

WEEK THIRTY-SEVEN:

“Sharing Your Life Message”

DAY ONE:

“Your Life Message Includes Your Testimony”

Read: 1 Peter 3:15-16 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1453)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life*, p. 289 to middle of p. 291

Reflect: Do people ever ask you why you live and act the way you do? Why or why not?

Dig: According to verse 14, what are we to fear and what are we not to fear?

What are we supposed to be ready for?

What does Colossians 4:5-6 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1378) add to your understanding of how to give answers to enquirers?

What is the way that we are supposed to answer, that is, what should our attitude be when we are talking to seekers?

Apply: Take a moment to write out answers for the four divisions of a testimony as given in *Purpose-Driven Life*:

1. What my life was like before I met Jesus
2. How I realized I needed Jesus
3. How I committed my life to Jesus
4. The difference Jesus has made in my life

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DAY TWO:

“Your Life Message Includes Your Life Lessons”

Read: Psalm 119:33-40 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 671)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life*, middle of p. 291 to bottom of p. 292

Reflect: What saying or “proverb” did one of your parents quote that has stuck with you?

Dig: How does each verse begin in verses 33-36?

Where does the “fear” come from in verse 38?

Would that “fear” be more like terror or more like awe?

What will keeping God’s laws (learning his lessons) keep you from? See verse 39.

Apply: Take a moment to write out answers to the questions posed in *Purpose-Driven Life*:

1. What has God taught me from failure?
2. What has God taught me from a lack of money?
3. What has God taught me from pain or sorrow or depression?
4. What has God taught me through waiting?
5. What has God taught me through illness?
6. What has God taught me through disappointment?
7. What have I learned from my family, my church, my relationships, my small group, and my critics?

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DAY THREE:

“Your Life Message Includes Sharing Your Godly Passions”

Read: Psalm 37:1-7 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 616)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life*, bottom of p. 292 to bottom of p. 293

Reflect: If money was of no concern, and you had the opportunity, what would you want to do with your life?

Dig: According to verse 4 of Psalm 37, what is the condition for receiving the desires of your heart?

What are the commands listed in verses 5-7?

How might those commands be connected in thought to verse 4?

Think about how verse 3 and verse 4 might be connected...and write down here how you think they connect:

Apply: See if you can write out in one sentence what your life's passion may be:

What age group are you most passionate about serving with your gift and abilities?

Now, ask God, in a written prayer in the space provided below, to use your God-given passion to serve him today:

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DAY FOUR:

“Your Life Message Includes the Good News”

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:11-15 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1332)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life*, top of p. 294 to end of chapter

Reflect: Do you feel compelled to tell others of Jesus and his love for them? Why or why not?

Dig: What are the motivations to tell others of Jesus’ love that Paul mentions in these verses? See verse 11, 14, 15.

What kind of living (see verse 15) do we want people to be released from?

What does verse 16 teach us about how we are to regard (see) people?

What is the title of this section in the *Freedom in Christ Bible*?

What does this word mean to you?

Apply: Answer these questions that close off this chapter in *Purpose-Driven Life*:

Is anyone going to be in heaven because of you?

Will anyone in heaven be able to say to you, “I want to thank you. I’m here because you cared enough to share the good news with me”?

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DAY FIVE:

**“God Wants to Say Something
to the World Through Me”**

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

“Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you, but do it with gentleness and respect.” 1 Peter 5:15b-16 (TEV)

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.