

WEEK THIRTY-SIX: **“Made for Mission”**
DAY ONE: **“Made for Mission”**

Read: John 17:13-23 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1224)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life*, pp. 281-282

Reflect: If you were asked to write a life mission statement, what key elements would it contain?

Dig: To whom was Jesus speaking in verse 18?

Of whom is he speaking in verses 20 and 21?

Is this mission for them as well? See verse 23.

How well are you embracing this mission?

Apply: Recognizing the mission you share with other believers as well as your unique talents and passions, write your personal life mission statement.

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DAY TWO:

“Importance of Your Mission, Part I”

Read: Matthew 28:16-20; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1121, 1333)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life*, p. 282 to middle of p. 284

Reflect: Be honest—do you view sharing the gospel as your responsibility (your mission) or merely as something you can do if the opportunity arises? For better or worse, how is your life reflecting this view?

Dig: Matthew 28:16-20 records the words that Jesus spoke to his disciples after he was resurrected and before he ascended into heaven. As you read, note in particular the words he used and the tone as derived from the context. (If you want to compare his words as recorded in the other gospels, see Mark 16:15 (FiCB, p. 1150); Luke 24:45-49 (FiCB, p. 1194); John 20:19-23 (FiCB, p. 1229).

Is what he spoke optional?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 to note what Paul says on this matter.

According to verse 19a, what is the ‘ministry of reconciliation’?

According to verse 19b, who is responsible for spreading the message of reconciliation?

What is an ambassador? Are you one?

Apply: Which of the following describes your evangelism style—invitational, interpersonal, confrontational, intellectual, serving, and/or testimonial? (Yes, this is a leading question—because if you don’t know how to answer this question, consider taking the next evangelism class!)

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DAY THREE:

“Importance of Your Mission, Part II”

Read: Acts 20:22-24 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1264)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life*, p. 284 to middle of p. 286

Reflect: How is your vocation (your work, your studying, your parenting, your ministry) being done for Jesus? How is it related to your mission?

Dig: Read Acts 20:24 and Colossians 1:28,29 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1376) and note the urgency with which Paul speaks of his mission.

Do you feel a similar urgency?

Does embracing your mission mean you have to stop your work and become a full-time evangelist? See Acts 18:3 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1261).

Can you fully embrace your mission (in other words, be an evangelist) in the midst of your work? See Colossians 3:23 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1378).

Apply: Put into action the words of Romans 12:1, “So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life--your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life--and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him.” (MSG)

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DAY FOUR:

“The Cost of Fulfilling Your Mission”

Read: Mark 8:31-38 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1136)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life*, pp. 286-288

Reflect: The words to the song “Asleep in the Light” by Keith Green say ““Oh bless me Lord, bless me Lord’ You know it's all I ever hear; No one aches, no one hurts; No one even sheds one tear; But He cries, He weeps, He bleeds; And He cares for your needs; And you just lay back and keep soaking it in; Oh, can't you see it's such a sin?”

Critically evaluate your prayer life—how many ‘bless me’ prayers or ‘bless my work’ prayers do you pray compared to ‘use me’ prayers?

Dig: Why did Peter rebuke Jesus?

Note Jesus’ response. In what areas of your life would he possibly say the same to you?

What does it mean to ‘lose your life’ as verse 35 says?

In what ways are you trying to ‘save your life’ and in what ways are you ‘taking up your cross’?

Apply: Prayerfully look at your life. What is hindering you from living your mission boldly? Put into action a plan to get rid of this hindrance.

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DAY FIVE:

Lectio Divina

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

“[God] will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.” Matthew 6:33 (NLT)

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.