

**Week Six: “Life is a Temporary Assignment”**

**Day One: “Life is Brief”**

**Read:** Psalm 39 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 619)

**Read:** *Purpose- Driven Life* p. 47-48 top paragraph

**Reflect:** C.S. Lewis says that at least once a year we should walk silently through a graveyard. How might that help us understand the truth of today’s lesson?

**Dig:** What is the inner trouble of David (author of this Psalm) as expressed in verses 1-3?

Notice how carefully the Psalm is balanced. What verse is the very center of the Psalm? What does that truth teach you about your own life?

What does verse 9 teach you about the sovereignty of God even over our suffering and loss of wealth and possessions?

**Apply:** Imagine you are able to serve your own funeral and people were coming up to the pulpit to give testimony about your life. What do you hope they will say?

**Week Six: “Life is a Temporary Assignment”**  
**Day Two: “Meaningless Living”**

**Read:** Ecclesiastes 1 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 732)

**Read:** *Purpose- Driven Life* p. 48

**Reflect:** What subtle messages do we receive constantly that this is all there is? If you were going to die in the next few years and then there was nothing (no afterlife), how would you live your life?

**Dig:** The introduction prepared for the book of Ecclesiastes helps us to understand it. Read that introduction (p. 730) and then re-read chapter 1. How does this help you understand?

**Frustration is a major theme in Ecclesiastes. What is God’s role in this frustration? Look up Romans 8:18-25 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 1290.) Notice who subjects creation to frustration. What might the purpose be?**

**After this week’s study, could you state how “sin” is more like a state of being than specific acts that we commit (or fail to commit)?**

**And therefore why the Bible calls our change being “born again”?**

**Apply:** Make a list of the frustrations you are now experiencing in your life which would tempt you to see meaninglessness in your existence. Ask God to change your perspective on your frustrations so that they drive you to him instead of driving you to strive harder.

**Thank him for the freedom he gives by relationship to him.**

**Week Six: “Life is a Temporary Assignment”**  
**Day Three: “Living as Aliens”**

**Read:** 1 Peter 2:11-12 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 1452)

**Read:** *Purpose-Driven Life* – bottom of page 48 to middle of page 49

**Reflect:** How would you live if you were a resident alien in this country?

**Dig:** How does Peter begin his letter? What words does he use to describe his audience? See 1 Peter 1:1-2.

As “resident aliens,” how should we live?

According to 1 Peter 3:15-16, what is it that people ought to notice about our lives?

**Apply:** Conclude with a prayer asking God to help you live today in such a way that people are provoked to ask questions.

**Week Six: “Life is a Temporary Assignment”**  
**Day Four: “Defining Our Heroes”**

**Read:** Hebrews 11:13-16 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 1433)

**Read:** *Purpose-Driven Life* pp. 50-51

**Reflect:** Who are your heroes? What qualities cause you to choose them as role models?

**Dig:** According to Hebrews 11:6, how do we please God?

What are the two elements of faith – faith that pleases God?

According to the text of Hebrews 11:13-16, what was the focus of the people who are part of God’s Hall of Fame?

How do such heaven – focused people approach suffering?  
See Hebrews 11:32-39 for your answer.

**Apply:** On what temporary things or concerns do you place too much importance? Make a list of such things and concerns and ask God to help you value these rightly in light of eternity.

**Week Six: “Life is a Temporary Assignment”**

**Day Five: “This World is Not My Home”**

**Using the “Lectio Divina” method of**

**Bible study, (see page 2 of this booklet), meditate of this scripture:**

**“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”**

**2 Corinthians 4:18 (NIV)**

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

- **Reading :** you read the passage slowly and reverently, 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.