

SHARING A SLICE OF YOUR LIFE

Jesus said to him, "Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you." And he went away and began to proclaim in Decapolis what great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone marveled. Mark 5:19-20

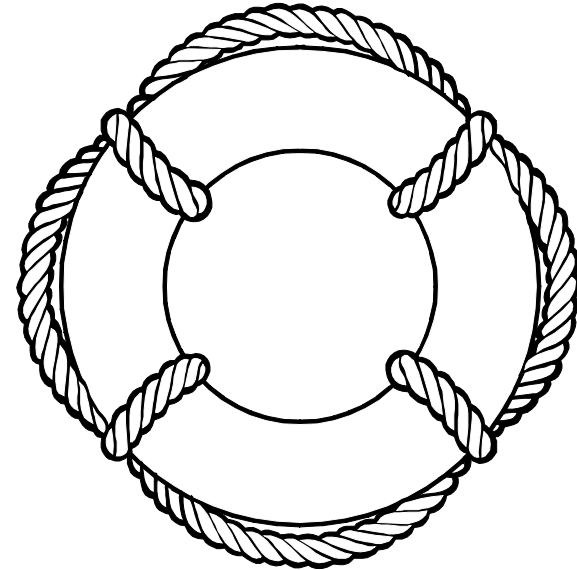
This Life Assignment involves reporting 'what great things the Lord has done for you' to someone in your life. Since you are benefiting from your relationship with the God of the universe He expects that you will pass these benefits on to others. Sometimes we pass the benefits on to others by doing good deeds. For example, in II Samuel 9, King David asked, *"Is there not anyone of the house of Saul to whom I may show the kindness of God?"* He found a crippled man named Mephibosheth and committed to taking care of him for life!

Another way we bless people is by having an increasingly godly character. When David had the opportunity to Kill Saul in the cave at Engedi, (1 Samuel 24: 10) he withheld out of reverence for God. Saul himself realized the benefit he received from David. *"You are more righteous than I; for you have dealt well with me, while I have dealt wickedly with you."* (I Samuel 24:17)

In this assignment, we want you to add to your good deeds and your godly character your verbal witness of God's work in your life. Sometime over the next few weeks we want you to intentionally share a single slice of your life to a friend or family member who faces a Christless eternity in hell. There are two starting points for this assignment. Either start with a PERSON whom you desire to see come to Christ and determine to take the initiative to share with them. Or, start with A SLICE OF YOUR LIFE and find a person who will listen!

A PERSON AS YOUR STARTING POINT

Talk to God in prayer about the people in your life who don't have a personal relationship with God, as far as you can tell. As you pray, who does the Lord most impress upon your heart? Write their name in life saving ring which follows!



Pray for this person right now. Before talking to your friend about God, it is vital that you talk to God about your friend. What specifically do you need to pray for in the life of your friend? (i.e. A soft heart. God to get his attention. Margin in his life to have time to process God's truth)

Pray also for yourself as you will be initiating a conversation with this person as well as sharing a slice of your life that will be appropriate to your friend. (i.e. Fears, margin, motivation, time to build a relationship, obedience)

What struggles, needs or questions does this person have?

Describe a life experience or time of teaching through which the Lord brought you and to which you sense your friend will connect.

Write out in a few sentences what you would tell your friend.

Example: Suppose your friend was recently laid off from work. After a short time of listening to understand his fears, options and situation, simply say, “Hey, Jim would you mind if I shared with you a few things that God taught me when I was laid off a few years ago?” Then tell him!

Once you have his permission continue, “I was laid off when the telecommunication industry slumped and was out of work for six months. God really got my attention as I was not walking very close to Him. In fact, I was so calloused by the pride in my heart that I thought I could live a decent life without Him. I came to realize how much I identified myself with my job and how much I thought I was in control. God’s hand was in all of this and He proved faithful by growing me through the process, forgiving my pride and drawing me close to Him. I now have a relationship with God instead of playing religion by going to church once in a while.”

If you sense further genuine interest ask if you could explain to him the process whereby you begin a relationship with Christ. Tell him how you experienced His grace and the forgiveness of sin. You’ll be amazed how receptive your friend will be. And don’t feel that you have to give him everything at once. It is often much better to share a little slice of your life and testimony over several meetings. You may want to write him a letter followed by a personal conversation.

A SLICE OF YOUR LIFE AS A STARTING POINT

Perhaps you do not yet have someone in mind with whom you would like to share your faith. Or maybe the Lord has been teaching you a powerful lesson in life which you are burning in your heart to share. If so, make your starting point for this life assignment a slice of your life while you are looking for someone with whom you can share this message. Describe the two most significant things that God has either taught you or done in your life the past few years. Remember, these can be from either positive or negative seasons of your life. Rick Warren, in his book *The Purpose Driven Life*, offers these questions to get you thinking:

- What has God taught me from failure?
- What has God taught me from lack of money?
- What has God taught me from pain or sorrow?
- What has God taught me through waiting?
- What has God taught me through illness?
- What has God taught me from disappointment?
- What have I learned from my critics?

1.

2. Give over to the Lord any fear of rejection remembering that God is the evangelist...you are not!

3. Remember that God uses ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things. One courageously overflowing elevator operator said, "I'm just a NOBODY telling EVERYBODY about SOMEBODY who can save ANYBODY!"



2.

Now begin to pray that the Lord will sovereignly place in your life a friend who needs to hear what God has been teaching you lately.

Here are a few helpful tips.

1. Pray. Read Paul's heart in Colossians 4:2-6 and pray this for yourself:

Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; praying at the same time for us as well, that God may open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; in order that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak. Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned, as it were, with salt, so that you may know how you should respond to each person.

***“My life is worth nothing unless
I use it for doing the work
assigned me by the Lord Jesus;
the work of telling others
the Good News about
God’s mighty kindness and love. “***

Paul Acts 20:24