

Week Seven: “The Reason for Everything”
Day One: “God’s Glory”

Read: Romans 11:33-36 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 1294)

Read: *Purpose- Driven Life* pp. 53-55a

Reflect: If you were to teach a child the concept of the “glory of God,” how would you go about teaching this concept? Which definition and illustrations would you use?”

Dig: From the passage in Romans, what is it about God’s glory that is being described?

How is God’s glory defined in Romans 1:20 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 1279)

Read Psalm 19:1-6 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 602.) What does this tell you about God’s glory?

Since the sun is a metaphor for God’s glory, what do the two images of verse 5 tell you about God’s joy in his glory?

Apply: Since sin is defined as “loving anything else more than God,” how are you falling short of God’s glory?

Week Seven: “The Reason for Everything”
Day Two: “How Can I Bring Glory to God?”

Read: Matthew 13:44-46 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 1096)

Read: *Purpose- Driven Life* p. 55 – middle of p. 57

Reflect: Reflect on this phrase: “God is most glorified in me when I am most satisfied in him.”

Dig: If you were to preach a sermon on the two parables from Matthew 13:44-46, what would your main point be?

What do these two parables have to do with the section in *Purpose- Driven Life* on page 55 entitled “We bring God glory by worshipping him?”

What role does “joy” play in these parables?

What role does “joy” play in a purpose-driven life?

Apply: What change do you need in your life so that you enjoy God more completely? Speak to God about that in prayer right now.

Week Seven: “The Reason for Everything”
Day Three: “Becoming Like Christ”

Read: Colossians 1:9-14 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 1374)

Read: *Purpose- Driven Life* p. 56, paragraph entitled “We bring glory to God by becoming like Christ.”

Reflect: At what time in life is the power of peers strongest? Think of an instance when you conformed to the ideas or actions of others and it cost you something. How are you conforming to God’s will these days?

Dig: This passage begins with the words “for this reason.” What is the reason that Paul is referring to? Romans 12:1-2 is a parallel passage. What new light does it shed on the Colossians passage?

Study the “Colossians Cycle” on the bottom of page 1374. Determine if it faithfully follows the biblical text. Can you identify any point (of the four) at which you are blocking the process of growth?

Apply: One of the results of the “Colossians Cycle” is that we will have “great endurance” (vs.11). For what do you need this endurance? Conclude your study with a prayer asking specifically for endurance for the challenge you are facing.

Week Seven: “The Reason for Everything”
Day Four: “What Will You Live For?”

Read: 2 Peter 1: 3-4 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 1459)

Read: “What Will You Live For?”

Reflect: Have you ever totally committed your life to Jesus Christ?

Is it time to re-commit?

Dig: According to 2 Peter 1:3-4, upon what does our spiritual life depend?

Is faith here an orientation mainly to the past (gratitude) or mainly toward the future (promises)?

Compare that to your own orientation.

What are some of these “great and precious promises”? See verses 8, 10-11.

Apply: Ask God today to sustain you with his divine power for all you will face today.

**Week Seven: “The Reason for Everything”
Day Five: “Lectio Divina”**

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

“For everything comes from God alone. Everything lives by his power, and everything is for his glory.” Romans 11:36 (LB)

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.**