find happiness in all life’s sorrows?

According to verse 17, what do we need so that our life’s work and service will last?

Apply: Use verse 17 as the basis for your morning prayer. Set before God your day’s activities (or tomorrow’s activities) and ask him for a lifeview of total dependence.

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Day Two: “Life on Earth is a Test”

Read: James 1:1-12 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 1441)

Read: *Purpose- Driven Life* section entitled Life on Earth is a Test (pp. 42-43)

Reflect: How has your character been tested?

Dig: What is the reason given for the joy commanded in verses 2-4?

What is the connection between perseverance and seeking wisdom from God?

Does God reward test-passing? See verse 12.

Apply: The author of *Purpose- Driven Life* states that in his own life he has noticed that “God tests my faith through problems, tests my hope by how I handle possessions, and tests my love through people.” How has this been evident in your life?

Week Five: “Seeing Life from God’s View”
Day Three: “Life on Earth is a Trust”

Read: Matthew 25:14-29 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 1113)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life* pp. 44-46

Reflect: How have you seen the principle, “if you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in bigger things,” put into practice in your life or the lives of others?

Dig: What is the main point of this parable?

How do we fit this teaching into the doctrine of the basis of our salvation (by grace alone)? Look up James 2:14-19 (p.1443) for a biblical answer.

How might this story fit with the next one (Matthew 25:31-46) and help you to understand what a “talent” is?

Apply: Considering our relative wealth, educational and other opportunities compared to the rest of the world, what commitment should you make to God today since he said, “From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked”? (Luke 12:48)

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Day Four: “Handling Money as a Trust”

Read: Luke 16:1-15 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 1181)

Read: Purpose- Driven Life –last three paragraphs of chapter 5, p. 46.

Reflect: How you spend your money is a true measure of your real priorities. Therefore, by that measure, what are your true priorities?

Dig: What is Jesus’ application of this parable? See verse 9.

What does verse 10 tell you about how we ought to train our children and our leaders? What tests should we give them?

What does verse 13 tell us about the place of money in our priorities?

Why might the word Money be capitalized in the Bible?

Apply: Since God says that there is a direct relationship between how I use my money and the quality of my spiritual life, how must my attitude be adjusted?

Week Five: “Seeing Life from God’s View”
Day Five: “Thinking About My Purpose”

Using the “Lectio Divina” method of Bible study, (see page 2 of this booklet), meditate on this scripture:

“Unless you are faithful in small matters, you won’t be faithful in large ones.” Luke 16:10a

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 of events of conversations or other scripture passages.
- **Prayer:** you allow the meditation to lead you to pray – thanksgiving, humility and petition. Write out a prayer based on the passage.