

WEEK THIRTY-TWO: “Using What God Gave You”
DAY ONE: “God Deserves Your Best”

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1318)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life*, pp. 249 to bottom of 251

Reflect: Have you given your best to God? Give an example.

Dig: According to this text, who are we supposed to be working for if we are going to do our best?

What does this text advise us if we don't get recognition from others for our service?

Who is going to give us recognition?

According to this text, is it okay to be motivated to serve God based on his reward to us?

What might this “inheritance” be? See Matthew 25:21 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1114).

Apply: Part of what it means to find out what we are good at (and then do it with all our might) is to ask yourself this question: Where have I seen fruit in my life that other people confirmed? If you are doing this study in the company of others, it might be an interesting exercise to ask them right now about the fruit that they see in your life.

WEEK THIRTY-TWO: “Using What God Gave You”
DAY TWO: “Consider Your Heart, Personality and Experiences”

Read: Hebrews 12:4-13 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1436)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life*, bottom of p. 251 through middle of p. 252

Reflect: When have you been disciplined by God? What was the purpose of his discipline?

Dig: What is the connection between the concept of “knowing who you are in God” and the concept of discipline? See Hebrews 12:11-12.

How does the description of Jesus (verse 2) help us to understand the “grace” character of this discipline? (i.e. that it is a gift)

What is the main theme, in one word, of Hebrews 12:4-13?

Apply: How is God disciplining you at the present time? Do you know what he is teaching you?

Thank God that he treats you like a legitimate child.

WEEK THIRTY-TWO: “Using What God Gave You”
DAY THREE: “Accept and Enjoy Your Shape”

Read: 2 Corinthians 10:12-18 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1337)

Read: *Purpose- Driven Life*, p. 252, section entitled “Accept and Enjoy Your Shape”

Reflect: Do you often compare yourself to others? What gifts that others have do you wish you had?

Dig: What does the author warn against in this passage? See verse 12.

How does the author (Paul) measure himself and what does he boast in? See verses 13-14.
What evidence is there in the text that Paul wants others to come to know God through his gifts and effort?

What is Paul’s hope about their faith?

Who is Paul concerned to please?

Apply: Go back to the “reflect” questions at the top of this page and write a prayer of confession, asking God to deliver you from comparisons and to give you a heart to find satisfaction with the gifts and opportunities that he has given to you.

WEEK THIRTY-TWO: “Using What God Gave You”
DAY FOUR: “Keep Developing Your Shape”

Read: Matthew 25:14-30 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1113)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life*, middle of p. 254 to p. 256

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 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, 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 (compared to the rest of the world) wealth, educational, and other opportunities, 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)

WEEK THIRTY-TWO: **“Using What God Gave You”**

DAY FIVE: **“God Deserves My Best”**

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

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15

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.