

WEEK THIRTY: “Shaped for Serving God”

DAY ONE: “Shaped by God”

Read: Job 10:8-12 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 561)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life*, pp.234 to top of 236

Reflect: You have been shaped by God. Think of all the ways that you have been shaped.

- List your physical characteristics:

- List your family background:

- Describe your ethnic makeup:

- Explain your dreams and passions:

Dig: According to this passage, how specific is God’s care over your shaping?

What is the image that Job uses in verse 9 to show how God shapes us? What does this image give you insight into with respect to God’s work in your life?

What does the passage from Jeremiah 18:1-6 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 850) help you understand how God works even when there is a “mistake” in our shaping?

What words does Job use in verse 12 to show us God’s tenderness as he shaped us?

Apply: Since nothing that happens in your life is insignificant, but is used by the master potter to shape you, what has happened recently that God is using to shape you in new ways? Ask God to open your eyes today to show you how he is shaping you.

WEEK THIRTY: “Shaped for Serving God”

DAY TWO: “Unwrapping your Spiritual Gifts”

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:1-7 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1318)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life* pp. 236 to middle of 237

Reflect: What special talent or spiritual gift do you have? What is the difference between a talent and a spiritual gift?

Dig: What is Paul’s concern as he begins this chapter? See verse 1.

What do you learn from the summary of this entire section? See chapter 14 verses 39-40.

What do you learn by the placement of chapter 13 right between two chapters (12 and 14) about the use of spiritual gifts?

What is the purpose of spiritual gifts? See verse 7.

How do spiritual gifts contribute to your shape for ministry in the whole body of Christ? See verses 14-20.

Apply: Ask God to give you more and more opportunity to operate in your spiritual gifts. Now go out today and determine to use your gifts.

WEEK THIRTY: “Shaped for Serving God”

DAY THREE: “Listening to Your Heart”

Read: Proverbs 4:23 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 697)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life*, bottom of p. 237 to p. 238

Reflect: List as many idioms (common expressions) as you can that use the word "heart" and think about how and why you use them. Examples: "take heart," "put your whole heart and soul into it," etc.

Dig: How does the context (Proverbs 4:1 and the verses immediately preceding and following 23) help you understand the meaning of verse 23?

What is necessary in order to have a good heart? See Psalm 37:4 (FIC, p. 616), for a biblical answer to this question.

Apply: Place your hand over your heart and pray a prayer that includes these three elements:

1. Thank God for giving you a new heart.
2. Ask God to cleanse your heart of selfish desires (name them).
3. Ask God to "create taste buds" on your heart to savor his goodness.

WEEK THIRTY: “Shaped for Serving God”

DAY FOUR: “Serving With Enthusiasm”

Read: 2 Timothy 1:3-7 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1404)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life*, bottom of p. 238 to p. 240

Reflect: Do you live the life of God with enthusiasm? Why or why not?

How hot is your passion for God right now? Why?

Dig: How did Timothy come to believe?

Is your faith “handed down” from previous generations or are you the first in your family to believe?

What is the significance of the little connector word “for” in the beginning of verse 6?

What was Timothy supposed to fan into flame?

What does this tell you about your own responsibility to guard your passion for God?

In this text, what is the connection between spiritual gifts and the passion of the heart?

Apply: Since passion drives perfection, what is it that you are both gifted at and passionate about that you can do for God?

Ask God for opportunities to use those gifts and that passion today and in the coming week.

WEEK THIRTY: “Shaped for Serving God”

DAY FIVE: “I Was Shaped for Serving God”

Using the “Lectio Divina” method of Bible study (see page 3 of this booklet), **meditate on this scripture:**

“God works through different men (people) in different ways, but it is the same God who achieves his purposes through them all.” 1 Corinthians 12:6 (Ph)

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.