

## Week Six Daily Training Tips Let It Shine!

personal / group study for use with the message on February 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010

"I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ" (Philemon 1:6).

### Introduction.

Review of the spiritual disciplines so far:

1. Walking in step with the Holy Spirit.
2. Talking to your father through prayer.
3. Listening to God through His Word.
4. Digging down to Heal old wounds.
5. This week's spiritual growth exercise is sharing your Faith.

### Read.

#### 1. What are my fears? Read Matthew 10 and The Purpose Driven Life, Day 36.

If you don't own Rick Warren's, *The Purpose Driven Life*, I would get it and read it all the way through. Many of the insights in that book have to do with our topic for this week – sharing your faith.

Jesus was sending out the 12 on their first mission (Matthew 10). This chapter is their pep-talk before the big game. Notice how many times that Jesus speaks about "fear." Why do you think they might have been afraid? What did Jesus tell them to do with their fear? What are your fears about sharing your faith?

#### 2. Telling your own story. Read Acts 4 and Purpose Driven Life, Day 37.

One of the best ways to "share your faith" with others is simply to tell them about your own spiritual journey (i.e., how you came to the place where you accepted Christ as your Savior). It helps to write out your own story. If you have never done so, take time this week to write out the story of your spiritual journey. You might want to break it up into four sections. (See Purpose Driven, p.291).

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.

People appreciate real-life stories. And they are especially receptive when a faith-story comes from a regular person, not a 'pastor.' Look for opportunities this week to share your faith-story.

### **3. Asking questions. Read John 4 and Purpose Driven Life, Day 38.**

A fantastic way to find opportunities to share your own faith-story is to *ask other people about their spiritual journey*. Ask questions. A simple question like: Where are you at on your spiritual journey? People like to talk about their own lives. If we take a sincere interest in people, they will usually open up and talk about their lives. You will find out a lot about people this way. In particular, you will learn a lot about the ways that God has been working in their lives in the past. Be a good listener. Don't interrupt or offer advice. Ask probing questions. "Tell me more about that." "How did that make you feel?" "How has this shaped your view of God?"

### **4. Invest in relationships. Read Matthew 9:9-13 and Purpose Driven Life, Day 39.**

Most Christians get so isolated that they do not have any quality relationships with non-believers. This is not good. Jesus was labeled as "the friend of tax-collectors and sinners." It would seem that if we are trying to be His followers, we would at least be trying to cultivate some relationships with non-believers. Examine your own life. Where are the opportunities for you to begin to cultivate sincere, caring relationships with non-believers?


By the way, don't make people 'your project.' No-one wants to be someone's 'project.' You have to love people sincerely and unconditionally. Serve with no agenda other than love. If God opens up an opportunity to discuss faith issues, or to invite to an event, then do so. Remember the old adage: People will not care how much you know until they know how much you care. Show people that you care.

One great way to do this: Pray for people. When something comes up in a conversation, a trial or a concern, stop and ask the person: "Would you mind if I prayed for you about this?" People rarely refuse prayer! And it shows people that you genuinely care.

### **5. Master the message. Read 1Peter 3:15,16 and Purpose Driven Life, Day 40.**


God will bring opportunities to you to share the gospel message with someone. You need to be prepared. Do you know how you would go about explaining the gospel to another person? It's really not that difficult. You only need to be able to draw a couple of diagrams and share a few Bible verses.

\*All scripture taken from the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise noted.



There are lots of simple ways to share the good news with someone. Use your Google search function and check out the following:

- "The Bridge to Life" by the Navigators.
- "The Four Spiritual Laws" by Campus Crusade.
- "Steps to Peace with God" by the Billy Graham Association.



A book I highly recommend on personal evangelism is *The Contagious Christian*, by Bill Hybels. This book is excellent and practical.